A PROFILE OF CHARACTERISTICS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPLETERS AND PROGRAM NON-COMPLETERS DRUG CONTRACT HOUSES

1977 AND 1978 RELEASES

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ABSTRACT

This report examines the characteristics that distinguish between program completers and program non-completers for residents released from the drug contract houses during 1977 and 1978.

For the combined sample for 1977 and 1978, there were seven variables that produced statistically significant differences. In rank order of their significance, the variables were:

1) Age at First Arrest
2) Number of Prior Juvenile Incarcerations
3) Institution Received From
4) Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes
5) Number of Prior Charges for Property Offenses
6) Number of Furloughs
7) Marital Status

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INTRODUCTION

In June of 1972, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed the "Correctional Reform Act" authorizing the establishment of different correctional programs that were to be outside of the walled institutions. In June of 1977, the Massachusetts Department of Correction began sending individuals to drug contract houses. These programs were established to positively impact the drug-dependent individuals in the system.

This report is the second component of a three-part evaluation of residents released from drug contract houses during 1977 and 1978. Included in this report is an analysis of the sample in terms of the basic statistical differences between individuals who were program completers and those who were program non-completers. These series of reports represent the first evaluation of the drug contract houses since the Department of Correction started sending individuals to the programs.

During 1977, there were 33 residents released from drug contract houses and in 1978, there were 55 individuals released. For comparative purposes, the total sample for each year was divided into two groups - program completers and program non-completers. A program completer was defined as any resident who successfully completed his stay at a drug house and was released to the street either by permit of the Parole Board or by a certificate of discharge. Also, individuals who received a lateral transfer to a similar security institution are included as program completers. A program non-completer was defined

TABLE I

REASON FOR RETURN TO SENDING INSTITUTIONS FROM DRUG CONTRACT HOUSES; PRE-RELEASE POPULATION
1977 RELEASES

	HOSPITALITY		D A R C		MERIDIAN		C A C		THIRD NAIL		TRIO HOUSE		PROJECT TURNABOUT		BEDFORD VA		BOSTON VA		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
New Charges	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(50)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(5)
Violation of House Rules	3	(60)	0	(0)	1	(25)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(50)	1	(50)	0	(0)	1	(100)	7	(39)
Escape	2	(40)	1	(100)	3	(75)	1	(100)	1	(100)	0	(0)	1	(50)	1	(100)	0	(0)	10	(56)
TOTAL	5	(100)	1	(100)	4	(100)	1	(100)	1	(100)	2	(100)	2	(100)	1	(100)	1	(100)	18	(100)

TABLE II

REASON FOR RETURN TO SENDING INSTITUTIONS FROM DRUG CONTRACT HOUSES; PRE-RELEASE POPULATION
1978 RELEASES

	SPECTRUM		MERIDIAN		C A C		THIRD NAIL		TRIO HOUSE		PROJECT TURNABOUT		BEDFORD VA		BOSTON VA		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
New Charges	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(50)	1	(3)
Violation of House Rules	0	(0)	2	(29)	2	(50)	1	(33)	2	(100)	1	(20)	0	(0)	0	(0)	8	(29)
Escape	3	(100)	5	(71)	2	(50)	2	(67)	0	(0)	4	(80)	2	(100)	1	(50)	19	(68)
TOTAL	3	(100)	7	(100)	4	(100)	3	(100)	2	(100)	5	(100)	2	(100)	2	(100)	28	(100)

as any resident who did not complete his stay in the drug houses but was instead returned to his sending institution or an institution of higher security.

Of the 1977 releasee sample, 15 of the 33 residents or 45% were successful program completers. The remaining 18, or 55% were returned to their sending institutions as program non-completers. For the 1978 sample, 27 of the 55 releasees, or 49%, were successful completers. The remaining 28, or 51% were returned as non-completers. There were several reasons given for individuals being returned as program non-completers. Some examples are as follows: violation of house or department rules, an inability to adjust to the program, an attempted or an actual escape, or being a major disciplinary problem while at the facility. The specific reasons for a return to a higher security institution for both the 1977 and 1978 non-completion sub-samples are summarized in Tables I and II.

