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PROJECT START  
EVALUATION OF SECOND GRANT PERIOD

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ACQUISITIONS

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## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Project START served 276 non-violent property felons on probation in both Detroit Recorders Court and Wayne County Circuit Court. These clients were selected at random along with a control sample of 240. The Project's LEAA funded demonstration phase began on November 1, 1975, and ended on February 28, 1978. The evaluation will continue an additional year to assess post-probation effects and those client characteristics associated with variations in recidivism.
2. Probationers were assigned at random by the evaluators to Project START or the control group. Thus, there was no influence on the part of START or the courts on the client assignment process.
3. The treatment and control samples are comparable on key demographic variables which will make it possible to draw conclusions concerning the relative effectiveness of START and regular probation. The fact of random selection and comparability on demographic characteristics means that any changes in court policy or practice will not affect the validity of the START-control comparisons.
4. There is evidence that Project START has significantly lowered recidivism rates of its clients compared to the control group. These effects are particularly pronounced for previous offenders.
5. On a number of items measured, Project START appeared to show more effects in Recorders Court than Circuit Court. A comparison of the

two control groups indicate no difference in recidivism between Circuit and Recorders Court among regular probationers; this suggests that both Courts appear to serve their clients equally well. On the other hand, there are notable differences in demographic characteristics of probationers in the two courts. This leads to the hypothesis that START's greater effects in Recorders Court are the result of these demographic differences. This supports Project START's original plan to precisely determine those probationers who can most benefit from this type of program.

6. Tentative estimates indicate that the cost effectiveness of Project START depends upon the portion of the justice system which is included in the analysis. START's cost effectiveness is maximized in an analyses which considers the costs of the total justice and correctional process. An analysis based on preliminary parameters indicates START costs \$71 less per client than regular probation.

## INTRODUCTION

This report contains the short-term effects as measured at the end of Project START demonstration Year Two. For a discussion of Project structure and stated purposes, see Project START: Evaluation of First Grant Period.

This report begins with a discussion of the evaluation design followed by the model. The major portion is a presentation of the client outcomes and the volunteer component.

## EVALUATION DESIGN

The concern of Project START for evaluation has made it possible for the evaluation team to employ sophisticated research methods in measuring process and outcome effects. This is accomplished via a strategy notable in three respects:

1. The use of random assignment of probationers to Project START or to a regular probation control group. This is important because far too often programs have relied upon subjective impressions and post-hoc analyses to judge program effectiveness. Given the desire of program staff for success, subjective evaluations can be infused with wishful thinking. The use of random assignment techniques alleviates this problem by removing human predilection from the client selection process. Furthermore, the creation of two comparable groups except for the presence or absence of the project, allows for cause and effect inferences.
2. The deployment of multivariate statistical methods to generate a predictive model of the kinds of outcomes enriched probation is likely to have on clients of differing characteristics. We are not asking, in short, merely whether Project START works or doesn't work; rather, we wish to discover what kinds of effects Project START will have on the various classes of clients served.
3. Though not a measurement technique, the evaluation procedure features ongoing process feedback to the program regarding its internal functioning. Often program evaluation involves little more than outcome data collected at or near the program's conclusion. Even when control groups are used, this strategy precludes any means of determining and correcting faulty program components either at the time they occur, or, for that matter, ever. The inclusion of a periodic process assessment can often result in remedial recommendations at the time the problem is detected.

## EVALUATION MODEL

## A. Client Component

Figure 1 portrays the model of evaluation tailored for the client component of Project START. As one can see, offenders placed on probation in the regular manner for non-violent felonious property offenses in Circuit and Recorders Court, became eligible for Project START after sentencing. Demonstration intake took place from February 1976, to May 1977. The criteria included any individual:

- (1) 17-30 years old
- (2) placed on probation for a non-violent felonious property offense
- (3) with preference given to those offenders with previous records

During this period, eligible probationers were randomly assigned by the evaluators to Project START or to regular probation.

Neither the members of the latter group nor their probation officers were aware of their control group status. Since assignment occurred after sentencing, the court was in no way influenced by the existence of Project START. This insured that START clients were typical of those placed on probation. In no way were START clients specially selected by either the courts or Project personnel.

In addition, the design called for the selection of individuals placed on parole during START's tenure to serve as an additional comparison group. While not comparable in all aspects to the treatment group, some tentative comparisons may be possible.



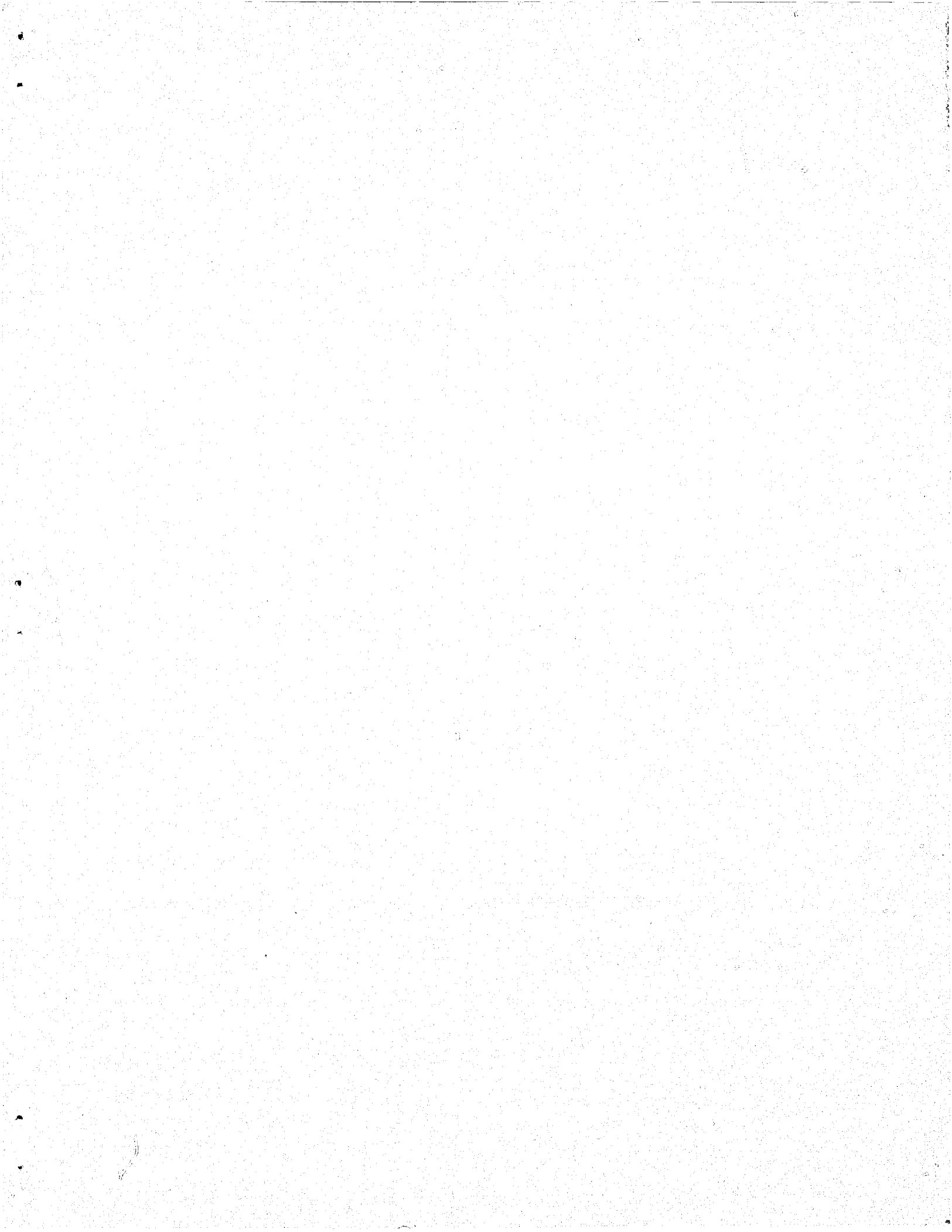
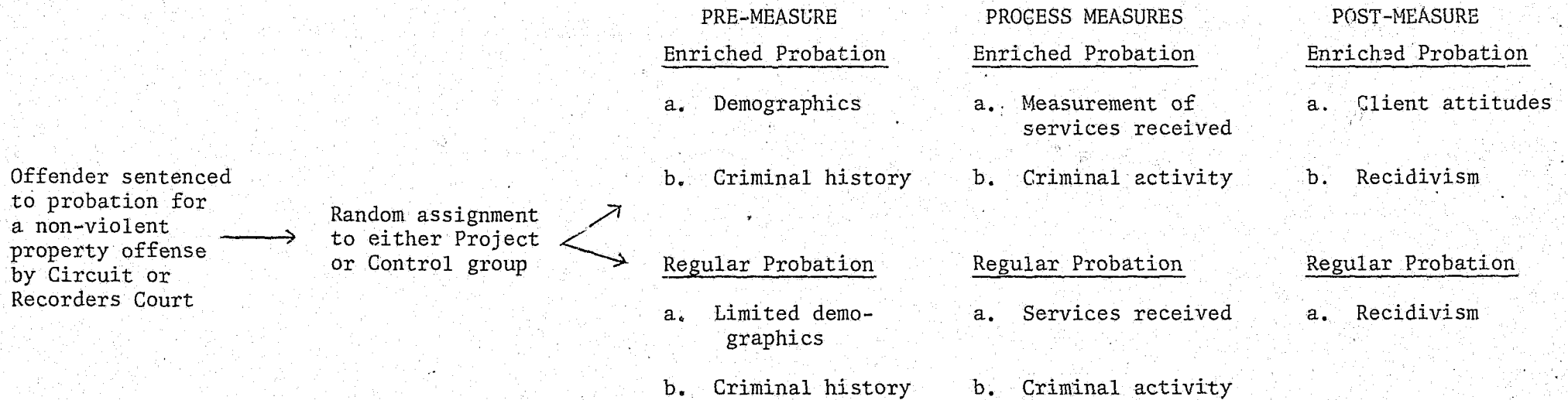


