



Evaluation of Florida's Associated Marine Institute Program



DEPARTMENT
OF
HEALTH
AND
REHABILITATIVE
SERVICES

Youth Services Program

PLANNING
COORDINATION
UNIT

19

60093

ASSOCIATED
MARINE
INSTITUTES —
EVALUATION

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AMI EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

Associated Marine Institutes, Incorporated (AMI) is a public, nonprofit education and training organization which oversees the operation of seven Marine Institutes located in various Florida cities.¹ For six of these programs the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services contracts with this organization to obtain educational, vocational and counseling services for delinquent youth who have been placed under supervision of the Department by the juvenile court. Children on probation or aftercare and those in commitment status are referred for placement in the program, while continuing to live in the community.

AMI has three primary aims:

1. To reduce or eliminate recidivism among participants in the program and to develop in them personal habits which are more socially acceptable.
2. To develop in each participant vocational skills, which increase his/her self-confidence and open up a range of occupational opportunities and,
3. To encourage further academic or vocational training, so that youngsters will enroll in the public school system or other training for advancement upon completion of the program.²

HRS staff select children for placement in AMI programs. AMI requests that referrals be between the ages of 15 and 18, have a minimum recorded I.Q. of 90, have at least a sixth grade reading level, and have some initial interest in the marine environment. While these characteristics are desired, each case is evaluated on an individual basis, and children may be accepted who do not meet these specifications. Youths initially accepted as trainee candidates are enrolled for a thirty day evaluation period. During this period, suitability for the program is determined for each child. During the first week, the child is given tests of basic educational achievement. Factors considered for the evaluation period are attendance, performance in classroom and marine-oriented activities, any additional legal complications which may arise, and the youths' behavior

in general. AMI programs are not designed to deal with children who have serious drug problems or who exhibit violent behavior. Such incidents during the evaluation period usually result in the child being transferred from the program. Those children still in the program after thirty days then meet with their staff advisor; and a decision is made on admission to trainee status.

Seventy percent of the children entering AMI programs from September 1, 1969 through June 1, 1977 were accepted for trainee status.³ For children entering the program during the first six months of 1977, 80.1 percent were admitted to trainee status.⁴ For children who are accepted, an agreement is drawn up between the trainee and the Institute. "The formal agreement is structured to provide individual objectives in the following training areas: diving, seamanship, lifesaving, ocean sciences, first aid, adult education, and electives. Each trainee takes part in setting his/her own goals and agrees to work to meet them. On its part, the Institute agrees to provide the trainee with program opportunities, counseling as needed, and assistance in developing realistic academic and/or vocational plans upon completion of the program. Goals for each trainee are reviewed on a regular basis and may change as the trainee develops in the program."⁵

The ocean is a critical focus of all Marine Institutes. A fundamental concept of these programs is to use the ocean as a "tool to capture the student's interest and imagination and to stimulate their desire to learn." "By its very nature, the sea imposes upon our students the need for a certain amount of maturity, planning, responsibility and self-control. For many of the kids, it's the first time in their lives that they've had to make adult decisions and learn to work cooperatively with other people."⁶

Children are required to attend the program five days per week, eight hours per day. In addition to the various marine related courses, classes in mathematics, reading, biology and other basic studies are provided. Youth also participate in practical activities such as boat handling, scuba diving, and maintenance and repair of marine equipment. Achievement of a high school equivalency degree (G.E.D.) is

encouraged for those children for whom this is a realistic goal during the usual six to nine month stay in the program. Children are also given opportunities to earn weekend boating trips. Crisis counseling is available after hours when needed.

SOURCES OF DATA

The evaluation relies upon data from several statistical reporting systems. Youth Services Population and Movement Reports and Monthly Facility Recapitulation Reports provided data on client flow. Age, race, sex, and offense data came from AMI Recapitulation Reports and from the Youths Services commitment data base, which consists of demographic and case history information on every committed child. Data on types of commitment, types of exit and lengths of stay also came from the commitment data base. AMI Entrance and Exit Forms were completed on children entering or leaving AMI programs from July through December, 1977. These forms provided data on entry grade level, educational testing scores, performance while in the program, and circumstances under which the children left. Follow-up data for recidivism determination was obtained from a Youth Services recidivism study, from a statistical report prepared by AMI and from Case Review forms filled out each month on every child under Probation or Aftercare supervision.

POPULATION PROFILE

At the beginning of 1977, there were 202 children enrolled in Marine Institutes. During the year, 580 youths were admitted to the HRS funded AMI programs. Of these, 305 (52.6%) were children who had been committed to HRS custody and 275 (47.4%) were non-committed children, most of whom were on probation. Table 1 presents the sources of these admissions. Of the committed cases, 71.1 percent were first commitments, and 10.8 percent were re-commitments or aftercare revocations. The percentage of recommitted youth is substantially less than that found in other Youth Services commitment programs and is in part reflective of the non-residential character of the program and the program criteria for acceptance. Transfers from other Youth Services commitment programs accounted for 15.8 percent of committed admissions. Relatively large numbers of children are released to other Youth Services commitment programs.

