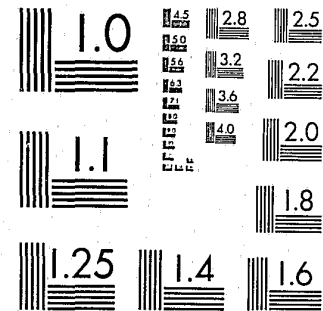


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United States Department of Justice
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Mecklenburg
Youth Services Bureau



77284

Annual Report

1979 - 1980

1979-80

ANNUAL REPORT

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Prepared by:

Mecklenburg Youth Services Bureau Staff

Patrick M. Martin
Director

September 15, 1980

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice
77284

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INTRODUCTION

...— Established in November, 1971, the Youth Services Bureau originally provided counseling services to those children who were on the verge of being committed to training school. The YSB often times was a young person's last chance to remain in the community.

The YSB now serves a wider range of young people and their families experiencing problems in their home, school and community. Services are available to and designed for minor (6 to 17) residents of Mecklenburg County whose behavior could result in court action. Often times these children are not attending school regularly, skipping classes or misbehaving when at school, running away from home, or staying out late at night.

The YSB is an agency of the county government. Professional services by master's degreed counselors are offered free of charge to children and their families. These counselors are skilled in diagnosing factors that contribute to a child's inappropriate behavior as well as in providing individual and family counseling. Counseling services are provided at times and places convenient for those concerned. By providing professional assistance in those settings where problems exist, the YSB is able to help families and children resolve conflicts, avoid judicial intervention, and improve family relationships. YSB counselors are on call to their families 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Involvement is short-term (3 to 4 months) and intensive. Counselors meet with their families 2 or 3 times a week. Small caseloads (10 to 15) are maintained so that the counselors can concentrate on providing close attention to each family's concerns.

Parent workshops are conducted by YSB staff on a monthly basis and are designed to share with parents some concrete suggestions on how they might encourage good behavior, discourage bad behavior, and improve communication.

The YSB also provides staff and technical assistance to the Youth Services Action Board. This board serves as an advisory body to the County Commissioners in matters related to juvenile delinquency prevention and treatment efforts within Mecklenburg County.

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HIGHLIGHTS

I. Profile of Children Served:

- A. Age Range: 5 to 17
- B. Sex: 44% Female 56% Male
- C. Race: 48% Caucasian 52% Negro
- D. Reason for Referral:
 - 1. Undisciplined: 288 89%
 - 2. Delinquent/Predelinquent 7 2%
 - 3. Combination of Undisciplined or Predelinquent: 29 9%
- E. Legal Classification:
 - 1. Prepetition: 300 93%
 - 2. Postpetition: 24 7%
- F. Legal Status:
 - 1. Prepetition: 263 of 300 or 88% did not have an undisciplined or delinquent petition filed.
 - 2. Postpetition: 21 of 24 or 88% did not have an undisciplined petition filed.
 - 3. Incarcerated: Of the 324 children served, 25 had allegedly committed delinquent acts. Such acts could result in incarceration in a juvenile correctional institution. Twenty-three of these 25 children were not committed to juvenile correctional institutions.

(See Attachment C)

II. Direct Services to Youth:

- A. Intensive Counseling and Casework:

Working with generally 10 to 12 cases at a time, YSB Counselors averaged 2.81 case contacts (home visits, school visits, and individual counseling sessions) per week per client for a service duration usually not exceeding 3.5 months. Of the 184 families receiving intensive services, 89% were referred to other human service agencies, 89% returned Consumer Evaluation Reports regarding intensive services and 86% of those completing services before April 1, 1980 provided follow-up information three months after service termination.

B. Intervention and Referral Services:

The YSB provided intervention and referral services to 140 families during FY 1979-80. All of these families received short-term crisis counseling and were also referred to other human service agencies for more problem-specific services.

C. Parent Skill Workshops:

During FY 1979-80, the YSB conducted a total of 25 workshops for 78 parents and interested persons.