Figure 1  
CLIENT COMPONENT



The types of data gathered for analysis are as follows:

Pre-measures. Prior to the receipt of services, detailed demographics and criminal history were gathered on START clients. For the control groups, court records were used to provide limited demographic and criminal history data.

Process measures. These include records of services offered, services used, contact with probation officers, and employment status. Criminal activity is also monitored.

Post-measures. During the third year of Project START services, client attitudes and perceptions will be measured. These will be used in the development of predictive model of client success.

Recidivism rates of START clients, regular probation controls and parolee controls will be compared. Conclusions will be drawn and profiles generated of groups of probationers for whom Project START has had differential effects.

#### B. Volunteer Component

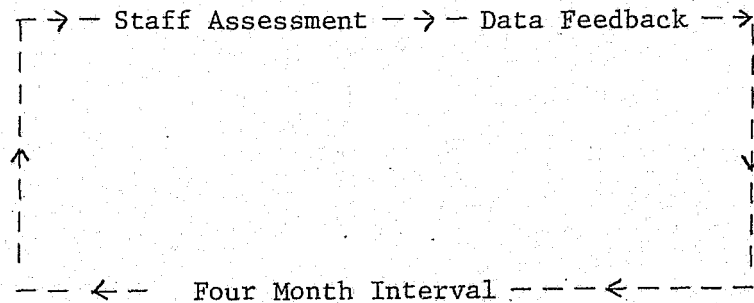
Demographic, dispositional and perceptual information was collected on community volunteers after the individual agreed to serve. After training and client pairing, the progress of the pair was monitored.

Two outcomes emerge. First, the development of profiles of those volunteers who successfully completed training and assigned a client. Second, since not all START clients were paired with a volunteer (and the experiences of those that do may be varied) these data can be used as an aid in predicting recidivism. An analysis of the volunteer component and those characteristics which are associated with "successful" volunteers (in a variety of roles) are transferable to other programs which utilize a volunteer component.

### C. Staff Assessment

Figure 2 models the staff assessment component of the evaluation. At periodic intervals, START staff completed questionnaires measuring job attitudes and adjustment to program demands. Included here were instruments which examine need satisfaction, job-related tensions and perceptions of organizational practices. Summary reports prepared by the evaluators were then fed back to the staff in group meetings. This procedure stopped action and enabled START employees to reflect on their day-to-day job activities and interactions. Since this process occurred periodically, it is possible to chart changes in morale and feelings which could affect staff performance.

Figure 2  
Staff Assessment Model



## EVALUATION DATA

Part 1 focuses upon the client. Included here is an examination of the sampling procedure, client characteristics, service delivery, employment and probation officer-client contact. In addition, an evaluation of the short-term effects of the Project upon client recidivism is presented.\* Part B addresses the community volunteer component of Project START.

## A. Clients

## 1. Sampling Procedure

After an offender meeting START's criteria was sentenced to probation in Wayne County, his docket number was sent to the evaluators who randomly assigned offenders to treatment and control groups after matching on age, sex, race and criminal history. This helped to assure that the treatment and control groups were not contaminated by subjective biases.

In order to help Project START approach its goal of 300 clients, a two-treatment-for-each-control assignment procedure was adopted in September, 1976. Of each three eligible probationers, two were randomly assigned to Project START and one to the control group. This procedure resulted in a larger treatment than control group. No statistically reliable differences exist between treatment and control groups on key demographic variables. (See Table 2, page 16)

Formal assignment to Project START, which began February 1976, was completed May 1977. Three-hundred had been assigned to Project

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\*It should be noted that a third-year evaluation is planned which will involve continued tracking of recidivism. It will also include more detailed analysis of differential client characteristics associated with recidivism and other project outcomes.

Table 1a

## LENGTH OF RESIDENCE AT PRESENT DOMICILE

Recorders ( <u>n</u> * = 188)	Median = 47.84 months
Circuit ( <u>n</u> * = 88)	Median = 72.17 months

Table 1b

## WITH WHOM CLIENT LIVES\*\*

	<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)	<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)
Both Parents	28%	39%
Mother Only	34%	24%
Father Only	3%	5%
Spouse	7%	9%
Opposite Sex Friend	7%	5%
Same Sex Friend	2%	5%
Other Relative	11%	7%
Alone	8%	8%

Table 1c

## DIFFICULTY WITH PARENTS?

<u>Recorders</u> (n = 186)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)	
Yes	19%	Yes	18%
No	81%	No	82%

\*n represents number of cases in analysis and may vary because of missing data

\*\*% may not always total 100 because of rounding error

Source: Project START records

Table 1d

## MARITAL STATUS

	<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)	<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)
Single	83%	80%
Married	8%	8%
Divorced	4%	8%
Separated	4%	3%
Widowed	0%	1%
No Answer	1%	0%

Table 1e

## EXISTENCE OF DEPENDENTS

<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)	
Yes	28%	Yes	23%
No	73%	No	77%