TABLE 1

AMI ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES⁷

(HRS Funded Programs)

January - December 1977

Beginning Population (January 1977) 202

Source of Additions:

First commitments	217
Recommitments	26
Revocations	7
Community Residential	3
Community Non-Residential	7
Training Schools	36
Return from inactive	9
Intake	7
Probation	211
Aftercare	33
Social and Economic Services	5
Other	<u>19</u>

Total Additions 580

Releases:

Furlough to Aftercare	130
Community Residential	20
Community Non-Residential	20
Training Schools	53
Recommitment to Youth Services	24
Adult System	8
Inactive	19
Honorable Termination	127
Less than Honorable Termination	104
Other	<u>52</u>

Total Releases 557

Ending Population (December 31, 1977) 225

Using the most recent data available (July 1977-April 1978) the sex and racial compositions of AMI populations were examined. Table 2 summarizes this data for committed children. Black youth occupied an average of only 15.8 percent of AMI commitment slots, while 39.0 percent⁸ of all commitments to Youth Services during 1977 were black. As also indicated in Table 2, an average of only 10.0 percent of AMI commitment slots were filled with females. Females made up 14.9 percent⁹ of 1977 Youth Services commitments.

TABLE 2

AMI COMMITTED YOUTH¹⁰

(Percent of Committed AMI Population*)

	<u>White</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Black</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>White</u> <u>Female</u>	<u>Black</u> <u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Broward	93.2	2.8	2.8	0	98.0	2.8	97.2	2.8
Dade	61.7	16.8	13.0	0	74.7	16.8	87.0	13.0
Jacksonville	77.4	14.1	8.5	0	85.9	14.1	91.5	8.5
Palm Beach	64.7	9.4	24.7	0	89.4	9.4	75.3	24.7
Panama City	92.9	2.0	5.1	0	98.0	2.0	94.9	5.1
Pinellas	51.6	38.5	6.3	3.6	57.9	42.1	90.1	9.9
Tampa	<u>85.2</u>	<u>5.5</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>89.9</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>90.7</u>	<u>9.4</u>
	72.7	14.8	9.0	1.0	81.7	15.8	90.0	10.0

*2.5% were reported as "other males" as follows: Broward 1.1%, Dade 8.6%, Palm Beach 1.2%

There is a disparity in representation in AMI programs in both sex and race. Table 3 presents data which allow these relationships to be examined in more detail. White males are significantly over-represented in AMI commitment slots, while black males and black females are greatly under-represented. White females are represented as would be expected by chance.

TABLE 3

RACE/SEX COMPARISONS FOR AMI COMMITTED

POPULATIONS AND ALL YOUTH SERVICES COMMITMENTS

	Percent of Committed <u>AMI Populations</u> ¹¹	Percent of Total YS <u>Commitments</u> ¹²
White Male	72.7	51.6
Black Male	14.8	33.5
White Female	9.0	9.3
Black Female	<u>2.5</u>	<u>.2</u>
	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4 presents sex and racial compositions of non-committed youths in AMI programs. Only 10.1 percent of the non-committed slots were occupied by blacks, who comprise 28.8 percent of delinquency probationers.¹³ An average of 18.8 percent of AMI non-committed populations were females, who make up 15.7 percent¹⁴ of the delinquency probation caseload.

TABLE 4

AMI NON-COMMITTED YOUTH¹⁵

(Percent of Non-Committed Population*)

	<u>White</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>Black</u> <u>Male</u>	<u>White</u> <u>Female</u>	<u>Black</u> <u>Female</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Broward	61.8	0	38.2	0	100	0	61.8	38.2
Dade	67.0	10.7	19.4	0	86.4	10.7	80.6	19.4
Jacksonville	77.2	.9	19.3	2.6	96.5	3.5	78.1	21.9
Palm Beach	50.0	21.6	26.1	1.1	76.1	22.7	72.8	27.2
Panama City	75.5	6.5	17.3	.7	92.8	7.2	82.0	18.0
Pinellas	70.6	8.2	19.0	2.2	89.6	10.4	78.8	21.2
Tampa	84.5	12.2	3.3	0	87.8	12.2	96.7	3.3
	72.0	8.9	17.6	1.2	89.6	10.1	81.2	18.8

*.4 of total were reported as "other males" as follows: Dade 2.9%, Palm Beach 1.1%

The disparity in AMI non-committed placements appears to be in the area of race, with females in general being appropriately represented. A comparison of the categories in Table 5 reveals that both black males and black females are greatly under-represented in AMI non-committed populations.

TABLE 5

RACE/SEX COMPARISONS FOR AMI NON-COMMITTED
POPULATIONS AND YOUTH SERVICES DELINQUENCY
PROBATION CASELOAD

	Percent of Non-Committed AMI Populations ¹⁶	Percent of all YS Delinquency Probations ¹⁷
White Male	72.0	60.7
Black Male	8.9	22.7
White Female	17.6	9.7
Black Female	1.2	5.9
Other Male	.4	.8
	100.0%	100.0%

The AMI referral criteria for reading level, recorded I.Q. and interest in the marine environment may tend to result in over-representation of white children. AMI programs accept the black children referred to them, but HRS staff have been referring few blacks.

Data from admissions during 1977 show the average age of committed youth entering Marine Institutes to be 16.0 years old.¹⁸ The percentages for each age are presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6
AGE OF COMMITTED CHILDREN ADMITTED TO AMI
DURING 1977¹⁹

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
14 years old	8	3.3
15	76	31.5
16	89	37.1
17	49	20.4
18	18	7.5
	<u>240</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Offense data are available on 73 committed children admitted to AMI programs during the first four months of 1977. This information is summarized in Table 7. The majority were felony offenders, primarily having committed property crimes.