DATA COLLECTION

Data collection consisted of criminal history variables, social background variables, and commitment variables. The material was collected from the Massachusetts Department of Correction central office files and from the computerized data base developed by the Correction and Parole Management Information System (CAPMIS) and was produced on the Massachusetts State College Computer Network (MSCCN).

METHODOLOGY

In order to determine the possible existence of characteristics distinguishing between program completers and program non-completers a multivariate analysis using commitment, personal background, and criminal history variables on each individual was carried out. The split yielding the highest chi-square value was chosen. Variables that yielded a statistically significant relationship at the .05 probability level ($X^2 = 3.84, 1df$) were selected as indicators of differences between the samples for each year.

FINDINGS

A comparison of variables between program completers and non-completers for individuals released from drug programs in 1977 and 1978 yielded seven variables that were statistically significant. In rank order of their significance, the variables were: Age at First Arrest, Number of Prior Juvenile Incarcerations, Institution Received From, Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes, Number of Prior Charges for Property Offenses, Number of Furloughs, and Marital Status. A brief discussion of each variable follows.

1) Age at First Arrest

When this variable is examined, it is discovered that more than half of the non-completion sample (76%) was sixteen or younger when first arrested. For the completion sample, 50% were seventeen or older when first arrested.

2) Number of Prior Juvenile Incarcerations

Looking at this variable, 81% of the program completers had not had any prior juvenile incarcerations compared to a percentage of 57% for the non-completers. Of the non-completers, 43% had one or more prior juvenile incarcerations.

3) Institution Received From

Of the non-completion sample, 30% were transferred from Walpole to a drug program. Only 10% of the successful completers came directly from Walpole. Likewise, 90% of the successful completers were transferred from an institution other than Walpole compared with 70% for the unsuccessful

completers.

4) Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes (excluding Never Furloughed)

Of the individuals who received furloughs and were succesful completers, 93% had two or more successful furlough outcomes whereas only 55% of the unsuccessful completers had that many successful furlough outcomes. Forty-five percent of the unsuccessful completers who had furloughs had only one successful furlough outcome.

5) Number of Prior Charges for Property Offenses

For this particular variable, 52% of the successful completers had five or fewer prior charges for property offenses. In the unsuccessful completer sample, 72% had six or more prior charges for property offenses.

6) Number of Furloughs

After examining this variable, the results indicate that 87% of the unsuccessful completers had either one furlough or none at all compared with a percentage of 67 for the successful completers. Thirty-three percent of the program completers had two or more furloughs contrasted with 13% for the non-completers.

7) Marital Status

Ninety-one percent of the unsuccessful completers were not married compared to 74% for the successful completers. Twenty-six percent of the completers were married compared to only 9% for the non-completers. This difference is significant.

A profile can be constructed of the typical drug program completers as compared to the non-completer for the 1977 and 1978 releasee population sample. A successful completer was an individual who was first arrested as an adult (older than sixteen), did not have any prior juvenile incarcerations, had five or fewer prior property offenses, was married, had two or more furloughs and two or more successful furlough outcomes, and was transferred to one of the drug programs from a non-maximum security institution.

A summary of these relationships is presented in Appendix I. The remaining variables that did not produce significant results for the sample are documented in Appendix II.

APPENDIX I

APPENDIX I

VARIABLES FOUND TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPLETERS AND PROGRAM NON-COMPLETERS-1977 & 1978 RELEASE

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
		N	%	N	%
1. Age at First Arrest					
16 or Younger	38%	21	(50)	35	(76)
17 or Older	66%	21	(50)	11	(24)
TOTAL	48%	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=6.46, kdf, p .02)

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
		N	%	N	%
2. Number of Prior Juvenile Incarcerations					
None	57%	34	(81)	26	(57)
One or More	29%	8	(19)	20	(43)
TOTAL	48%	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=6.04, 1df, p .02)

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
		N	%	N	%
3. Institution Received From					
Walpole	22%	4	(10)	14	(30)
Non-Walpole Institution	54%	38	(90)	32	(70)
TOTAL	48%	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=5.90, 1df, p .02)