Table 1f

## OF THOSE WITH DEPENDENTS, HOW MANY RECEIVE A.D.C.?

<u>Recorders</u> (n = 50)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 20)	
Yes	46% (23 of 50)	Yes	40% (8 of 20)
No	54%	No	60%

Table 1g

## OWN CAR?

<u>Recorders</u> (n = 180)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 87)	
Yes	57%	Yes	36%
No	43%	No	64%

Table 1h

## CLIENT DEBTS

	<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)	
Car	5%	Median = \$888	6%	Median = \$1100
Court	75%	Median = \$302	80%	Median = \$ 402
Other	52%	Median = \$404	38%	Median = \$ 588

Table 1i

## DOES CLIENT PROFESS A RELIGION?

<u>Recorders</u> (n = 165)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 85)	
Yes	74%	Yes	81%
No	26%	No	19%

Table 1j

## FORMAL EDUCATION

<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)		<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)	
Median = 10.15 years		Median = 10.73 years	



Table 1k

## HEALTH COMPLAINTS

	<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)	<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)
Dental	5%	4%
Eye	5%	3%
Injury	6%	6%
Organic Disease	6%	7%
Other Physical	10%	9%
Psychiatric History	8%	8%
Drug or Alcohol	4%	11%

Table 1L

## DISFIGUREMENTS

	<u>Recorders</u> (n = 188)	<u>Circuit</u> (n = 88)
Yes	8%	7%
No	92%	93%

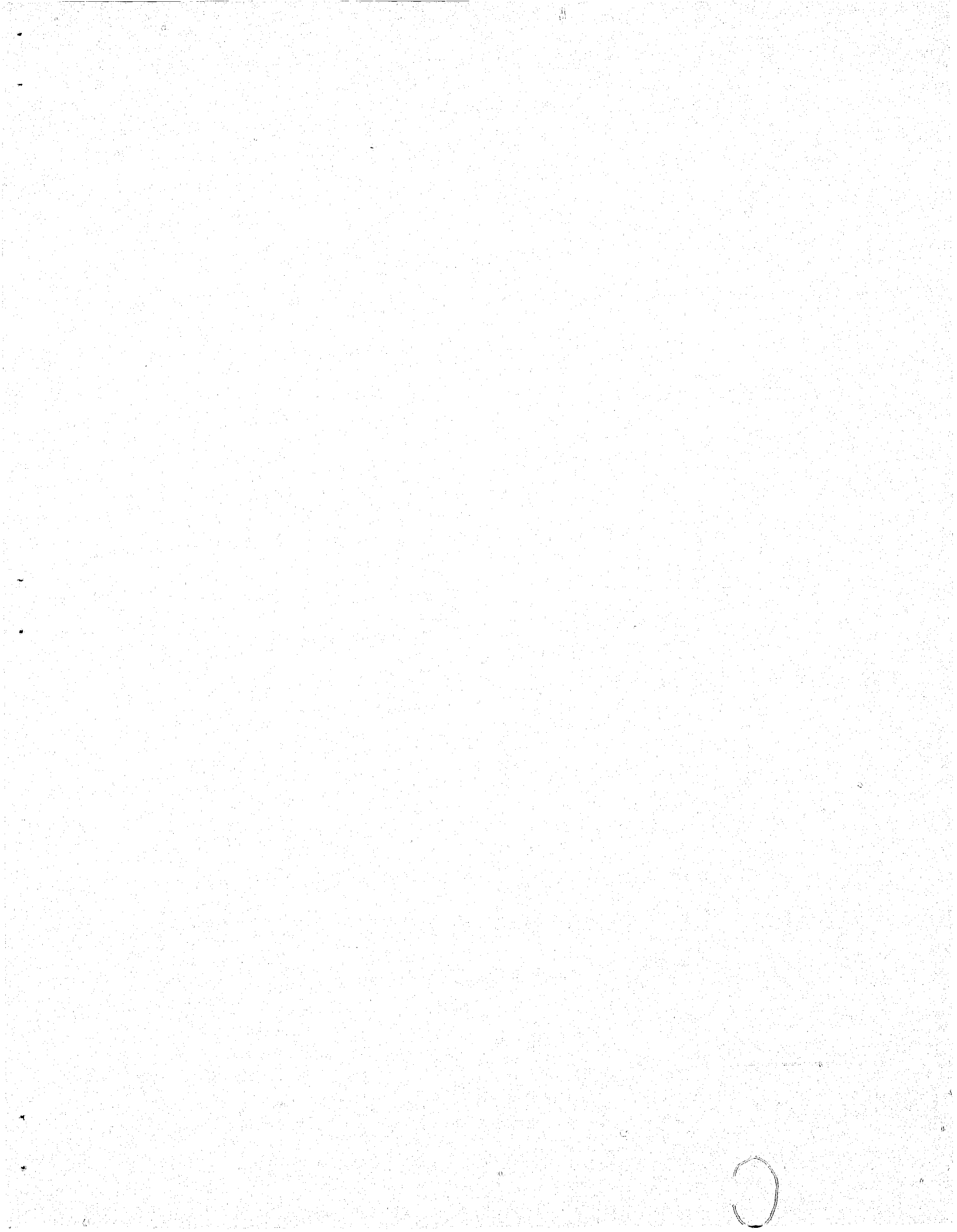


Table 1m  
 AGENCY REFERRALS AND USAGE

	<u>Recorders</u> (n=188)		<u>Circuit</u> (n=88)	
	<u>% referred</u>	<u>% who used service</u>	<u>% referred</u>	<u>% who used service</u>
Credit Counseling	42% (79) *	28% (53) **	26% (23) *	14% (12) **
Family Service	32% (60)	20% (37)	26% (23)	22% (19)
Travelers Aid	54% (102)	53% (99)	24% (21)	24% (21)
Legal	8% (15)	6% (11)	15% (13)	11% (10)
Vocational Rehab. ***	10% (18)	6% (11)	6% (5)	6% (5)
Social Services ****	15% (29)	8% (15)	11% (10)	10% (9)
Dental	16% (30)	14% (27)	3% (3)	3% (3)
Medical	11% (20)	8% (16)	7% (6)	4% (4)
Psychiatric	11% (21)	11% (20)	3% (3)	3% (3)
Education	34% (64)	28% (52)	24% (21)	18% (16)
Residential	3% (6)	2% (4)	2% (2)	2% (2)
Optometric	8% (16)	7% (14)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Socio-Recreation	2% (3)	2% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)

SOURCE: Project START records.

\*Number of clients referred  
 \*\*Number of clients using service at least once  
 \*\*\*State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 \*\*\*\*State Department of Social Service

Table 2

## COMPARISON OF TREATMENT AND CONTROL GROUPS

	<u>Recorders Court</u>		<u>Circuit Court</u>	
	<u>Treatment</u> <u>n = 188*</u>	<u>Control</u> <u>n = 177*</u>	<u>Treatment</u> <u>n = 88*</u>	<u>Control</u> <u>n = 61*</u>
<b>SEX**</b>				
Male	100%	100%	92%	95%
Female	0%	0%	8%	5%
	Chi-square = 0.00 df = 1		Chi-square = .156 df = 1	
<b>AGE**</b>				
Mean	20.43	20.56	21.22	20.92
Standard Deviation	2.99	3.20	3.38	3.17
	$\frac{t}{df} = \frac{.041}{365}$		$\frac{t}{df} = \frac{.054}{147}$	
<b>PREVIOUS OFFENSES**</b>				
None	63%	63%	30%	31%
Misdemeanor or Juvenile	20%	18%	45%	46%
One Felony	14%	14%	21%	18%
Multiple Felonies	2%	5%	4%	5%
	Chi-square = 2.45 df = 3		Chi-square = .38 df = 3	
<b>RACE**</b>				
Black	84%	81%	20%	22%
White	16%	19%	80%	78%
	Chi-square = .326 df = 1		Chi-square = .002 df = 1	

\*Number of cases in Treatment-Control group

\*\*Differences not statistically reliable

### Activity Measures

The philosophy of Project START holds that a reduction in recidivism can be achieved by, among other things, increasing client-probation officer contact, providing more services to clients, and increasing employment opportunities. Therefore, as a preliminary step in evaluating program effectiveness treatment-control comparisons are presented on the above features. In subsequent analyses these data will be used as predictors in a multivariate analysis of recidivism.

