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Project Oz Evaluation Report

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The purpose of this report is to present and summarize the data collected relative to the changes observed in the youth participants in Project Oz. Research data was collected relative to the personality changes, attitude changes and behavior changes of these youths. When possible, comparable data were collected from youths who did not participate in Project Oz. For purposes of presentation, this report has been divided into five sections. The first section will deal with the analysis of the interview data collected from these youths. The second section will be concerned with the analysis of changes observed in the youth's purpose in life. The third section will deal with changes observed in the youth's personality. The fourth section will be concerned with school achievement and recidivism. The last section is an interpretation of the analysis of the collected data.

ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEW DATA

Twenty-five Project Oz youths and a comparable number of youths on probation were interviewed by the research staff. The purpose of the interviews were 1) to determine the extent of family adjustment; 2) to determine the extent of school adjustment; and 3) to determine the extent of overall adjustment.

The information collected from the interviews were condensed and a one page typed report was prepared. These one page reports were then reviewed by a panel of two judges. The judges each had advanced degrees in Psychology (Ph.D. degrees). The judges were instructed to read each report and assign

each report three ratings, namely ratings of school adjustment, family adjustment, and total adjustment. Ratings were made on a four point scale. A rating of 1 indicated improved adjustment, a rating of 2 indicated no change in adjustment, a rating of 3 indicated decrease in adjustment, and a rating of 4 indicated that insufficient information was available to make a determination of change in adjustment.

The changes in school adjustment for the Project Oz youths and the youths on probation are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1

JUDGES' RATINGS OF CHANGES IN PROJECT OZ
AND PROBATION YOUTHS' SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT

	<u>Percentage Project Oz</u>	<u>Percentage Probation</u>
Improvement	66	30
No Change	5	22
Decrease	5	43
Insufficient Information	24	5

It is evident from the data summarized in Table 1 that Project Oz youths showed more improvement in school adjustment than did the probation youths. The greatest change for the Probation youths was in the decrease in adjustment category, 43% as compared to 5% for the Project Oz youths. A chi-square analysis was performed on the frequencies used to generate the percentages presented in Table 1.

It was necessary for purposes of computing this chi-square to combine certain categories, since the frequencies observed were too small to lend themselves

to analysis. Specifically the categories no improvement, decrease in adjustment, and insufficient information were combined. The chi-square was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level of confidence. This finding indicates that Project Oz youths were judged to improve significantly more in terms of school adjustment than did the Probation youths.

The data relative to home life adjustment is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2

JUDGES' RATINGS OF CHANGES IN HOME LIFE ADJUSTMENT
FOR PROJECT OZ YOUTHS AND PROBATION YOUTHS

	<u>Percentage Project Oz</u>	<u>Percentage Probation</u>
Improvement	78	43
No change	11	3
Decrease	5	52
Insufficient Information	6	2

It is evident from the data summarized in Table 2 that the Project Oz youths revealed more change in home life adjustment (78%) than did the Probation youths (43%). The majority of the Probation youths revealed a decrease in home life adjustment (52%), whereas a small percentage of Project Oz youths revealed a decrease (5%). The chi-square performed on the frequencies used to generate these percentages was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level of confidence. This finding indicates that the Project Oz youths revealed more gain in homelife adjustment than did their Probation counterparts.

In rating the overall adjustment of these youths, the judges were instructed to consider all the information contained in the one page reports. Further, the judges were instructed that even though a particular youth may show gains in school and homelife adjustments there is the possibility that he may show decrease in total adjustment. Total adjustment was defined for the judges as meaning the total future ability of the youth to function in his environment. The summary of these total adjustment ratings are presented in Table 3.

Table 3

JUDGES' RATINGS OF CHANGES IN TOTAL ADJUSTMENT
FOR THE PROJECT OZ AND PROBATION YOUTHS

	<u>Percentage Project Oz</u>	<u>Percentage Probation</u>
Improvement	56	30
No Change	33	9
Decrease	11	61
Insufficient Information	0	0

In terms of total adjustment the majority of the Project Oz youths evidenced improvement (56%). On the other hand, the majority of the Probation youths evidenced decreases in adjustment (61%). Only 11% of the Project Oz youths were judged to have decreased in terms of total adjustment. The chi-square analysis of these data was also found to be statistically significant (p less than .05). Therefore, relative to the Probation youths, the Project Oz youths were judged to have significantly gained in total adjustment.