III. Youth Service Development Program:

A. Staff and Technical Assistance:

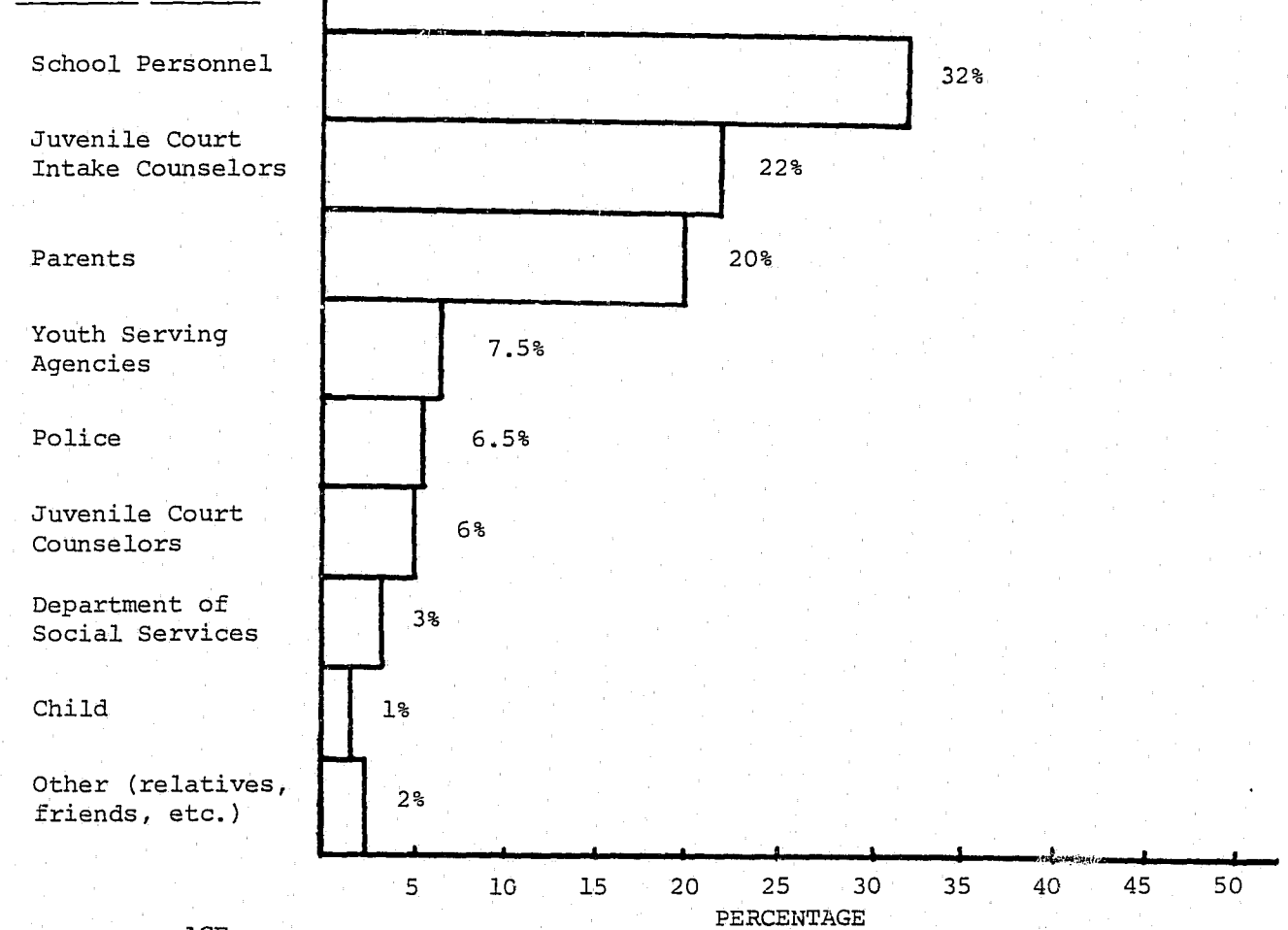
The YSB provided staff and technical assistance to the Youth Services Action Board (YSAB) and the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee (YSPAC) and provided technical assistance to youth serving agencies during 1979-80.

B. Information and Dissemination:

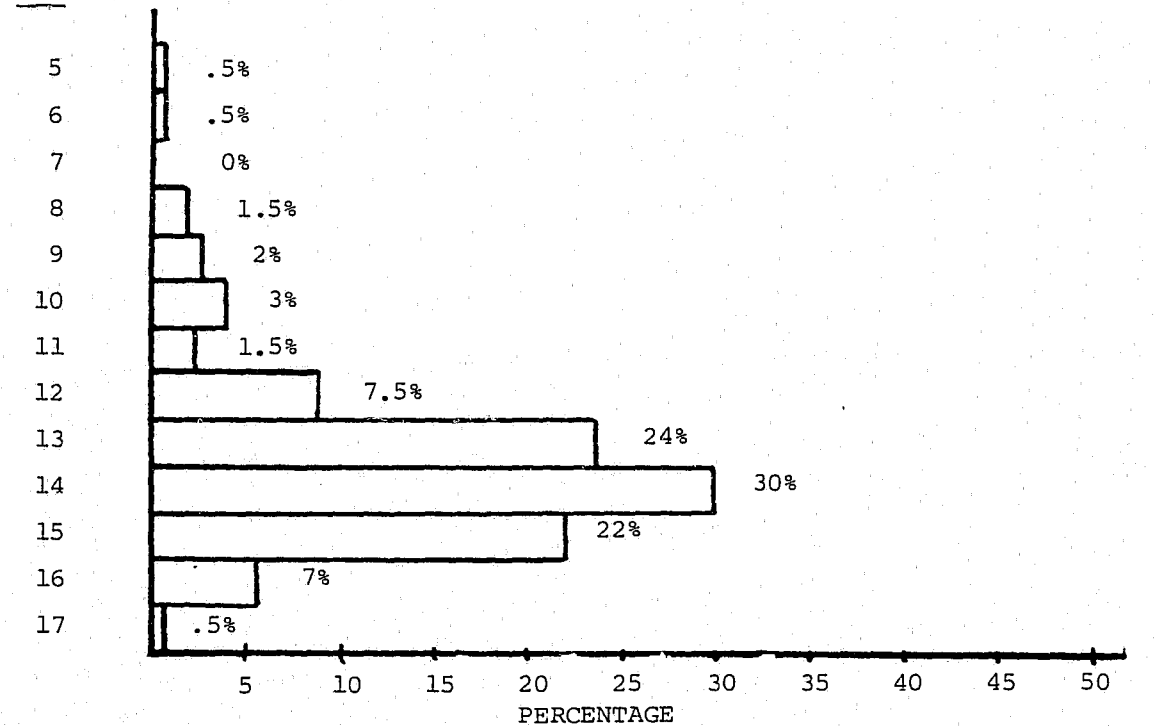
The YSB disseminated information to the community and government officials about services available for children and needed by children who were either involved or were potential referrals to the juvenile justice system.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON 324 CHILDREN SERVED