Client-Probation Officer Contacts. Table 3 shows the frequency of client-probation officer contact during two sample 30 day periods. The first sample period was near the end of 1976, when START had been in operation for one year. Most of the clients had been on probation for much less than a year since intake was still in progress at this time. The second sample period was at the beginning of 1978; the clients had been on probation for a much longer period of time. In fact, those clients whose probation was terminated at this time are necessarily excluded from the data shown on the table.

In both periods of time, Recorders Court clients had significantly more contact with their probation officers than was true in Circuit Court. However, only in the first period does Project START (Treatment) show more client-officer contact than the control group. In the second period while the number of contacts in the control group remain the same, the number of contacts in the treatment group show a significant drop. Thus, in the second period this difference disappears between START and the control group.

Table 3

COMPARISON OF TREATMENT AND CONTROL GROUP ON  
PROBATION OFFICER - CLIENT CONTACT\*

	Year One		Year Two	
	Recorders	Circuit	Recorders	Circuit
Treatment				
Mean	2.74	1.64	1.62	.88
Standard Deviation	2.32	.93	1.07	.76
	<u>n</u> = 90**	<u>n</u> = 33**	<u>n</u> = 146**	<u>n</u> = 57**
Control				
Mean	1.38	1.19	1.47	.93
Standard Deviation	1.27	.95	1.21	.90
	<u>n</u> = 72**	<u>n</u> = 31**	<u>n</u> = 86**	<u>n</u> = 28**
	F(1/222) = 25.61, p<.01 Treatment		F(1/311) = 0.53, N.S. Treatment	
	F(1/222) = 9.07, p<.01 Court		F(1/311) = 25.38, p<.01 Court	
	F(1/222) = 1.43, N.S. Interaction		F(1/311) = 0.46, N.S. Interaction	

\*Only those clients were included who were on active probation at the time these data were collected. Contact refers to the average number of face-to-face and telephone contacts per client during the thirty-day sample period. Data were analyzed by analysis of variance using a least-squares solution to handle unequal n's.

\*\*Variations in total numbers is due to missing data.

The decrease in START client-officer contact over time is particularly interesting in light of the lower recidivism rates discussed later in this report. The reason for the decline may be related to the fact that at the beginning of probation there is a flurry of activities such as diagnosis, assessment, service contacts and an effort to make best use of available services. This would be an unrealistic expectation for the control probation officers who have neither the time nor the services available to them. As START takes over a larger portion of the service inventory, the probation officer has less need to see the client.

The winding down of START activities may also be related to this decline. An attempt will be made during the third year to collect data which will shed more light on the change.

Employment. At time of arrest 20 percent of the treatment group was employed while 45 percent of the control group was employed. Given this discrepancy, an analysis was chosen which compensates by calculating net proportional gains. Table 4 shows employment status at time of arrest and at present time for both control and treatment groups. Net gain in employment is also displayed. The net gain is the number of cases moving from an unemployed to an employed status minus the number of cases moving from an employed to an unemployed status. While START and control groups both indicate positive gains, the START gain is significantly higher. As can be seen in tables 5 and 6, this trend obtains for each court separately as well. Obviously, the START program has offered a genuine improvement in employment service for probationers.

Table 4  
 COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT AT ARREST AND AT PRESENT:  
 RECORDERS AND CIRCUIT COURTS

At Arrest	Present							
	Treatment				Control			
	Employed		Not Employed		Employed		Not Employed	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Employed	37	35.6%	10	11.6%	33	56.9%	12	27.9%
Not Employed	67	64.4%	76	88.4%	25	43.1%	31	72.1%
Totals*	104	100.0%	86	100.0%	58	100.0%	43	100.0%

\*Data unavailable for 86 treatment and 137 in control groups.

Net Gain

	Gain	No Gain	Totals
START	57	133	190
Control	13	88	101
Totals	70	221	291

$$\chi^2 = 9.67 \quad df = 1 \quad p < .01$$



Table 5

COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT AT ARREST AND AT PRESENT:  
CIRCUIT COURT ONLY

At Arrest	Present							
	Treatment				Control			
	Employed		Not Employed		Employed		Not Employed	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Employed	12	42.9%	5	23.8%	9	69.2%	3	33.3%
Not Employed	16	57.1%	16	76.2%	4	30.8%	6	66.7%
Totals*	28	100.0%	21	100.0%	13	100.0%	9	100.0%

\*Data unavailable for 39 treatment and 39 in control groups.

Net Gain

	Gain :	No Gain	Totals
START	11	38	49
Control	1	21	22
Totals	12	59	71

$$\chi^2 = 2.32 \quad df = 1 \quad N.S.$$

Table 6

COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT AT ARREST AND AT PRESENT:  
RECORDERS COURT ONLY

At Arrest	Present							
	Treatment				Control			
	Employed		Not Employed		Employed		Not Employed	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Employed	25	32.9%	5	7.7%	24	53.3%	9	26.5%
Not Employed	51	67.1%	60	92.3%	21	46.7%	25	73.5%
Totals*	76	100.0%	65	100.0%	45	100.0%	34	100.0%

\*Data unavailable for 47 treatment and 98 in control groups.

Net Gain

	Gain	No Gain	Totals
START	46	95	141
Control	12	67	79
Totals	58	162	220

$$\chi^2 = 7.05 \quad df = 1 \quad p < .01$$

Services. Differences between treatment and control groups on services received by clients are tabulated in Table 7. Analysis of variance reveals reliable main effects for both treatment-control and court. On the average, START clients received more services than did control probationers. Moreover, for both treatment and control groups, Recorders Court clients received more services than those in Circuit Court. It should be pointed out that these data examine the number of different services received rather than either referrals or frequency with which any service was utilized.

#### Recidivism

Four types of recidivism categories were employed. These categories are: no recidivism, warrants, arrests and convictions for new offenses. While warrants and arrests are not absolute levels of recidivism, they are further encounters with the criminal justice system. On the other hand, conviction is an absolute criterion of recidivism. The clients were counted in the category farthest along the criminal justice system which they experienced since being on probation. For example, an individual arrested and subsequently convicted for a new offense was counted only in the conviction category.

Table 8 indicates that START has significantly reduced recidivism among probationers. This is true whether one looks at previous offense or not. Recorders and Circuit Courts were analyzed separately in Tables 9 and 10 respectively. In Recorders Court, the data indicate that Project START has affected recidivism. This effect is especially (and significantly) pronounced for those clients who have had a previous offense. The trend, however, holds for clients with no previous

Table 7

COMPARISON OF TREATMENT AND CONTROL ON MEAN NUMBER  
OF DIFFERENT SERVICES RECEIVED\*

	<u>Recorders</u>	<u>Circuit</u>
TREATMENT	Mean = 2.55 <u>n</u> = 188	Mean = 1.61 <u>n</u> = 88
CONTROL	Mean = .98 <u>n</u> = 130**	Mean = .48 <u>n</u> = 31**

Analysis of Variance

F(1/433) = 21.04, p<.01  
Treatment

F(1/433) = 5.39, p<.05  
Court

F(1/433) = 0.34, N.S.  
Interaction

\*Tabulated here was the average number of helping services, e.g., dental, medical, credit counseling, legal, education, etc. received by each client to date.