TABLE 7

Offense Categories of Committed Children
Admitted to AMI, January-April, 1977²⁰

<u>Commitment Offense</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Felony - Against Persons	7	9.6
Felony - Property	37	50.7
Misdemeanor - Against Persons	4	5.5
Misdemeanor - Property	10	13.7
Misdemeanor - Victimless	11	15.1
Ungovernable	3	4.1
Violation of Probation	1	1.4
	73	100%

Table 8 presents additional data available on 95 committed children placed in Marine Institutes during January-April, 1977. Children committed for the first time comprise 87.4 percent of these cases, with the remainder being children who have had previous commitments to Youth Services. First time commitments are more likely to be recommended for a non-residential program such as AMI. Black commitments are much more likely to be recommitments²¹, and thus are less likely to be referred to a Marine Institute.

About 78 percent of the 95 commitments were initially placed in a Marine Institute, while the other 22 percent were transferred to an AMI facility, having first spent some time in another program during their current commitment. Exit data were collected for these children as of the end of October. At that time 19 of the children were still

actively enrolled in the program. Of the 74 youth who had been released, 45 (60.8%) were successfully furloughed from AMI. Seventeen (23.0%) had been transferred out of AMI to some other commitment program.

TABLE 8*
 DATA ON COMMITTED ADMISSIONS
 (January-April 1977) 22

A. TYPE OF COMMITMENT	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
First Commitment:	83	87.4
Recommitment:	10	10.5
Revocation:	2	2.1
	95	100%

B. TYPE OF PLACEMENT	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Initial Placement:	74	77.9
Transferred In:	21	22.1
	95	100%

C. TYPE OF EXIT	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Furlough:	45	47.4
Transfer Out:	17	17.9
Other Loss:	12	12.6
Inactive at AMI:	2	2.1
Active at AMI:	19	20.0
	95	100%

* Figures in this table differ from those presented in Table 1 since they are based upon a much smaller sample from a shorter time period.

TABLE 8 (continued)

D. TYPE OF COMMITMENT, (BY TYPE OF EXIT)

		Type of Exit				
		Furlough	Transfer Out	Inactive & Other Loss	Still Active	Total
Type of Commitment	First Commitment	39 (47%)	16 (19%)	11 (13%)	17 (20%)	83 (100%)
	Recommitment or Revocation	1 (8%)	6 (50%)	3 (25%)	2 (17%)	12 (100%)
						N = 95

E. LENGTH OF STAY AT AMI, (by Type of Exit)

		Length of Stay at AMI					
		0-45 days	46-120 days	121-180 days	181-240 days	Over 240	Total
Type of Exit	Furlough	2 (4%)	11 (24%)	12 (27%)	18 (40%)	2 (4%)	45 (100%)
	Transfer Out	5 (29%)	3 (18%)	8 (47%)	1 (6%)	0	17 (100%)
	Other Loss	1 (8%)	5 (42%)	4 (33%)	2 (17%)	0	12 (100%)
							N = 74

TABLE 8 (continued)

F. MEAN LENGTH OF STAY (LOS) in AMI (N=62) : 141 days

Mean LOS for Furloughs (N=45) : 155 days

Mean LOS for Transfers (N=17) : 104 days

G. TOTAL LENGTH OF COMMITMENT, BY TYPE OF EXIT

Total Length of Commitment (in days)

		0-45	46-120	121-180	181-240	241+	Total
Type of Exit	Furlough	0	6 (13%)	13 (29%)	19 (42%)	7 (16%)	45 (100%)
	Transfer	0	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	5 (19%)	2 (22%)	11 (100%)
	Out Other Loss	1 (8%)	5 (42%)	4 (33%)	2 (17%)	0	12 (100%)

TABLE 8 (continued)

H. MEAN TOTAL LENGTH OF COMMITMENT (in days); BY TYPE OF ENTRANCE AND TYPE OF EXIT

Type of Exit

Type of Entrance	Furlough	Transfer Out	Other Loss	Total
Initial Placement	177 days (N=34)	91 days (N=14)	116 days (N=12)	145 days (N=60)
Transfer In	87 days (N=11)	164 days (N=3)	-- (N=0)	103 days (N=14)
Total	155 days (N=45)	104 days (N=17)	116 days (N=12)	137 days (N=74)

Of the 45 children furloughed, 34 had been initially placed in AMI, while 11 had been transfers from other YS commitment programs. The 34 youth handled exclusively by AMI were furloughed after 6.0 months of commitment. The 11 who had previously been in other commitment programs were furloughed after an average of 2.9 months in a Marine Institute. These children had spent an average of 4.4 months in the other programs prior to transfer to AMI.

Of the 17 children transferred out of AMI to some other commitment program, 14 had been originally admitted to a Marine Institute, while the other 3 had previously been in other commitment programs from which they had been transferred into AMI. The 14 youth were transferred out of AMI after an average of 3.0 months. The 3 cases which had been transfers to AMI were transferred out again after an average of 5.5 months. Transfers of committed children to other programs often has the effect of substantially increasing their overall length of commitment and thereby greatly increasing the cost of treatment. Such transfers should be kept to a minimum.