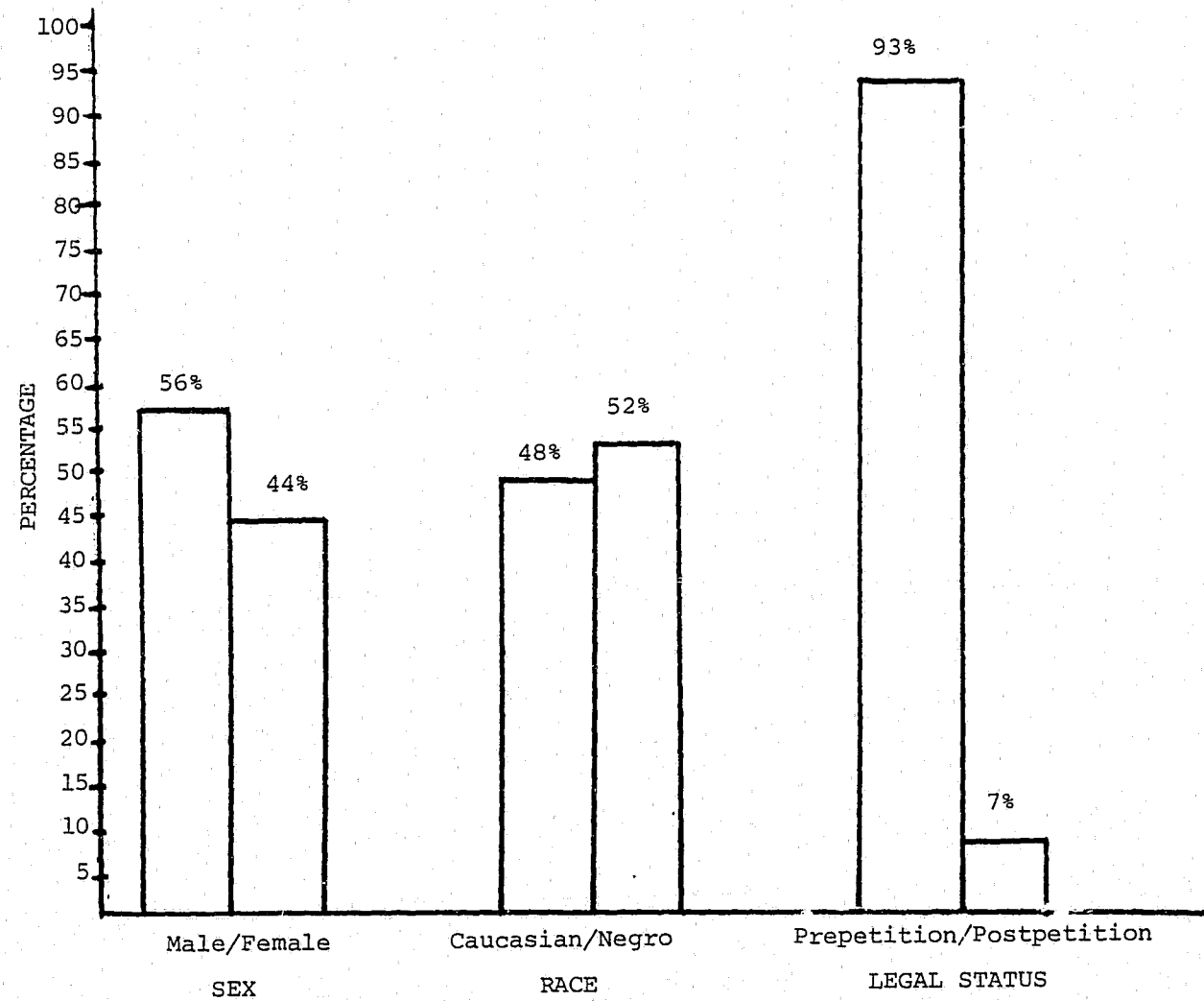
REFERRAL SOURCES



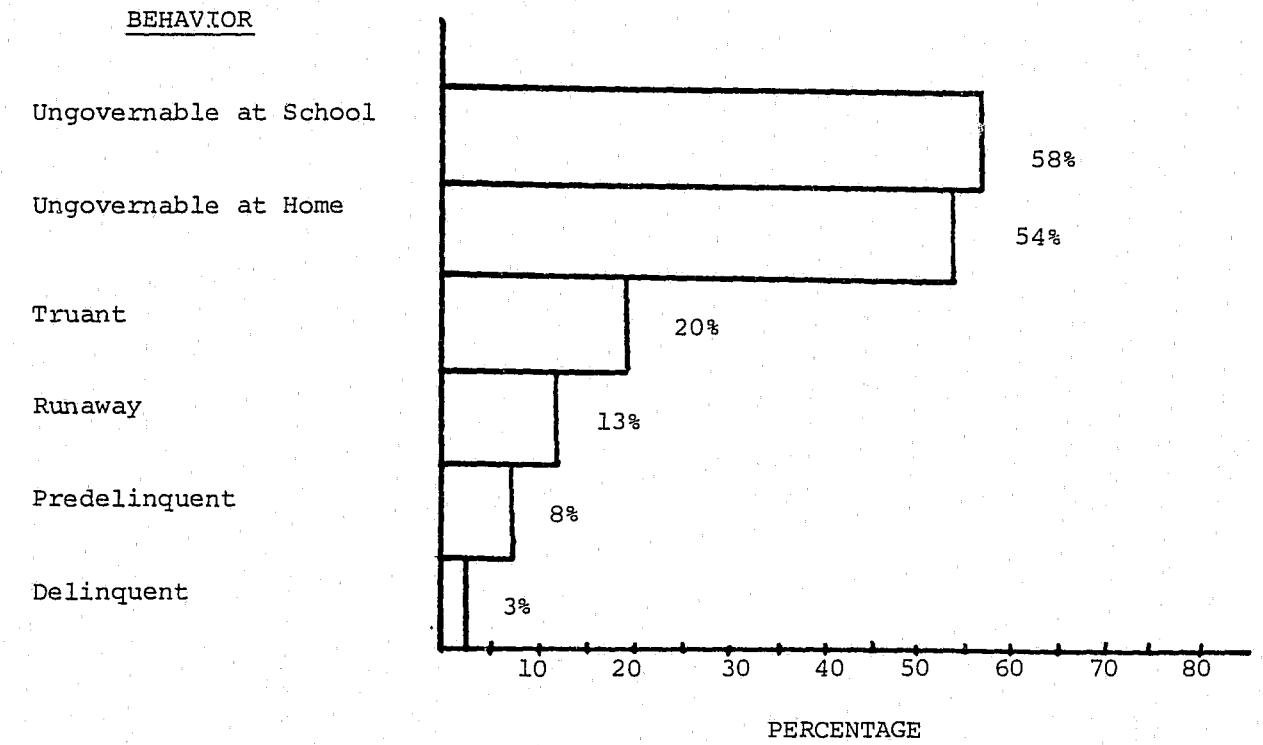
AGE



Demographic Data
Continued



Demographic Data
Continued



The above graph indicates the number of children who exhibited each type of behavior as part of their reason for referral. Some of the 324 children served were referred for exhibiting multiple behaviors and will be included in more than one category.

PROGRESS MADE TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MEASURABLE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SET BY THE MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1979 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1980

PROGRAM: DIRECT SERVICES TO YOUTH

Goal:

To provide Intensive Counseling and Casework Services or Intervention and Referral Services to a minimum of 310 children during the 1979-80 fiscal year. Those children served will either be involved or on the verge of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system because they have been truant from school and/or have run away from home and/or have exhibited unacceptable behavior at home and/or school.

Progress:

Intensive Counseling and Casework Services as well as Intervention and Referral Services were completed by 324 children during 1979-80. Of the 324 children served, 292 children initiated and completed their participation with the YSB by June 30, 1980 and 32 children were carried over from FY 1978-79 because they completed their participation with the YSB during 1979-80. Note: Twenty-eight additional children initiated services but will not complete their participation with the YSB until FY 1980-81. These 28 children will be included in next year's annual report.

INTENSIVE COUNSELING AND CASEWORK SERVICES

This service emphasized diagnosing specific factors directly related to a child's ineffective behavior, referring a child and/or his parents to needed services, teaching parents specific skills which they could use to improve the behavior of their child, being accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week and delivering a minimum of 2 home visits and/or school visits and/or individual counseling sessions per week to all children served. These services were delivered in home and school settings at times convenient for clients.

OBJECTIVE ONE

To provide intensive counseling and casework services to a minimum of 170 children.

Progress: Intensive counseling and casework services were delivered to 184 children and their families.

OBJECTIVE TWO

To deliver a minimum of 2 home visits and/or school visits, and/or individual counseling sessions per week to children who received intensive counseling and casework services.

Progress: The 184 children who were provided intensive counseling and casework services received an average of 2.81 case contacts per week during his/her involvement with the YSB.