\*\*Variations in total numbers is due to missing data.

Table 8

## RECIDIVISM WHILE ON PROBATION: RECORDERS AND CIRCUIT COURTS

	START	Control
<u>Total Group</u>		
No Recidivism	69%	53%
Recidivism	(31%)	(47%)
Warrant	4%	12%
Arrest	5%	7%
Conviction	22%	28%
Number <sup>a</sup>	<u>n</u> = 272	<u>n</u> = 233

Chi-square = 20.42 (df = 3) p &lt; .01

	START	Control
<u>Previous Offense</u>		
No Recidivism	68%	47%
Recidivism	(32%)	(53%)
Warrant	3%	17%
Arrest	7%	6%
Conviction	22%	30%
Number <sup>a</sup>	<u>n</u> = 126	<u>n</u> = 104

Chi-square = 17.39 (df = 3) p &lt; .01

	START	Control
<u>No Previous Offense</u>		
No Recidivism	70%	57%
Recidivism	(30%)	(43%)
Warrant	4%	8%
Arrest	3%	8%
Conviction	23%	27%
Number <sup>a</sup>	<u>n</u> = 144	<u>n</u> = 129

Chi-square = 8.03 (df = 3) p &lt; .05

<sup>a</sup>Variation in total numbers is due to missing data

Table 9

## RECIDIVISM WHILE ON PROBATION: RECORDERS COURT ONLY

	START	Control
<u>Total Group</u>		
No Recidivism	68%	51%
Recidivism	(32%)	(49%)
Warrant	4%	10%
Arrest	5%	8%
Conviction	23%	31%
Number <sup>a</sup> <u>n</u> = 184		<u>n</u> = 176

Chi-square = 13.61 (df = 3) p&lt;.01

	START	Control
<u>Previous Offense</u>		
No Recidivism	67%	42%
Recidivism	(33%)	(58%)
Warrant	1%	15%
Arrest	8%	8%
Conviction	24%	35%
Number <sup>a</sup> <u>n</u> = 66		<u>n</u> = 66

Chi-square = 12.18 (df = 3) p&lt;.01

	START	Control
<u>No Previous Offense</u>		
No Recidivism	70%	56%
Recidivism	(30%)	(44%)
Warrant	5%	6%
Arrest	3%	9%
Conviction	22%	29%
Number <sup>a</sup> <u>n</u> = 118		<u>n</u> = 110

Chi-square = 6.08 (df = 3) p&lt;.11

<sup>a</sup>Variation in total numbers is due to missing data.

Table 10

## RECIDIVISM WHILE ON PROBATION: CIRCUIT COURT ONLY

	START	Control
<u>Total Group</u>		
No Recidivism	71%	58%
Recidivism	(29%)	(42%)
Warrant	3%	19%
Arrest	4%	4%
Conviction	22%	19%
Number <sup>a</sup>	<u>n</u> = 88	<u>n</u> = 57

Chi-square = 10.06 (df = 3) p &lt; .02

	START	Control
<u>Previous Offense</u>		
No Recidivism	68%	55%
Recidivism	(32%)	(45%)
Warrant	5%	21%
Arrest	7%	3%
Conviction	20%	21%
Number <sup>a</sup>	<u>n</u> = 60	<u>n</u> = 38

Chi-square = 6.72 (df = 3) p &lt; .08

	START	Control
<u>No Previous Offense</u>		
No Recidivism	73%	63%
Recidivism	(27%)	(37%)
Warrant	0%	16%
Arrest	0%	5%
Conviction	27%	16%
Number <sup>a</sup>	<u>n</u> = 26	<u>n</u> = 19

Chi-square = 6.24 (df = 3) p &lt; .10

<sup>a</sup>Variation in total numbers is due to missing data.

record as well. The data on Circuit Court are less clear. The small size of the sample makes the trends less stable and renders only roughly approximate statistical probabilities. This is especially true for the group with no previous offense where the sample size is so small that none of the differences are reliable. The overall differences in recidivism between START and the control group in Circuit Court are attributable to the substantially fewer warrants issued on START clients.

Table 11 reflects a different dimension--incarceration rates. It appears that, again, Project START is most effective with repeat offenders from Recorders Court.

In summary, Project START has had an impact in reducing recidivism in Recorders Court. Circuit Court appears to be influenced only with regard to warrants, the least sensitive measure. It is difficult to distinguish the effects of the comparatively small sample size.

The differences in START's influence on the two courts raise the question as to whether or not there are differences in recidivism rates in the two courts without Project START. Comparing the two control groups can answer this question. This was done and no differences were found in any of the recidivism measures in the two courts (warrants, arrests or convictions). In other words, the base recidivism rates in the two courts are essentially the same. This leads to the hypothesis that the effect of Project START is related to client characteristics and service usage which, at least in some ways, significantly differ in the two courts. Future multivariate analyses will be conducted in order to examine these and describe the clients for whom Project START has the most, and least, effect. These multivariate techniques also have the advantage of alleviating the problems related



Table 11  
 INCARCERATION RATES

	START		Control		Chi-square	
	%	n	%	n	(df = 1)	p.
Total	11	31/276	17	41/238	3.33	p<.10
<u>Recorders Court</u>						
Total	10	19/188	21	37/179	7.12	p<.01
Previous Offense	12	8/69	27	18/66	4.37	p<.05
No Previous Offense	9	11/119	17	19/113	2.32	N.S.
<u>Circuit Court</u>						
Total	15	13/88 <sup>a</sup>	7	4/59	1.49	N.S.
Previous Offense	15	9/60	8	3/40	< 1.00	N.S.
No Previous Offense	15	4/26	5	1/19	< 1.00	N.S.

a. Because there was no information available regarding previous offense on two cases, the two cells sum to 86 rather than 88.

to small sample size.

Parole vs. Probation. An additional control group of 368 parolees convicted of property offenses was selected. The sample was chosen to include individuals between 17 and 30, convicted of similar offenses as those in the probation sample, and drawn from the same geographical area during the same time interval.

As of March 31, 1978, the recidivism rate of this group was 28 percent or 102 parolees. The following table shows that 19 percent have been sent back to prison and 8 percent are absconders and/or technical violators of parole.

Table 12

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>PAROLE OFFICE</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Returned to Prison	71	19.3
Absconders and/or Technical Violators	31	8.4
On Active Parole	86	23.4
Discharged from Parole	<u>180</u>	<u>48.9</u>
	368	100.0

It should be pointed out that a number of those listed as active parolees or discharged from parole have been arrested but either the charges were not deemed serious enough or adequate proof for conviction was unavailable and so these parolees were not considered to have violated the conditions of their parole.

One further point is that of the 71 individuals returned to the State Prison Southern Michigan (S.P.S.M.) fourteen have already been re-paroled.

The parolee recidivism rate (28%) is about the same as the START treatment sample, both are less than the 47 percent of the probation control group recidivism. During the third year evaluation, these will continue to be monitored.

It should be noted that, as expected, parolees and probationers differ in their characteristics. While drawn from the same age range, the fewer parolees at the lower end of this range (17-22) raised the average age of this group. In addition, the parolees have longer past records which usually included more serious crimes and, of course, they have all been in prison.