Children entering AMI on their initial commitments seem to be much more likely to complete the program than those who enter as revocations or recommitments. This would seem to indicate that priority consideration for admission to AMI should continue to be given to children being committed for the first time. Table 8 also indicates that a substantial number of committed children are remaining in AMI programs beyond the budgeted average length of stay of six months.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In addition to training in marine related areas, AMI programs offer coursework in basic academic subjects. Every institute has at least one academic teacher provided by the local county school system. Children entering each program are administered the Test of Adult Basic Education during the initial thirty-day evaluation period. The results give the institute personnel some indication of the educational level at which the child is functioning and whether the child is a good candidate for preparation to take the high school equivalency diploma test of General Education Development (G.E.D.). Areas requiring remedial work may also be discovered.

Table 9 presents the data on the last grade completed by children prior to entry into AMI. These data were available for 220 cases whose AMI Entrance Forms were completed from July through December, 1977. The average last grade completed was eighth.

TABLE 9

Last Grade Completed
Prior to Entrance into AMI²³

<u>Last Grade Completed</u>	<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
4	1	.5
5	1	.5
6	2	.9
7	31	14.1
8	75	34.1
9	73	33.2
10	29	13.2
11	8	3.6
	<u>220</u>	<u>100%</u>

Table 10 presents pre-test and post-test scores on the Test of Adult Basic Education. A different version of the test is used for the retesting. Pre-tests in each area show the children to be performing near beginning eighth grade level. Total test scores had improved an average of 1.6 school years at the administration of post-tests. Scores improved by 0.4 per month between pre- and post-tests. Since each 0.1 increment is designed to represent one school month, this indicates a very high rate of improvement in measured academic performance.

TABLE 10

Test of Adult Basic Education
Pre-test and Post-test Scores
and Differences²⁴

	<u>N</u>	<u>Pre-Test</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference per Month Between Tests</u>
Reading	107	8.3	9.6	1.3	0.4
Language	95	8.2	9.6	1.4	0.3
Math	106	7.8	10.0	2.2	0.6
Total	98	8.0	9.6	1.6	0.4

Table 11 Presents the data on G.E.D. testing for the 191 children exiting AMI during the last six months of 1977 for whom the information was reported. Eleven percent of those exiting had earned their high school equivalency diploma.

TABLE 11

Testing for General Education Development²⁵

	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Did not take G.E.D	158	82.7
Took G.E.D but failed	12	6.3
Passed G.E.D	<u>21</u>	<u>11.0</u>
	191	100%

Children leaving AMI programs were rated on their abilities in five training areas in which they had participated. Table 12 presents the ratings in seamanship (including boat handling and chart reading and interpretation), practical oceanography (including elementary ocean engineering, drafting and marine survey), aquatics, marine mechanics and maintenance, and general responsible vocational behavior (proper use and return of tools, calling in for absence from work, etc.)

TABLE 12

Vocational Ability Ratings at Exit from AMI²⁶

	<u>Seamanship</u>		<u>Practical Oceanography</u>		<u>Aquatics</u>		<u>Marine Mechanics & Maintenance</u>		<u>Responsible Vocational Behavior</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Below Average	10	(5.4)	9	(5.8)	7	(3.8)	3	(1.8)	20	(11.3)
Slightly Below Average	29	(15.8)	28	(18.2)	21	(11.4)	27	(16.3)	27	(15.3)
Average	66	(35.9)	60	(39.0)	66	(35.7)	78	(47.0)	59	(33.3)
Slightly Above Average	43	(23.4)	48	(31.2)	49	(26.5)	44	(26.5)	41	(23.2)
Above Average	<u>36</u>	<u>(19.6)</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>(5.8)</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>(22.7)</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>(8.4)</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>(16.9)</u>
	184	(100%)	154	(100%)	185	(100%)	166	(100%)	177	(100%)

BEHAVIORAL ADJUSTMENT

Information was collected on AMI Exit Forms during July-December, 1977, relating to the behavior of children during their stay in the programs. Table 13 presents data available for 194 children on the number of unexcused absences they had while in a Marine Institute, broken down by the child's type of exit from the program. As would be expected, children leaving under unfavorable circumstances had the highest number of such absences, while successful graduates had relatively few. Teaching children to limit such absences plays a role in helping them develop responsible vocational behavior.

TABLE 13

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE, BY TYPE OF EXIT²⁷

Number of Children in Each Category:

<u>Number of Unexcused Absences</u>	<u>Dropped From Evaluation Status*</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Unfavorable Reasons</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Favorable Reasons</u>	<u>Attained Graduation Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
0	8	23	6	54	91 (46.9%)
1	1	11	2	17	31 (16.0%)
2	2	13	2	12	29 (14.9%)
3	1	8	2	4	14 (7.2%)
4	1	3	1	0	6 (3.1%)
5	1	3	0	2	6 (3.1%)
6	0	4	0	0	4 (2.1%)
7	0	1	0	0	1 (.5%)
8	0	2	0	0	2 (1.0%)
9 or more	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10 (5.2%)</u>
	17 (8.8%)	75 (38.7%)	13 (6.7%)	89 (45.9%)	194 (100%)

*Children dropped from evaluation status are in the program for a very short time and therefore have little chance to accumulate unexcused absences.

Table 14 presents data on instances of running away from AMI programs, by type of exit. A large number of children dropped from the program for unfavorable reasons had run away. A total of 22.7 percent of the children ran away at least once.