OBJECTIVE THREE

To play a role in diverting from the juvenile court to needed services a minimum of 90% of all children who received intensive counseling and casework services. Furthermore, to play a role in diverting from training school to needed services a minimum of 95% of those children eligible for commitment because they had committed delinquent acts.

	INTENSIVE CLIENTS	
	No Petition	Petition
Prepetition	151 86%	24 14%
Postpetition	7 78%	2 22%

Progress: One hundred and eighty-four children received intensive counseling and casework services from the YSB. One hundred and seventy-five or 95% of these 184 children were classified as "prepetition" children because a juvenile petition had not been filed against them for committing an undisciplined or delinquent act prior to their referral to the YSB. Juvenile Court records indicate that

151 or 86% of the 175 "pre-petition" children served did not have a juvenile petition filed against them for committing an undisciplined or delinquent act as of June 30, 1980. These children were considered to be diverted from the juvenile justice system. Twenty-four or 14% of these 175 "pre-petition" children did have juvenile petitions filed against them during or following their involvement with the YSB: 8 for undisciplined acts and 16 for delinquent acts.

Nine or 5% of the 184 children served by the YSB were classified as "post-petition" children because they had a juvenile petition filed against them for committing an undisciplined or delinquent act before their referral to the YSB. Seven or 89% of the 9 "post-petition" children did not have another juvenile petition filed against them during the period between the date of their referral to the YSB and June 30, 1980.

Of the 184 children who received intensive counseling services, 18 allegedly committed delinquent acts. Such acts could result in incarceration in a juvenile correctional institution. Sixteen of these 18 children were not committed to juvenile correctional institutions.

OBJECTIVE FOUR

To maintain a ratio of 1 counselor to 10 children to ensure that counseling and casework services are in fact intensive, while not having a waiting list for intensive services exceeding 10 children.

Progress: The caseloads of YSB counselors generally did not exceed 10 children; however, in the spring of 79-80, all counselors were required to maintain caseloads averaging 12 children for approximately 2 months as a result of increased demand for intensive counseling and casework services.

OBJECTIVE FIVE

To refer a minimum of 80% of all children and/or parents who received intensive counseling and casework services to other human service agencies during their participation with the YSB.

Progress: Of the 184 children to whom YSB services were terminated before June 30, 1980, 164 or 89% of those children and/or parents were referred to other human service agencies during their participation with the YSB.

OBJECTIVE SIX

To a comprehensive YSB Behavioral Evaluation Report on each child who receives intensive counseling and casework services.

Progress: Comprehensive YSB Behavioral Evaluation Reports were prepared on all children to whom YSB intensive counseling and casework services were terminated during 1979-80.

OBJECTIVE SEVEN

To obtain a minimum of 1 Consumer Evaluation Report for 80% of all children who receive intensive counseling and casework services and who terminated their participation with the YSB as of June 30, 1980.

Progress: One hundred and eighty-four children had completed their intensive counseling and casework services as of June 30, 1980. These children were eligible to have a Consumer Evaluation Report completed regarding the service which was provided by the YSB staff. A minimum of 1 Consumer Evaluation Report was received for 164 or 89% of the 184 children. A total of 168 different units of consumer feedback were received regarding the service which the 184 children received. Feedback was received from the following sources:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Parents	158	94%
School Personnel	9	5%
Other Youth Serving Agencies	1	1%
Total	168	100%

Each Consumer Evaluation Report consists of having significant persons concerned with a particular child provide responses to the following questions. Following each question is a breakdown of the various responses made by the individuals providing the feedback:

CONSUMER EVALUATION RESPONSES

QUESTION	RESPONSE		
	Yes	No	Not Applicable
1) Has the YSB counselor been in contact with you each week?	156/168 93%	3/168 2%	9/168 5%
2) Have you been able to reach the counselor when you needed to do so?	165/168 98%	0/168 0%	3/168 2%
3) Did the counselor provide you with information which was helpful to you?	143/168 85%	12/168 8%	13/168 7%

In addition to responding to the foregoing questions, the persons who responded to the Consumer Evaluation Reports were also requested to make comments regarding YSB services. Following are a number of those comments made:

Parent: Extremely good service. The counselor helped me to find my son when he ran away from home. The counselor was a tremendous help. He always came when I needed to talk to him. I think he extended what he had to do by taking my son to special activities.

Parent: I am very pleased with the work the counselor did with us. He kept close contact with the school and with me. He also gave us a lot of information about resources for our son. He also helped get teachers to respond to me. Previously they would not respond to my requests for information.

School Counselor: This student has done very nicely in the last couple of months. Attendance has improved dramatically.

School Social Worker: I really enjoyed working with this counselor. She did a beautiful job. I just can't say enough good about her. There was an outstanding change in the student.

School Principal: I am extremely pleased with your service. Several teachers have remarked to me that there is a definite improvement in the student's behavior. It meant a great deal to me to be kept informed of the student's progress by this counselor. The counselor left a super impression on everyone.