Cost Reduction. If the rough method of calculating costs as described in the June 1977, report, is applied to START's 34 percent reduction in recidivism, it would cost an additional \$830 per client. These results should not be surprising since the analysis excludes the cost of a large portion of the criminal justice system. Using such a method would, in fact, mean that START would necessarily have to show an astounding drop in recidivism overall to accomplish much financial gain. Since most recidivating probationers do not end up in prison, even if this approach were refined, it would be highly limited.

Much information is to be gained by employing a cost/benefit calculus: a) incorporating at least the cost of processing (or reprocessing) offenders through the entire justice system, and b) including all known recidivists (whether incarcerated or not) in the analysis.

A promising model for this purpose has been developed.\* It includes, among other items, costs of police apprehension, detention,

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\*C. D. Mallar, & C. V. D. Thornton. A Comparative Evaluation of the Benefits and Costs from the LIFE Program, American Bar Association, Feb., 1978.

lower courts, higher courts and corrections for various types of crimes and levels of recidivism. While the functions have yet to be validated in Wayne County, for illustrative purposes it can be applied here. Taking into account both the high cost for recidivists (about \$6,858 per client)\* and the additional cost of Project START over regular probation (about \$1,350 per client) it appears that START would show a net savings over regular probation of about \$71 per client. If only repeat offenders are considered, the savings attributable to Project START would be substantially greater yet.

This analysis is merely illustrative. Before firm conclusions regarding cost effectiveness can be drawn, an attempt will be made to validate this model for Wayne County.

## B. Community Volunteers

### 1. Descriptive Data

Citizens from the probationers' own community were recruited as volunteers to spend time on a one-to-one basis with an assigned START client. START believes that a relationship between a stable adult and a client will provide needed social support for the client as he attempts to change his life style.

Approximately 160 community volunteers were initially recruited; data is available for 141 of these people. Table 13 provides data descriptive of these individuals. START paired 66 clients with volunteers on a one-to-one basis.

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\*This figure represents an extrapolation from cost studies in Baltimore, Maryland. See reference above.

Table 13

VOLUNTEERS (n = 141) - Descriptive Data

Age: Median = 33.4 years (14 - 69)

Race:

White	42%
Black	44%
Not reported	14%

Sex:

Male	55%
Female	45%

Marital Status:

Married	38%
Single	45%
Divorced or Separated	14%
Widowed	3%

Education:

Some High School	8%
High School Graduate	23%
Some College	40%
College Graduate	12%
Postgraduate	16%
Other Education	1%

Religion:

Protestant	62%
Catholic	30%
Other	5%
Not reported	3%

Income:

Less than \$ 5,000	13%
\$ 5,000 - 7,999	13%
8,000 - 10,999	7%
11,000 - 13,999	12%
14,000 - 16,999	14%
17,000 - 19,999	6%
Over \$20,000	20%
Unknown	16%

Table 13

Occupation:

Technical-Professional	28%
Managerial	1%
Clerical	18%
Sales	5%
Craftsman	8%
Operatives	6%
Domestics	2%
Service	6%
Students	11%
Housewives	4%
Retired	3%
Unemployed	2%
Unknown	6%

Military Service: 36 veterans 26%

Hrs./Wk. expected to devote to START: Median = 4.68 hours

How Learned of Project START:

Project Staff	11%
Team for Justice*	4%
Friend	14%
Relative	4%
Community Service Organization	9%
Church	39%
Public Service Announcement	8%
Other	11%

Reasons for Volunteering:

(1 = minimum importance, 4 = maximum importance)

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Mean Importance</u>
Help someone	3.70
Community responsibility	3.37
Reduce crime	3.36
Change system	3.31
Religious beliefs	3.02
Feel good about self	2.64
Friends in program	2.14
Fill free time	1.71

\*A non-profit organization working on criminal justice issues.  
START is a project of Team for Justice.

Table 13

Volunteer view of the job of the volunteer:

(1 = expects to do none of this,  
7 = expects to do a great deal of this)

<u>Job</u>	<u>Mean Expectation</u>
Be a friend	5.40
Set a good example	5.06
Provide example of a good family	4.60
Solve problems	4.59
Give advice	4.21
Get client a job	4.16
Spend free time with client	4.16
Visit client at home	3.98
Invite a client home	3.71
Take a client to eat	3.56
Provide needed discipline	3.53
Lend client money	2.39

Volunteer estimate of the percent of START clients who will go straight as a result of the program:

Median = 62%

Range = 9% to 100%

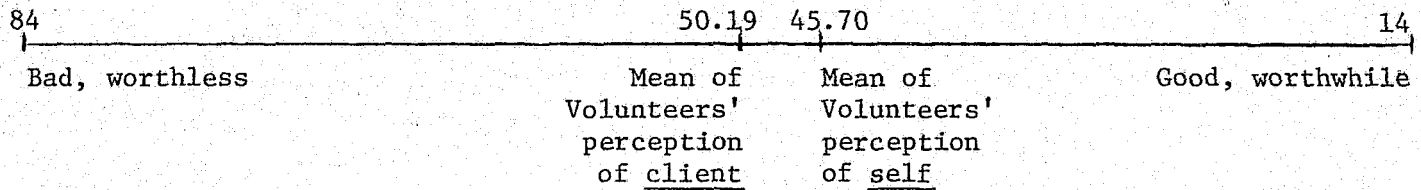
Volunteer perception of the causes of crime:

(1 = not important, 4 = very important)

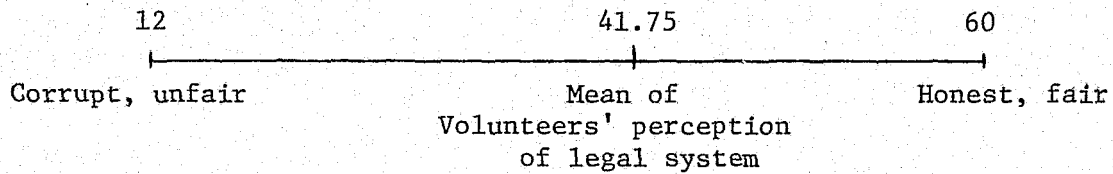
<u>Causes</u>	<u>Mean Importance</u>
Influence of friends	3.71
Parental upbringing	3.56
Lack of job	3.41
Poor living conditions	3.15
Poverty	3.11
Unfair system	3.09
Discrimination	3.07
Lack of discipline	2.96
Mental illness	2.87
Getting away with it	2.86
Lack of intelligence	2.67
Laziness	2.52
Inner badness	2.10
Bad genes	1.67

Volunteer perception of self and client:

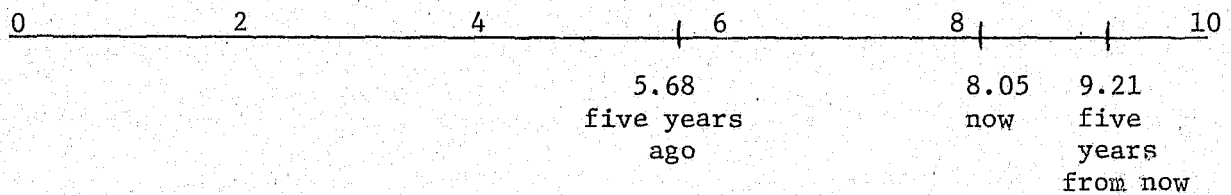
(Scores ranged from 14 to 84; a lower score represents a more favorable perception.)

Volunteer view of the legal system:

(Scores ranged from 12 to 60; a higher score represents a more favorable view of the legal system.)