TABLE 14

INSTANCES OF RUNNING AWAY, BY TYPE OF LOSS²⁸

Number of Children in Each Category:

<u>Number of Times Child Ran Away</u>	<u>Dropped From Evaluation Status</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Unfavor- able Reasons</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Favorable Reasons</u>	<u>Attained Graduation Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
None	13	45	11	84	153 (77.3%)
1	4	20	1	3	28 (14.1%)
2-5	1	12	1	2	16 (8.1%)
6 or more	0	1	0	0	1 (.5%)
					<u>198 (100%)</u>

A total of 19.6 percent of these children were reported destroying property at least once while in AMI. Table 15 summarizes the data.

TABLE 15

INSTANCES OF DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY (OWN OR OTHERS),
BY TYPE OF LOSS²⁹

Number of Children in Each Category

<u>Number of Destructive Incidents</u>	<u>Dropped From Evaluation Status</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Unfavorable Reasons</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Favorable Reasons</u>	<u>Attained Graduation Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
None	18	65	12	82	177 (89.4%)
1	0	4	1	5	10 (5.1%)
2-5	0	8	0	2	10 (5.1%)
6 or more	0	0	1	0	1 (.5%)
					<u>198 (100%)</u>

Table 16 summarizes the data on reported frequency of children's abusive actions toward others (e.g., violence, fighting, arguments). Such behavior was reported for 32.3 percent of the youths during their AMI experience.

TABLE 16

FREQUENCY OF ABUSIVE ACTIONS TOWARD OTHERS,BY TYPE OF LOSS³⁰

Number of Children in Each Category

<u>Frequency of Abusive Behavior</u>	<u>Dropped From Evaluation Status</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Unfavor- able Reasons</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Favorable Reasons</u>	<u>Attained Graduation Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
None	5	17	6	45	73 (37.1%)
Infrequent	6	20	3	25	54 (27.4%)
Moderate	3	19	0	13	35 (17.8%)
Frequent	4	22	4	5	35 (17.8%)
					<u>197 (100%)</u>

Table 17 presents information reporting frequency of use of alcohol by children while enrolled in AMI. The data are reported by counselors in each program. Alcohol use was reported for about half of the cases.

TABLE 17

USE OF ALCOHOL, BY TYPE OF LOSS³¹

Number of children in Each Category

<u>Frequency of Reported Alcohol Use</u>	<u>Dropped From Evaluation Status</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Unfavorable Reasons</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Favorable Reasons</u>	<u>Attained Graduation Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
None	12	26	7	55	100 (50.8%)
Infrequent	3	27	3	19	52 (26.4%)
Moderate	3	15	2	10	30 (15.2%)
Frequent	0	10	1	4	15 (7.6%)
					<u>197 (100%)</u>

Reported frequency of drug use is presented in Table 18. These data are based upon the judgement of the Youth Services counselor in each program. Drug use was reported for 62.9 percent of the children while in the program.

TABLE 18

USE OF DRUGS, BY TYPE OF LOSS³²

Number of Children in Each Category

<u>Reported Frequency of Drug Use</u>	<u>Dropped From Evaluation Status</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Unfavor- able Reasons</u>	<u>Left Prior To Graduation For Favorable Reasons</u>	<u>Attained Graduation Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
None	5	17	6	45	73 (37.1%)
Infrequent	6	20	3	25	54 (27.4%)
Moderate	3	19	0	13	35 (17.8%)
Frequent	4	22	4	5	35 (17.8%)
					197 (100%)

Instances of stealing were reported in 33.0 percent of the cases. Two-thirds of those reported stealing were children dropped from evaluation status or those who left prior to graduation for unfavorable reasons. Eighteen percent of program graduates were reported for stealing while in AMI.

EXITS FROM AMI

Sample data were available on the circumstances under which 206 cases left the program from July through December, 1977. That information is summarized in Table 19. It indicates that 12.1 percent of the cases were dropped from evaluation status prior to becoming trainees. These children left the program during the first 30 days. The graduation rate was 43.2 percent, while the other 44.6 percent left the programs prior to graduation for various, mostly unfavorable reasons.

TABLE 19

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LEAVING AMI³³

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Dropped From Evaluation Status	25	12.1
Left Prior to Graduation For Unfavorable Reasons	79	38.3
Left Prior to Graduation for Favorable Reasons	13	6.3
Attained Graduation Status	<u>89</u>	<u>43.2</u>
Total	206	100.0%

Sample data presented in Table 19, as well as that in Table 8, indicate that many children leave AMI without successfully completing the program. More complete statistics can be examined by looking at all children released from AMI during the last half of 1977. Table 20 presents this data for AMI and the other two non-residential programs which handle committed children. (Intensive Counseling handles only committed children, while TRY Centers handle about half committed and half non-committed, as does AMI.) Table 21 presents this comparative data in a more condensed form. Successful releases from Marine Institutes constituted 44.9 percent of all releases for that time period, compared to 39.4 percent for TRY Centers and 56.0 percent for Intensive Counseling. Another 44.9 percent of AMI releases were either transferred to other Youth Services commitment programs, re-committed, went to the adult criminal justice system or terminated less than honorably. The comparable figures for TRY Centers was 51.6 percent, while 36.4 percent of Intensive Counseling releases fall into this category.