School Social Worker: Services were good. We didn't always agree, but we were able to compromise for the benefit of the student. The mother feels that the counselor was effective. The counselor frequently visited and was able to intervene at critical times.

OBJECTIVE EIGHT

To obtain a minimum of one, Three Month Follow-up Report on 90% of the children who receive intensive counseling and casework services and who terminated their participation with the YSB before April 1, 1980.

Progress: The YSB terminated intensive counseling and casework services to 184 children as of June 30, 1980. Of these children, 123 terminated their participation with the YSB before April 1, 1980, making them eligible for a Three Month Follow-up Report as of June 30, 1980. Of the 123 children, a total of 106 or 86% had Follow-up Reports accomplished as of June 30, 1980.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Parents	77	72%
Other Youth Serving Agencies	22	20%
Others	7	8%
Total	106	100%

Cumulative responses by the various sources providing the 106 Follow Up Reports are as follows:

THREE MONTH FOLLOW UP RESPONSES

QUESTION	RESPONSE		
	Yes	No	Not Applicable
1) Is the child attending school on a regular basis?	68/106 64%	26/106 25%	12/106 11%
2) Is the child refraining from being sent to the school office for disciplinary reasons?	63/106 59%	21/106 20%	22/106 21%
3) Is the child coming home at a designated time each night?	79/106 75%	15/106 14%	12/106 11%
4) Is the child exhibiting any behavior which might result in a petition being filed?	13/106 12%	81/106 76%	12/106 12%

*NA responses result from situations in which the question is not applicable to the child's current situation, or situations in which the respondent does not have information to answer the questions. Situations which might make a question inapplicable include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The child has moved.
2. The child is in residential treatment.
3. The child has attained the age of sixteen and is not required to attend school.

Of the 106 children on whom Follow-up Reports were accomplished, 50 or 47% had received additional services from the following agencies since YSB services had been terminated:

1. Alexander Street Center
2. Big Brothers/Big Sisters
3. Boy Scouts
4. Boys Homes
5. Center for Human Development
6. CETA
7. Charlotte Memorial Hospital
8. Christmas Bureau (Information and Referral)
9. CPCC-Adult Education, High School Completion
10. Community School of the Arts
11. Crisis Assistance Ministry
12. Department of Social Services - Child Welfare
13. Department of Social Services - Family and Children's Services
14. Department of Social Services - Lutheran Homes
15. Eckerd Wilderness Camp
16. Explorers
17. Extended Day
18. Family and Children's Services
19. Family Housing
20. Family Support Center
21. Goodfellows
22. Health Department
23. ILEAP
24. Job Corps
25. Laurinburg Institute
26. Mecklenburg County Court Volunteers
27. Mental Health - Adolescent Cottage
28. Mental Health - Emergency Services
29. Mental Health - Outpatient Services
30. National Youth Sports Program (J. C. Smith University)
31. Neighborhood Centers
32. Open House
33. Outdoor Education
34. Planned Parenthood
35. Police Athletic League
36. Private Psychologists
37. Randolph Clinic
38. The Relatives
39. Renaissance House
40. School Counselors
41. School Psychologists
42. School Social Workers
43. Straight-Up
44. Street Academy
45. Teenage Parents Service
46. Upward Bound
47. Vocational Rehabilitation
48. Womanshare
49. Youth Council
50. Youth Council
51. Youth Homes, Inc.

INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

This service consisted of conducting one or more intake counseling sessions with parents, children and referral sources for the purpose of pinpointing problems and recommending specific actions which could be taken to deal with those problems identified. A high percentage of those children and parents served were referred to other human service agencies.

OBJECTIVE ONE

To provide intervention and referral services to a minimum of 140 children.

Progress: One hundred and forty parents and/or children received intervention and referral services. In addition to those calls received relating to children who were provided intensive counseling and casework services and intervention and referral services, the YSB Counselor Coordinator and Intake Counselor received approximately 400 telephone calls from parents and school personnel seeking intervention strategies or information about youth service programs which they could utilize to deal with a home and/or school problem, a child and/or his/her family was experiencing.

OBJECTIVE TWO

To play a role in diverting from the juvenile court 90% of all children who receive intervention and referral services. Furthermore, to play a role in diverting from training school a minimum of 95% of those children eligible for commitment because they had committed delinquent acts.

	INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL	
	No Petition	Petition
Prepetition	112 91%	13 9%
Postpetition	14 93%	1 7%

Progress: One hundred and forty children received intervention and referral services from the YSB. One hundred and twenty-five or 89% of these children were classified as "pre-petition" children. One hundred and twelve or 91% of the 125 "pre-petition" children did not have a juvenile petition filed against them for committing an undisciplined or delinquent act as of June 30, 1980. These children were considered to be diverted

from the juvenile court. Thirteen or 9% of the 125 "pre-petition" children did have a juvenile petition filed against them during this period: 7 for undisciplined acts and 6 for delinquent acts,

Fifteen or 11% of the 140 children were classified as "post-petition". Fourteen or 93% of the 15 "post-petition" children did not have an additional juvenile petition filed against them between the date of their referral to the YSB and June 30, 1980.