In summary, judges' ratings of school, homelife, and total adjustment indicated that on each of these ratings the Project Oz youths showed more gain in adjustment than did similar youths who were on probation.

ANALYSIS OF PURPOSE IN LIFE DATA

Data relative to the youths' purpose in life were collected for Project Oz youth. Pre, during initial contact with Oz, Post, immediately after departure and at the follow-up, during the interviews. For purposes of comparison P.I.L. data were also collected for a group of youths who have not been in Juvenile Hall nor at Project Oz, (Norm Group). Care was exercised in the selection of these youths to insure that they unbiasedly represented the general population of youths. In addition, during the follow-up interviews, P.I.L. data were collected from a group of Probation youths who were formerly in Juvenile Hall.

It was hypothesized that the P.I.L. scores of the Project Oz youths would change positively. Further, it was hypothesized that the P.I.L. scores of the Project Oz youths would become more like the P.I.L. scores of the Norm Group. Finally it was hypothesized that at the follow-up test the Project Oz youths would place significantly higher than the Probation youths on P.I.L. scores.

The summary of these P.I.L. scores are presented in Table 4.

A t-test analysis of the means presented in Table 4 indicated a significant gain in P.I.L. scores from pre-test to post test for Project Oz youths, and no change in P.I.L. scores from post-test to follow-up test. Additional analysis did not indicate a significant difference between Project Oz youths and "normal" youths at the post-test.

Table 4

SUMMARY OF P.I.L. SCORES FOR PROJECT OZ,
NORMAL AND PROBATION YOUTHS

	<u>Pre-Test</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	<u>Follow-up Test</u>
Project Oz	85.7	105.0	102.1
Normals	-	111.0	-
Probation	-	-	94.3

The analysis of the difference between P.I.L. scores of Project Oz youths and Probation youths at the follow-up test indicated a significant difference at the .05 level of confidence.

The statistical analysis of these P.I.L. scores supported each of the hypotheses listed above. Namely, Project Oz youths did increase in P.I.L. scores, Project Oz youths became more like "normal" youths in terms of P.I.L. scores, and Project Oz youths placed significantly higher than Probation youths in P.I.L. scores at the follow-up test.

ANALYSIS OF PERSONALITY DATA

The data collected relative to the Project Oz youths' personalities were obtained from the California Test of Personality. The instrument has two major sections: one pertaining to personal adjustment and the other pertaining to social adjustment. This instrument was administered pre and post to the Project Oz youths and as a post-test only to a group of "normal" youths.

The specific hypothesis to be tested with these data was whether or not the Project Oz youths would become more like the "normal" youths in terms of personality and whether or not Project Oz youths would show gains in personality.

Table 5 presents a summary of the personal adjustment sub-test.

Table 5

SUMMARY OF PERSONAL ADJUSTMENT SCORES
OF PROJECT OZ AND NORMAL YOUTHS

<u>Category</u>	<u>Project Oz</u>			<u>Normals</u>	<u>Difference Between Post Tests</u>
	<u>Pre-Test</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	
Self-reliance	47.48	49.52	2.04	49.86	0.34
Personal Worth	45.48	50.43	4.95	49.01	1.42
Personal Freedom	36.48	42.52	6.04	48.08	5.56
Belonging	40.48	45.14	4.66	50.95	5.81
Freedom Withdrawal Tendency	42.29	47.90	5.61	47.01	0.89
Freedom Nervous Symptoms	41.71	43.14	1.43	44.91	1.77
Personal Adjustment	39.81	44.95	5.14	47.00	2.05

The analysis of the personal adjustment changes for the Project Oz youths indicated statistically significant gains on five personal adjustment sub-tests. The sub-tests were "Personal Worth," "Personal Freedom," "Belonging," "Freedom from Withdrawal Tendency" and "Total Personal Adjustment". Therefore, the hypothesis that Project Oz youths would show gain in personality associated with personal adjustment was supported.

The analysis of the difference between Project Oz youths and normal youths at the post-test indicated significant differences on "Personal Freedom" and "Belonging." In both cases the normal youths were found to place higher.