Volunteer view of the quality of their lives at different times:

(The higher the number, the better the perceived quality of life. The numbers represent the means.)



Source: Data based on 141 community volunteers recruited as of October, 1977.



2. Comparison of Trained vs. Dropout Volunteers, and Assigned vs. Non-Assigned Volunteers

Of the 141 individuals who were recruited as community volunteers, 95 (67%) completed training. The remaining individuals dropped out during training.

Stepwise discriminant function analyses were performed using the 150 items contained in an initial questionnaire administered to these people at the outset of training. The purpose of this test is to determine the distinguishing characteristics of those who would complete training vs. those who would not. A combination of sixteen variables was found to be highly predictive of successful completion of training ( $p < .001$ ) (See Table 14). Together these variables correctly classify 81.20 percent of the cases.

Similar analyses were performed with equally successful results using these same 150 variables to discriminate between those who were paired with clients vs. not paired once having completed training. Furthermore, of those who were paired with clients, a discriminant analysis was performed to distinguish those who remained active in their relationship with clients and those who did not. Again, a highly predictive result was obtained. For these latter two discriminant analyses, the specific items with their coefficients can be seen in Appendix B. With appropriate cross-validation, these discriminant functions could be used as a basis for creating predictive models.

Table 14

Discriminant Function Coefficients of Items  
Predicting Volunteer Training Completion

Step on Which Variable Entered Function	Variable	Coefficients*
1	Protestant (No=0, Yes=1)	+ .43882
2	Importance of influence of friends as cause of crime (Not Important=1, Very Important=4)	+ .32796
3	Race (White=1, Black=2)	- .37642
4	Importance of lack of discipline and punishment as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .23211
5	Importance of inner badness as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	- .26120
6	Importance of unfair system as cause of crime (Not Important=1, Very Important=4)	- .29215
7	Importance of filling free time as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .18184
8	How volunteer felt life was 5 yrs. ago (Bad=1, Good=10)	- .39063
9	Number of children volunteer has	+ .48727
10	Veteran? (Yes=1, No=2)	+ .36858
11	Number of hours/week worked on regular job	+ .22461
12	Number of groups in which volunteer is active member	+ .21995
13	How often volunteer expects to lend money to probationer (None=1, Lot=6)	- .27029

Table 14 - pg. 2

Step on Which Variable Entered Function	Variable	Coefficients*
14	Importance of volunteer's friends being involved in this or similar program as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .23071
15	Number of male children living in volunteers' homes	- .20804
16	How much volunteer intends to "be a friend" to client (None=1, Lot=6)	+ .15740

Analysis based on  $n=108$

Percent of "grouped" cases correctly classified: 81.20%

\*Where coefficient is positive a high score on variable is associated with completing training. Where sign is negative, a low score is associated with completing training.

## FUTURE ANALYSIS

The Third Year report will include multivariate analysis of client outcomes as a function of client characteristics. In addition, a refined cost benefit analysis will be attempted and client reactions to START will be assessed.

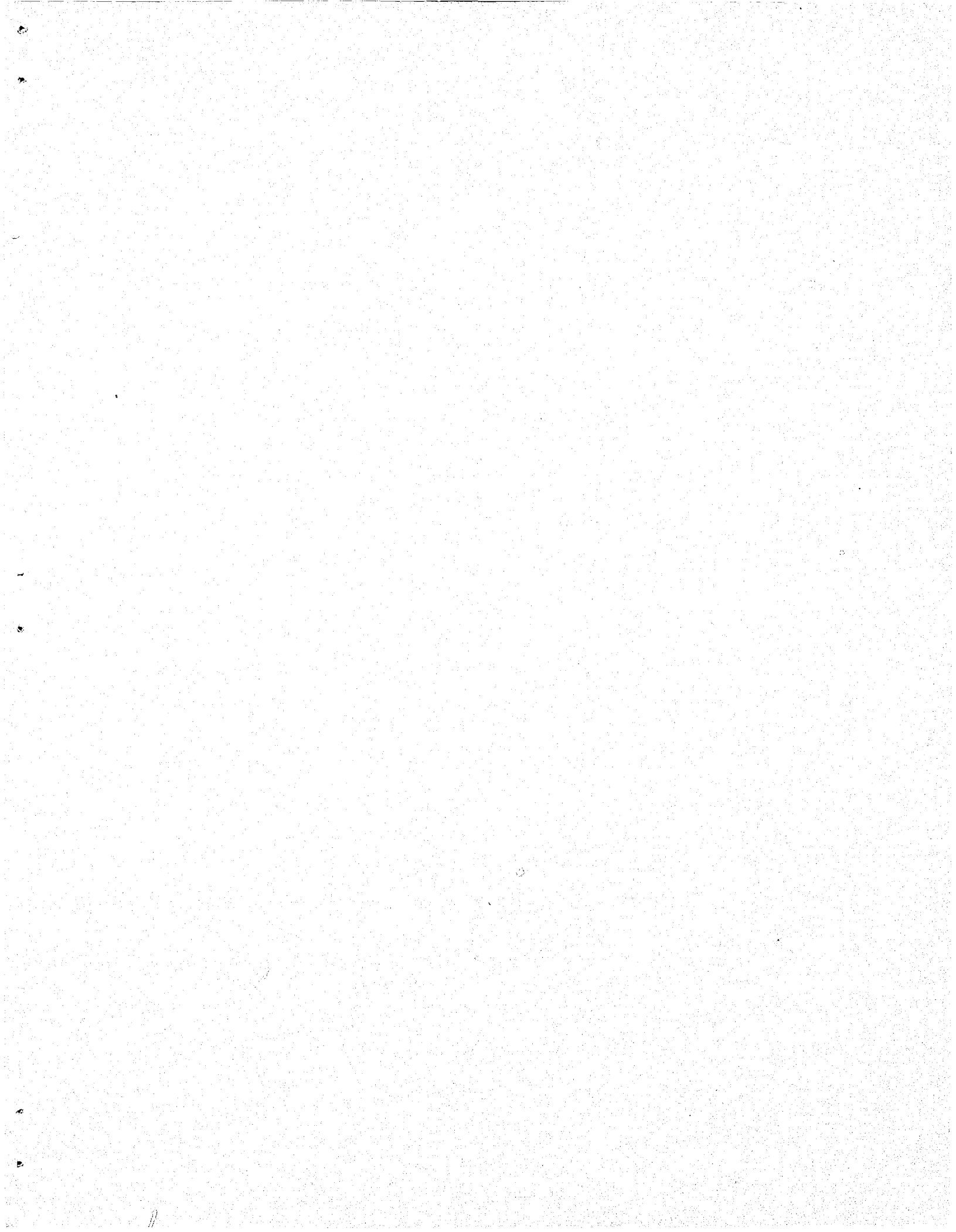
APPENDIX A

Non-contracted Referrals

<u>NEED</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
1. Income Tax	10
2. Record expungement	10
3. Apartment hunting	40
4. Free food	10
5. Hospitalization	5
6. Alcoholics Anonymous	30
7. Drug Counseling	10
8. Military	10
9. Civil Air Patrol	5
10. Indian support	1
11. Family Medical	25
12. Planned Parenthood	5
13. Day Care	2
14. Library usage	2
15. Tenant rights	5
16. Social Security Benefits	7
17. Unemployment Benefits	25
18. Veterans Benefits	5
19. Sickle Cell Anemia	2
20. Boy Scouts	2

cont'd

<u>NEED</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
21. Maternity Payments for Birth	1
22. Arab Center for Reading	1
23. Referrals for clients to do volunteer work	3
24. Social Events (i.e. Detroit Tonight Tours)	5
25. Competitive Sports	10
26. Foster Care	5
27. Social Disease Clinic	5
28. Inmate Jail Service	20
29. Day Labor	30