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS N	COMPLETIONS %	NON-COMPLETIONS N	NON-COMPLETIONS %
4. Number of Successful Furlough Outcomes (excluding Never Furloughed)					
One	17%	1	(7)	5	(45)
Two or More	70%	14	(93)	6	(55)
TOTAL	48%	15	(100)	11	(100)

(X^2=5.38, 1df, p .05)

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS N	COMPLETIONS %	NON-COMPLETIONS N	NON-COMPLETIONS %
5. Number of Prior Charges for Property Offenses					
Five or Less	63%	22	(52)	13	(28)
Six or More	38%	20	(48)	33	(72)
TOTAL	48%	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=5.33, 1df, p .05)

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS N	COMPLETIONS %	NON-COMPLETIONS N	NON-COMPLETIONS %
6. Number of Furloughs					
None or One	41%	28	(67)	40	(87)
Two or More	70%	14	(33)	6	(13)
TOTAL	48%	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=5.15, 1df, p .05)

	COMPLETION RATE	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
		N	%	N	%
7. Marital Status					
Married	73%	11	(26)	4	(9)
Not Married	42%	31	(74)	42	(91)
TOTAL	48%	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=4.75, 1df, p .05)

APPENDIX II

APPENDIX II

Variables which did not distinguish between program non-completers and program completers - 1977 and 1978 releases.

1) Original Commitment Institution

	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
	N	%	N	%
Walpole	21	(50)	22	(48)
Other	21	(50)	24	(52)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.04, 1df, p > .05)

2) Race

	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
	N	%	N	%
White	32	(76)	36	(78)
Other	10	(24)	10	(22)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.05, 1df, p > .05)

3) Military

	COMPLETIONS		NON-COMPLETIONS	
	N	%	N	%
Honorable Discharge	8	(19)	4	(9)
Other	34	(81)	42	(91)
TOTAL	42	(100	46	(100)

(X^2=1.99, 1df, p > .05)

4) Address

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Other Massachusetts	15	(36)	13	(28)
Other Address	27	(64)	33	(72)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.56, 1df, p > .05)

5) Age at Release

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
29 or Younger	25	(60)	35	(76)
30 or Older	17	(40)	11	(24)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.78, 1df, p > .05)

6) Age at Incarceration

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
24 or Younger	18	(43)	27	(59)
25 or Older	24	(57)	19	(41)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.20, 1df, p > .05)

7) Present Offense

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Person	28	(67)	34	(74)
Non-Person	14	(33)	12	(26)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.43, 1df, p > .05)

8) Drug Offenses

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Not Applicable	35	(83)	43	(93)
Other	7	(17)	3	(7)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.24, 1df, p > .05)

9) Person Offenses (Not Applicables Excluded)

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Manslaughter	4	(14)	1	(3)
Other	24	(86)	33	(97)
TOTAL	28	(100)	34	(100)

(X^2=2.67, 1df, p > .05)

10) Property Offenses (Not applicables Excluded)

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Burglary	5	(83)	5	(56)
Other	1	(17)	4	(44)
TOTAL	6	(100)	9	(100)

(X^2=1.25, 1df, p > .05)

11) Minimum Sentence in Years

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Less Than 1 Year	21	(50)	22	(48)
Other	21	(50)	24	(52)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.04, 1df, p > .05)

12) Maximum Sentence in Years

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
8 Years or Less	21	(50)	19	(41)
9 Years or More	21	(50)	27	(59)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.67, 1df, p > .05)

13) Total Number of Late Under Furlough Outcomes (excluding Never Furloughed)

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	13	(93)	11	(100)
One or More	1	(7)	0	(0)
TOTAL	14	(100)	11	(100)

(X^2=.82, 1df, p > .05)

14) Occupation

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Services	6	(14)	11	(24)
Other	36	(86)	35	(76)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=1.31, 1df, p > .05)

15) Longest Period of Time at Any One Job

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
4 Months or Less	5	(12)	13	(28)
5 Months or More	37	(88)	33	(72)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=3.61, 1df, p > .05)