Of the 140 children who received intervention and referral counseling services, 7 had allegedly committed delinquent acts. Such acts could result in incarceration in a juvenile correctional institution. No child who received intervention and referral services was committed to a juvenile correctional institution.

PARENT SKILL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Parent Workshops are designed to share with parents some skills that they can use to encourage their children to behave more appropriately, to communicate more positively and effectively with their children, and to improve family relationships. All parents to whom either intensive counseling and casework services or intervention and referral services were provided received an invitation and were encouraged to participate in YSB Parent Skill Development Workshops.

OBJECTIVE

To present 36 YSB Parent Skill Development Workshops to a minimum of 250 participants.

Progress: During the 1979-80 fiscal year, a total of 25 Parent Workshops were conducted by the YSB. Twenty-one of these 25 workshops were offered at the YSB. In an effort to reach special populations, the YSB offered four additional workshops through the Youth Council to residents of Piedmont Courts. Seventy-eight persons attended these workshops.

TWO YEAR FOLLOW UP STUDY

Eighty-nine percent of the 346 children served during fiscal year 1978-79 did not have an undisciplined or delinquent petition filed against them during that year. A full year later, 81% of the same 346 children had still not had an undisciplined or delinquent petition filed against them.

PROGRAM: YOUTH SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

Goal: To assist the Youth Services Action Board (YSAB) and the Youth Services Professional Advisory Committee (YSPAC) to identify, implement, coordinate, and monitor youth services related to the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency. (See Attachment D - Chart Depicting the Organizational Structure Utilized in Charlotte and Mecklenburg to Identify, Implement, Coordinate and Monitor Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Services).

Progress: During 1979-80 a Youth Services Bureau staff person was assigned the responsibility of providing full-time staff and technical assistance to the Youth Services Action Board.

STAFF AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

OBJECTIVE ONE

To provide staff and technical assistance to the YSAB and YSPAC in accomplishing the following objectives:

1. To, in consultation with the Board's Professional Advisory Committee and other appropriate youth serving agency personnel, identify delinquency prevention and treatment services needed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg by conducting an annual assessment or services most needed by children who exhibit behavior which could bring them or has brought them under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a status offender or delinquent child.
2. To encourage appropriate agencies to prepare comprehensive proposals to develop, expand or continue those delinquency prevention and treatment services identified in the Board's annual assessment of delinquency prevention and treatment services needed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.
3. To coordinate the development, expansion or continuation of needed delinquency prevention and treatment services by requesting the Board's Professional Advisory Committee to critically evaluate proposals to develop, expand or continue with services.
4. To persuade the public and/or private sectors to expend funds to develop, expand or continue those services identified in the Board's annual assessment of delinquency prevention and treatment services needed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.
5. To monitor the effectiveness of delinquency prevention and treatment services by periodically obtaining information documenting the degree to which they have met their measurable objectives, and to utilize from time to time additional monitoring procedures.
6. To investigate and, if necessary, remediate youth service delivery problems which youth serving agency personnel bring to the attention of the Board.
7. To disseminate information to the community and elected officials about issues of concern to the Board to evoke support from them to affect the implementation of those actions recommended by the Board.

Note: Throughout the 1979-80 fiscal year, the YSB staff assisted the YSAB and YSPAC in achieving the stated objectives.

Progress: During 1979-80 the Youth Services Analyst attended 30 official meetings conducted by the YSAB and YSPAC.

The aforesaid YSB staff member held 147 meetings with youth serving agencies for the purpose of providing these agencies with technical assistance services.

The YSB staff member also prepared 118 documents and letters communicating information to youth serving agencies and boards.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE ONE

To prepare and distribute documents to youth serving agency personnel and others which will furnish them with information about the juvenile justice system and assist them to divert children from juvenile court and correctional institutions to needed services.

Progress: The YSB staff prepared a definitive report on progress the YSB made toward achieving its measurable goals and objectives during 1979-80.

In addition, YSB staff assigned to the Youth Services Action Board prepared and disseminated the following informational documents: An Assessment of Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Services Needed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, North Carolina 1980-81, a Juvenile Justice Data Report, 1980-81, and Juvenile Arrest Data, 1980-81.

ATTACHMENT A

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Undisciplined - Alleged to be truant, ungovernable at school, ungovernable at home and/or runaway.
2. Delinquent - Allegedly committed a delinquent act, and who prior to his referral to the YSB had a juvenile petition signed against him for committing that act.
3. Pre-petition - Allegedly committed an undisciplined or delinquent act, and who prior to his referral to the YSB did not have a juvenile petition filed against him for committing such an act.