APPENDIX B - 1

Discriminant Function Coefficients Of Items Predicting  
Volunteers Paired With Clients by START vs. Those Who Were Not Paired \*

Step on Which Variable Entered Function	Variable	Coefficients**
1	Sex (Male=1, Female=2)	- .21959
2	Number of groups in which volunteer is active member	- .55011
3	Veteran? (Yes=1, No=2)	- .48393
4	Importance of mental illness as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	- .39930
5	Importance of unfair system as cause of crime (Not Important=1, Very Important=4)	+ .39000
6	Importance of religious beliefs as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very important=4)	- .35045
7	How much volunteer intends to "be a friend" to client (Non=1, Lot=6)	- .16554
8	Importance of influence of friends as cause of crime (Not Important=1, Very Important=4)	+ .13967
9	Importance of chance to change system as reason for volunteering (Not Import. = 1, Very Import. = 4)	- .25394
10	Number of children volunteer has	- .17624
11	Income	+ .17495
12	Mean number of religious services attended/month	+ .25699
13	How often volunteer expects to take probationer to eat (None = 1, Lot = 6)	+ .26692



Step on Which Variable Entered Function	Variable	Coefficients**
14	Importance of filling free time as reason for volunteering (Not import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .18954
15	Importance of lack of discipline and punishment as cause of crime (Not import.=1, Very Import.=4)	- .13709

Analysis based on n=72

Percent of "grouped" cases correctly classified: 82.11%

\*Analysis performed only on those who completed training

\*\*Where coefficient is positive a high score on variable is associated with being paired.  
Where sign is negative, a low score is associated with being paired.

## APPENDIX B - 2

Discriminant Function Coefficients of Items Predicting Volunteers  
Paired with Clients who Maintained vs. Terminated Relationship with Client

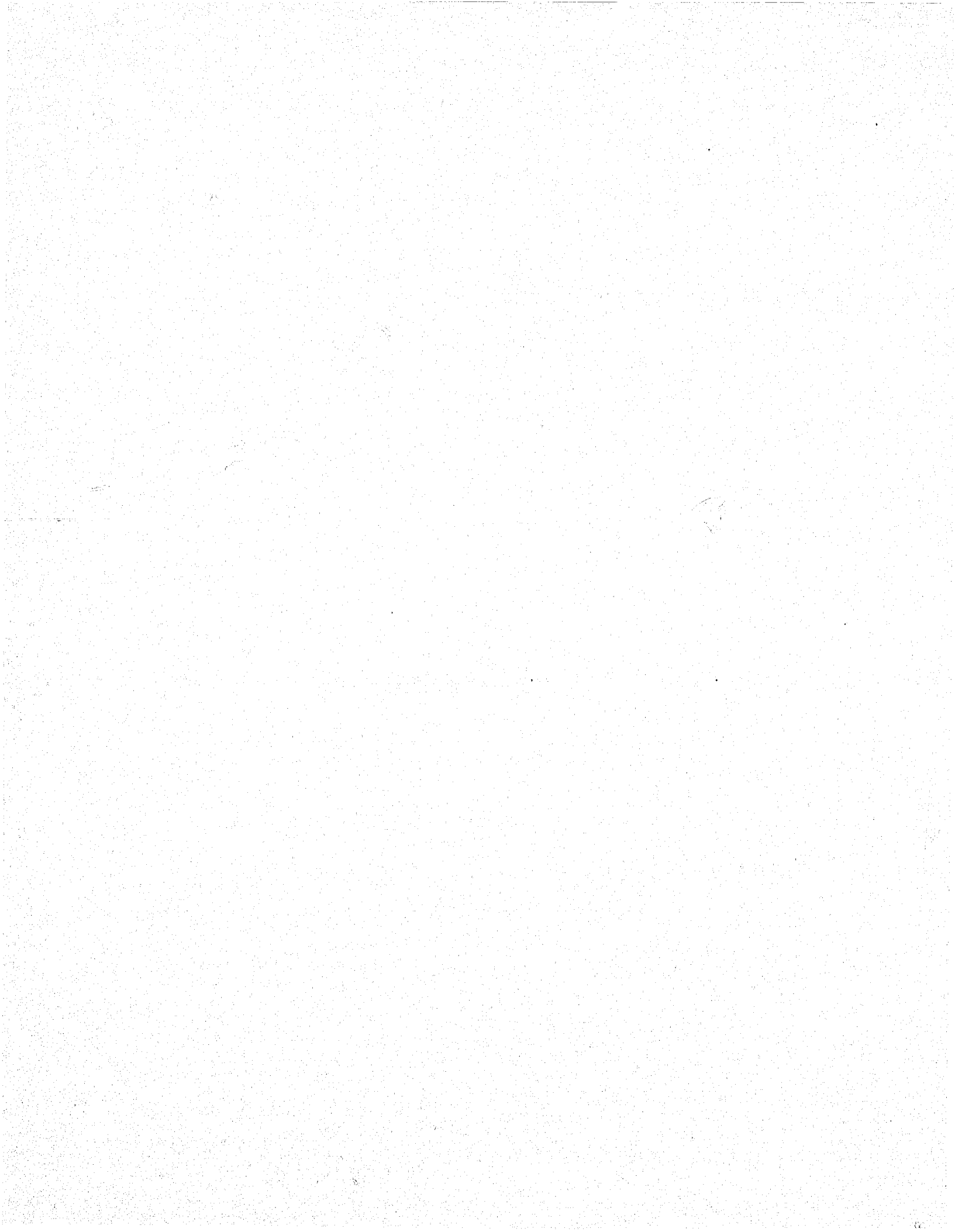
Step on Which Variable Entered Function	Variable	Coefficients*
1	Importance of chance to help someone in trouble as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	- .55992
2	Importance of lack of discipline and punishment as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .49637
3	Self-perception (Good=14, Bad=84)	- .72926
4	Perception of typical probationer (Good=14, Bad=84)	+ .55820
5	Importance of chance to change system as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	- .68304
6	Importance of unfair system as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .44869
7	How volunteer felt life was 5 yrs. ago (Bad=1, Good=10)	- .64759
8	Health of volunteer (Excellent=1, Poor=5)	+ .19809
9	Importance of influence of friends as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .63132
10	Importance of volunteer's friends being involved in this or similar program as reason for volunteering (Not Important=1, Very Important=4)	+ .62495
11	How often volunteer expects to lend money to probationer (None=1, Lot=6)	- .37780
12	Importance of lack of intelligence as cause of crime (Not Important=1, Very Important=4)	- .44714

Step on Which Variable Entered Function	Variable	Coefficients*
13	Importance of feeling good about self as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	- .11061
14	Importance of feeling of responsibility to community as reason for volunteering (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .29215
15	Number of male children living in volunteers' home	+ .32743
16	Race (White=1, Black=2)	- .34937
17	Mean number of religious services attended/month	+ .30293
18	Catholic (No=0, Yes=1)	- .15313
19	Importance of inner badness as cause of crime (Not Import.=1, Very Import.=4)	+ .16348
20	How often volunteer expects to visit probationer at home	+ .11589

Analysis based on n=42

Percent of "grouped" cases correctly classified: 94.23%

\*Where coefficient is positive, a high score on variable is associated with remaining active with client.  
Where sign is negative, a low score is associated with remaining active with client.



**END**