It should be noted, however, that the Project Oz youths revealed gains on these sub-tests. Therefore, the hypothesis that Project Oz youths would become more like "normal" youths in personality characteristics associated with personal adjustment was supported.

Table 6 presents the summary of the social adjustment personality by sub-tests.

Table 6

<u>Category</u>	<u>Project Oz</u>			<u>"Normals"</u>	<u>Difference Between Post Tests</u>
	<u>Pre-Test</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Post-Test</u>	
Social Standards	43.10	43.05	-.05	48.60	5.55
Social Skills	46.95	51.05	4.10	53.00	1.95
Anti-social Tendencies	34.71	38.67	3.96	42.90	4.23
Family Relations	30.29	36.76	6.47	48.10	11.34
School Relations	37.57	41.67	4.10	44.80	3.13
Community Relations	43.43	47.43	4.00	46.70	0.73
Social Adjustment	35.81	40.05	4.24	45.90	5.85

The analysis of the changes in the social adjustment sub-tests for the Project Oz youths indicated significant positive gains on each sub-test with the exception of "Social Standards" on which a non-significant loss was observed. Therefore, the hypothesis that Project Oz youths would show positive gains in personality factors relative to social adjustment was supported.

The analysis of the difference between post-test social adjustment scores of Project Oz and normal youths indicated significant differences on four sub-

tests, namely "Social Standards," "Anti-Social Tendencies," "Family Relations," and "Social Adjustment." Although, the analysis indicates a trend for the Project Oz youths to become more like the "normal" youths. The difference between the groups at the post-test was striking. Therefore, the hypothesis that Project Oz youths would be similar to normal youths on social adjustment at the post-test was not supported.

In summary, the analysis of the data collected from the California Test of Personality indicated Project Oz youths revealed significant gains in personal adjustments and in social adjustments. The analysis indicated that Project Oz youths evidenced increases in personal adjustment and were, at the post-test, not dissimilar from normal youth in personal adjustment. In terms of social adjustment, although gains were found in this personality characteristic, the Project Oz youths placed significantly below "normal" youths.

ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM AND SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Recidivism data were collected on thirty Project Oz youths and thirty Probation youth. These data were collected during an eight month period. Table 7 presents a summary of those youths from Project Oz and Probation who were classified as Recidivist by the ~~Department of Probation.~~

For the purpose of this study, recidivism is defined as having further contact with legal authorities wherein a successful petition is filed against the youth.

Table 7

PERCENTAGE OF PROJECT OZ AND
PROBATION YOUTHS CLASSIFIED AS
RECIDIVIST OVER AN 8 MONTH PERIOD

	<u>Recidivist</u>	<u>Non-recidivist</u>
Project Oz	6.6%	93.4%
Probation	30.0%	70.0%

A chi-square analysis performed on the frequencies used to generate the percentages in Table 7 was found to be statistically significant at the .05 level of confidence. The chi-square value was 5.45 and the degrees of freedom was 1. This finding indicates that the recidivism rate for the Project Oz youths was significantly lower than their Probation counterparts.

During the follow-up, academic and citizenship grades were collected for the Project Oz youths and Juvenile Hall youths. The summary of these grades are presented in Table 8.

Table 8

MEAN ACADEMIC GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND
MEAN CITIZENSHIP GRADE POINT AVERAGE
FOR PROJECT OZ AND JUVENILE HALL YOUTHS

	<u>Academic grade point average*</u>	<u>Citizenship grade point average**</u>
Project Oz	2.376	1.250
Juvenile Hall	1.925	1.116

* These grade point data were calculated on a 4-point scale: 4 indicating superior performance and zero indicating failure.

** These citizenship data were calculated on a 3-point scale: 3 indicating excellent citizenship and zero indicating unsatisfactory citizenship.

It is evident from the means summarized in Table 2 that Project Oz youths tended to place consistently higher than the Juvenile Hall youths in academic grade point averages and citizenship grade point averages. The difference between these means gave a t-value of 1.34, which with 20 df was not found to be statistically significant at the .05 level of confidence.

In summary, although the Project Oz youths tended to perform better in school than did the Juvenile Hall youths, the difference between their school performance was not statistically significant.

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