TABLE 20

COMPARISON OF RELEASES FROM
NON-RESIDENTIAL DELINQUENT
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

(July - December, 1977)³⁴

		<u>TRY</u> <u>Centers</u>	<u>Intensive</u> <u>Counseling</u>	<u>Marine</u> <u>Institutes</u>
Furlough to Aftercare	NO.	46	115	58
	(%)	(21.6)	(51.1)	(19.1)
Honorable Terminations	NO.	38	11	78
	(%)	(17.8)	(4.9)	(25.7)
Transfers to Other Commitment Programs	NO.	32	53	54
	(%)	(15.0)	(23.6)	(17.8)
Recommitment to Youth Services	NO.	8	20	13
	(%)	(3.8)	(8.9)	(4.3)
Went to Adult System	NO.	1	9	6
	(%)	(0.5)	(4.0)	(2.0)
Less than Honorable Terminations	NO.	69	-	63
	(%)	(32.4)	(-)	(20.8)
Other Releases	NO.	19	17	31
	(%)	(8.9)	(7.6)	(10.2)
 Total Releases	NO.	213	225	303
	(%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)

TABLE 21

COMPARISON OF RELEASES FROM
NON-RESIDENTIAL DELINQUENT
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

(July-December 1977)³⁵

		<u>TRY</u> <u>Centers</u>	<u>Intensive</u> <u>Counseling</u>	<u>Marine</u> <u>Institute</u>
Successful Releases (Furloughs and honorable term- inations)	NO. (%)	84 (39.4)	126 (56.0)	136. (44.9)
Unsuccessful Re- leases (Transfers to other committed programs, recommitments, less than honorable losses, adult system)	NO. (%)	110 (51.6)	82 (36.4)	136 (44.9)
Other	NO. (%)	19 (8.9)	17 (7.6)	31 (10.2)
Total Releases	NO. (%)	213 (100%)	225 (100%)	303 (100%)

Of the 2710 children who entered and left HRS-funded AMI programs from September 1, 1969 through June 1, 1977, 30.0 percent were dropped during the initial 30 day evaluation period. Of the seventy percent who attained trainee status, 65.5 percent were favorably terminated with 52.2 percent of all trainees actually graduating.³⁶ Examining just cases who entered AMI during the first six months of 1977, the proportion dropped from evaluation status was found to have gone down to twenty percent. Of the eighty percent accepted as trainees, 67.6 percent were favorably terminated, and 57.3 percent of all trainees became graduates.³⁷ Thus of the total 276 children entering AMI from January through June, 1977, fifty-one percent were favorably terminated and forty-six percent actually graduated.³⁸

Information is available on 51 of the cases who were transferred out of AMI. The data are presented in Table 22. New law violations constituted the most frequent reason for transfer.

TABLE 22

REASONS FOR TRANSFER FROM AMI³⁹

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
New law violation	22	43.1
Did not complete evaluation status	6	11.8
Interpersonal difficulties with peers or staff	3	5.9
Failure to participate in program	4	7.8
Administrative reasons	7	13.7
Runaway	5	9.8
Other	4	7.8
	51	100.0%

Data available on 207 cases leaving AMI during the last half of 1977 are summarized for non-committed children in Table 23 and for committed cases in Table 24. Most of the Probation and Aftercare cases (57.6%) were continued on supervision after leaving AMI, with 10.9 percent being honorably terminated. Twelve percent went to Youth Services commitment programs and 8.7 percent absconded. In 46.1 percent of committed cases, the children were furloughed to Aftercare, while 36.5 percent went to other Youth Services commitment programs, 6.1 percent went to the adult system and 5.2 percent absconded.

TABLE 23

TYPE OF RELEASE OF CHILDREN
WHO ENTERED AMI ON PROBATION OR
AFTERCARE STATUS⁴⁰

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Honorable Terminations	10	10.7
Continued on Probation or Aftercare	53	57.6
Commitment or Revocation to Youth Services	11	12.0
Absconded	8	8.7
Other	<u>10</u>	<u>10.9</u>
	92	100.0%

TABLE 24*

TYPE OF RELEASE OF CHILDREN
WHO ENTERED AMI IN COMMITMENT STATUS⁴¹

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Furloughed to Aftercare	53	46.1
Transferred to Community Residential Program	8	7.0
Transferred to Community Non-Residential Program	4	3.5
Transferred to Training School	25	21.7
Recommitment	5	4.3
Went to Adult Criminal Justice System	7	6.1
Absconded	6	5.2
Other	<u>7</u>	<u>6.1</u>
	115	100.0%

*Figures from this table differ from those presented in Table 8 since they are based on an incomplete sample of AMI Exit Forms from a different time period.