16) Time at Most Skilled Position

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
4 Months or Less	7	(17)	15	(33)
5 Months or More	35	(83)	31	(67)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.98, 1df, p > .05)

17) Last Grade Completed

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
9th Grade or Less	15	(36)	26	(57)
10th Grade or More	27	(64)	20	(43)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=3.82, 1df, p > .05)

18) Known Drug Use

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	14	(33)	14	(30)
Some	28	(67)	32	(70)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.86, 1df, p > .05)

19) Total Number of Prior Court Appearances

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
11 or Less	20	(48)	14	(30)
12 or More	22	(52)	32	(70)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.73, 1df. p > .05)

20) Total Number of Prior Charges for Person Offenses

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Three or Less	30	(71)	24	(52)
Four or More	12	(29)	22	(48)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=3.43, 1df, p > .05)

21) Total Number of Prior Charges for Sex Offenses

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	38	(90)	43	(93)
One or More	4	(10)	3	(7)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.27, 1df, p >.05)

22) Total Number of Prior Charges for Narcotics Offenses

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Three or Less	32	(76)	31	(67)
Four or More	10	(24)	15	(33)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.84, 1df, p >.05)

23) Total Number of Prior Charges for Drunkenness Offenses

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	24	(57)	22	(48)
One or More	18	(43)	24	(52)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.76, 1df, p > .05)

24) Total Number of Prior Charges for Escape Offenses

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	39	(93)	38	(83)
One or More	3	(7)	8	(17)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.11, 1df, p > .05)

25) Prior County Incarcerations

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	23	(55)	19	(41)
One or More	19	(45)	27	(59)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=1.59, 1df, p > .05)

26) Prior State or Federal Incarcerations

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	31	(74)	26	(57)
One or More	11	(26)	20	(43)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.88, 1df, p > .05)

27) Number of Juvenile Paroles

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
None	36	(86)	34	(74)
One or More	6	(14)	12	(26)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=1.88, 1df, p > .05)

28) Number of Juvenile Parole Violations

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Never Paroled	36	(86)	32	(70)
One or More Parole	6	(14)	14	(30)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=3.26, 1df, p > .05)

29) Number of Adult Paroles

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
One or Less	39	(93)	41	(89)
Two or More	3	(7)	5	(11)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.37, 1df, p > .05)

30) Number of Adult Parole Violations

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
Never Paroled	28	(67)	30	(65)
One or More Parole Violations	14	(33)	16	(35)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=.02, 1df, p > .05)

31) Age at First Drug Arrest (Not applicables excluded)

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
17 or Younger	9	(50)	14	(58)
18 or Older	9	(50)	10	(42)
TOTAL	18	(100)	24	(100)

(X^2=.29, 1df, p > .05)

32) Time Served Before Pre-Release Placement

	COMPLETIONS N	%	NON-COMPLETIONS N	%
12 Months or Less	18	(43)	12	(26)
13 Months or More	24	(57)	34	(74)
TOTAL	42	(100)	46	(100)

(X^2=2.75, 1df, p > .05)

SUMMARY

From this report, it is possible to identify characteristics of individuals who have a high, moderate, and low probability of success in the drug contract houses. The characteristics of the individuals with a high probability of success are as follows: first arrested as an adult with no prior juvenile incarcerations, had five or fewer prior property offenses, was married, had two or more furloughs and successful furlough outcomes, and was transferred from a medium or minimum security facility. The characteristics that identify the individuals with a moderate probability of success are: age 30 or older at release date and age 25 or older at incarceration, spent five months or more at their longest job and at their most skilled position, last grade completed was tenth grade or more, had eleven or fewer prior court appearances and three or fewer person offenses, had not received any prior state or federal incarcerations, were never paroled from juvenile facilities, and served a year or less before being placed in a pre-release facility. Those individuals who do not meet either requirements are individuals with a low probability of success in a drug contract house.

REFERENCES

Williams, Lawrence T., Client Profile Drug Contract Houses - 1977 and 1978 Releases, Massachusetts Department of Correction Publication No. 191, May, 1980.

END