EMPLOYMENT

Data available on 195 children who left Marine Institutes during the last half of 1977 indicate that 22.6 percent held part-time jobs during their period of enrollment in AMI.⁴² Information was available on the employment plans of 124 of these children at the time they left the program. Fifty-four percent planned to be employed full-time, while 18.5 percent planned on part-time employment, and 27.4 percent indicated they did not plan to be employed.⁴³ Data on children on Aftercare during 1977 who had been furloughed from AMI indicates that 48.9% were employed.⁴⁴

RECIDIVISM

This section will examine information from several sources on subsequent involvement of AMI cases with the adult or juvenile justice systems. Most available data deal with subsequent experiences of committed children who were in AMI programs and then furloughed to Youth Services Aftercare. Data are available on the type of Aftercare discharges received during 1977 by 107 children furloughed from AMI programs. In 77.6 percent of these cases, the children were honorably discharged. The comparable figure for all other Youth Services commitment programs combined was 57.5 percent, ranging from a high of 79.1 percent honorable discharges (for Intensive Counseling) to a low of 45.2 percent (for Eckerd Camps, another purchase-of-services program). Intensive Counseling, which is also a non-residential commitment program, was the only program to exceed the AMI success rate during 1977. Table 25 summarizes the types of discharges during 1977 for AMI cases and all other Youth Services commitment programs combined.

TABLE 25

AFTERCARE DISCHARGES DURING 1977⁴⁶

		Honor- able Dis- charges	Adult Court Pro- bation or Commitment	Revocation or Commit- ment to YS	Absconded	Other
Children Furloughed From AMI	NO. (%)	83 (77.6)	6 (5.6)	14 (13.1)	0 (0)	4 (3.7)
Furloughs From All Other YS Commitment Programs	NO. (%)	1789 (57.5)	325 (10.4)	698 (22.4)	83 (2.7)	216 (6.9)
TOTAL	NO. (%)	1872 (58.2)	331 (10.3)	712 (22.1)	83 (2.6)	220 (6.8)

The same information is available for cases discharged from Aftercare during the first five months of 1978. These data are summarized in Table 26. The AMI success rate of 89.3 percent was well above that for any other Youth Services commitment program, although the overall rate of honorable Aftercare discharges for other programs had risen to 62.8 percent.

TABLE 26

AFTERCARE DISCHARGES, JANUARY-MAY 1978^{4.7}

		<u>Honor- able Dis- charges</u>	<u>Adult Court Pro- bation Commit- ment</u>	<u>Revoca- tion or Commit- ment to Youth Services</u>	<u>Ab- scond- ed</u>	<u>Other</u>
Children Furloughed From AMI	NO. (%)	25 (89.3)	1 (3.6)	2 (7.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Furloughs From All Other YS Commitment Programs	NO. (%)	830 (62.8)	109 (8.3)	301 (22.8)	11 (0.8)	70 (5.3)
TOTAL	NO. (%)	855 (63.4)	110 (8.3)	303 (22.8)	11 (0.8)	70 (5.3)

A follow-up study was done on all children committed to AMI who were furloughed to Aftercare from August 1975 through April 1976. There were 85 furloughs during this nine month period. During the first twelve months following their furloughs, ten of the children were returned to a Youth Services commitment program and seven were sentenced by an adult court, for a twelve month recidivism rate of 20 percent. During the next six month period (13-18 months) following furlough, two more children were recommitted and one

was sentenced by an adult court. Thus 23.5 percent had recidivated within 18 months while, reciprocally, 76.5 percent can be counted as successes. These data are summarized in Table 27. Except for one child whose Aftercare was revoked for a technical violation, all other recidivists had committed new law violations.

TABLE 27

RECIDIVISM OF AMI COMMITMENTS

(From 85 Furloughs, August 1975-April 1976)⁴⁸

<u>Type of Recidivism</u>	<u>Recidivists After 12 Months</u>	<u>Total Recidivists After 18 Months</u>
Revoked	3	3
Recommitted	7	9
Sentenced by Adult Court	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	17	20

The average length of time between furlough and recidivism for these 20 cases was 8.1 months.⁴⁹

Associated Marine Institute staff conducts an ongoing follow-up of the children who were trainees in any of their programs. The last data available are as of April 1, 1978 and deal with children who entered Marine Institutes between September 1, 1969 and June 1, 1977. For the AMI study, "Recidivism is measured by criminal acts that resulted in conviction by a court, when committed by individuals who are under supervision or who have been released from correctional supervision within the last three years."⁵⁰ Their data on HRS-funded AMI programs indicate that out of 1897 children who were accepted for trainee status during the above period, 403 had become recidivists during the first three years after release. Of course, many of these

children have not been out of the program for a full three years. Thus the results of the AMI staff's study show a recidivism rate for all trainees, as of April 1, 1978, to be 21.2 percent.⁵¹

Of the 1242 trainees who were favorably terminated from AMI programs from September 1, 1969 through June 1, 1977, 172 (13.8%)⁵² had become recidivists, as of April 1, 1978. Of the 990 actual AMI graduates for the same time period, 131 (13.2%)⁵³ had become recidivists.

Thus the success rates, as determined by AMI, are:

All Trainees	78.8%
Favorable Terminations	86.2%
AMI Graduates	86.8%

PROGRAM COST

During 1977-78, Associated Marine Institutes received a total of \$1,151,516.16 from HRS to provide 192 placements for delinquent children. Payment is made to AMI on a monthly basis. The cost per month for each child in the program is \$499.79. AMI is the most expensive non-residential program funded through Youth Services.

During 1977-78, 15 placement slots were funded through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The cost for these placements is being assumed by HRS beginning with 1978-79. An additional 15 slots are made available through Comprehensive Employment Training Act funds.

AMI staff gathered data on the length of time children who were enrolled and positively terminated (honorably discharged) during fiscal year 1977-78 actually spent in Marine Institute programs. Their findings were that probationers spent an average of 5.54 months prior to honorable discharge, aftercare cases remained in the program 3.87 months, and committed children averaged 5.86 months.⁵⁴ Thus the average cost for each type of honorably discharged cases is as follows:

Probation:	\$2769
Aftercare:	\$1934
Commitment:	\$2929

Probationers who leave AMI without successfully completing the program stay an average of 2.08 months, while aftercare cases average 2.30 months and commitments who are not positively terminated have an average stay of 2.13 months.⁵⁵ Thus the cost for each of these unsuccessful cases averages about a thousand dollars.

CONCLUSIONS

The most outstanding facet of the Associated Marine Institutes is the very high success rate for children completing the program. No other program funded through Youth Services can claim such low recidivism rates. The question naturally arises as to the comparability of AMI populations with those of other programs for delinquent children. Close monitoring by the Youth Services Program Office indicates that AMI commitments do not tend to have less serious offense histories.

Black children have been greatly under-represented within AMI populations. Investigations into this matter indicate that this is not due to an unwillingness on the part of Marine Institute staff to accept black youth. It seems rather to be due to a reluctance of HRS staff to refer black children and an initial lack of interest on the part of urban blacks to participate in AMI programs. An effort is being made to encourage such referrals. Improvements have also recently been noted in the proportion of females being referred to AMI programs.

The AMI contract with HRS specifies certain measured academic and intellectual requirements be met by the children referred. Entrance test scores indicate that children admitted to AMI are more academically advanced than typical delinquents. Academic programs appear to be doing well with these children. AMI has begun to accept more children who do not meet their specified criteria in order to accommodate more children.

AMI programs have made efforts to increase the proportion of children in evaluation status who are accepted as trainees. This is evidenced by the rate of acceptance now exceeding 80 percent. The recidivism rates, however, include only those cases who were accepted as trainees.

Florida legislation specifies that a minimum of 50 percent of Marine Institute placement slots be filled by committed children. AMI programs have exceeded this percentage and continue to do so.

Of the 557 children released from Marine Institutes during 1977, furloughs and other honorable discharges comprised only 56.1 percent. Data from AMI Exit Forms indicate that just 46.1 percent of the committed children are successfully furloughed to aftercare. The high success rates of children furloughed to aftercare from AMI are thus based only upon this relatively small proportion of AMI commitments. In addition to the number of children transferred to other Youth Services programs, another point of concern is that many children completing AMI programs are then continued on the community supervision they were under when they entered the program. It seems questionable that a child on probation or Aftercare who successfully graduates from AMI should be continued on supervision thereafter.

Associated Marine Institutes appear to be running excellent programs for the type of children referred to them who have the interest and ability to achieve graduation. Children successfully completing AMI programs have demonstrated a remarkably low rate of reinvolvement with the criminal justice system.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹Miami, Pompano Beach, Jacksonville, Panama City, St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Key West.
- ²Frank A. Orlando and Robert A. Rosof, "An Alternative to Institutions: Victory at Sea", Juvenile Justice, Vol. 27, No. 3, August 1976, p. 27.
- ³Associated Marine Institutes statistical report, as of 1 April, 1978.
- ⁴Ibid.
- ⁵Orlando, op. cit., p. 27.
- ⁶Victory at Sea, publication of the Associated Marine Institutes, 1977.
- ⁷Population and Movement Reports, Youth Services Planning Coordination Unit, January-June, 1977 and July-December, 1977.
- ⁸Youth Services commitment data base, January-December, 1977.
- ⁹Ibid.
- ¹⁰Youth Services Monthly Facility Recapitulation Reports for Associated Marine Institutes, July, 1977-April, 1978.
- ¹¹AMI Recapitulation Reports, op. cit.
- ¹²Youth Services commitment data base, op. cit.
- ¹³Youth Services Case Review data (N=11,648), March, 1978.
- ¹⁴Ibid.
- ¹⁵AMI Recapitulation Reports, op. cit.
- ¹⁶Ibid.
- ¹⁷Youth Services Case Review, op. cit.
- ¹⁸Youth Services commitment data base, op. cit.
- ¹⁹Ibid.
- ²⁰Ibid.

- 21 Ibid.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Associated Marine Institutes Entrance Form, July-December, 1977.
- 24 Associated Marine Institutes Exit Forms, July-December, 1977.
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Population and Movement Report, July-December, 1977.
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Associated Marine Institute statistical report, prepared April, 1978.
- 37 Ibid.
- 38 Ibid.
- 39 Associated Marine Institute Exit Forms, op. cit.
- 40 Ibid.
- 41 Ibid.
- 42 Ibid.
- 43 Ibid.

44 Youth Services Case Review data, January-December, 1977.

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.

47 Youth Services Case Review data, January-May, 1978.

48 Youth Services recidivism study, 1977, based on Youth Services commitment records.

49 Ibid.

50 National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, January 23, 1973.

51 Associated Marine Institutes statistical report, op. cit.

52 Ibid.

53 Ibid.

54 Length of stay figures based on reports from all AMI facilities. The numbers of cases by category of positively terminated trainees entering and leaving AMI during 1977-78 are as follows: 63 probationers; 9 aftercare cases, and 92 committed children.

55 Length of stay figures based on reports from all AMI facilities. The numbers of cases entering AMI during 1977-78 and leaving without positive termination are as follows: 93 probationers, 15 aftercare cases, and 125 committed children.

END