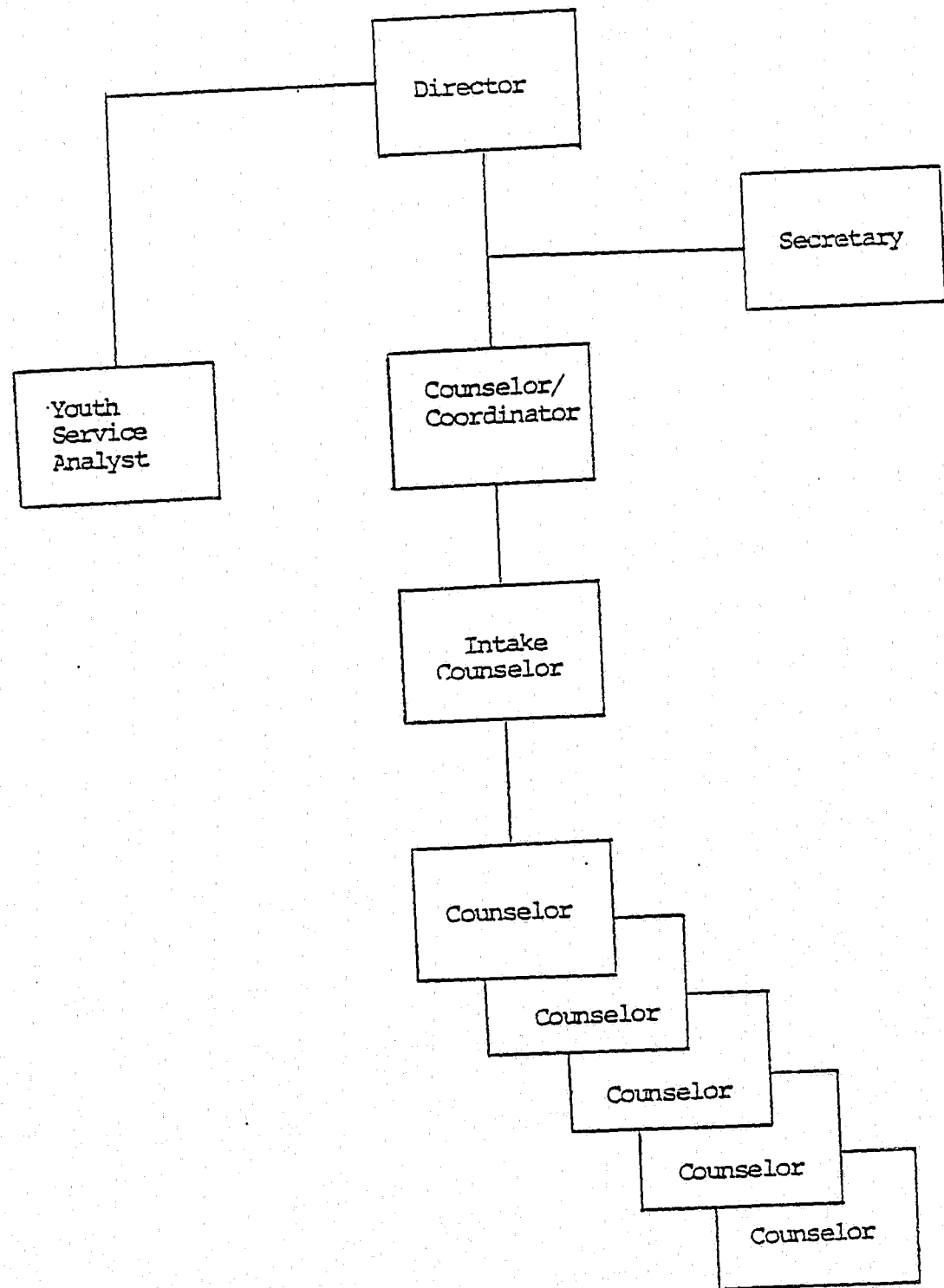
Note: A child who had a juvenile petition filed against him prior to his referral to the YSB, but who is not under the supervision of the court at the time of his referral to the YSB is also classified as a "pre-petition" child.

4. Post-petition - Allegedly committed an undisciplined or delinquent act, and who prior to his referral to the YSB had a juvenile petition filed against him for committing such an act, and who is under the supervision of the court, or had court supervision terminated not more than two weeks prior to his referral to the YSB.
5. Truant - Absent from school without sufficient reason in excess of 30% of the days school was in session prior to his referral to the YSB.

Note: A child who was absent from school because he had run away from home, but who attended school regularly when he was at home is not classified as a "truant".

6. Ungovernable at School - Regularly sent to the school office for disciplinary reasons (e.g., fighting, skipping individual classes) or who was absent from school without sufficient reason less than 30% of the days school was in session.
7. Ungovernable at Home - Engaged in activities which were both specifically forbidden by his parents and which constituted grounds for an undisciplined petition being signed against him (e.g., coming in at late hours or staying away from home overnight without the consent of his parents).
8. Runaway - Left his home setting for an extended period of time (? or 3 days) without the consent of his parents.
9. Pre-delinquent - Allegedly committed a delinquent act, but who prior to his referral to the YSB did not have a juvenile petition signed against him for committing such an act.

ATTACHMENT B
 MECKLENBURG YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR THE 1978-79 FISCAL YEAR



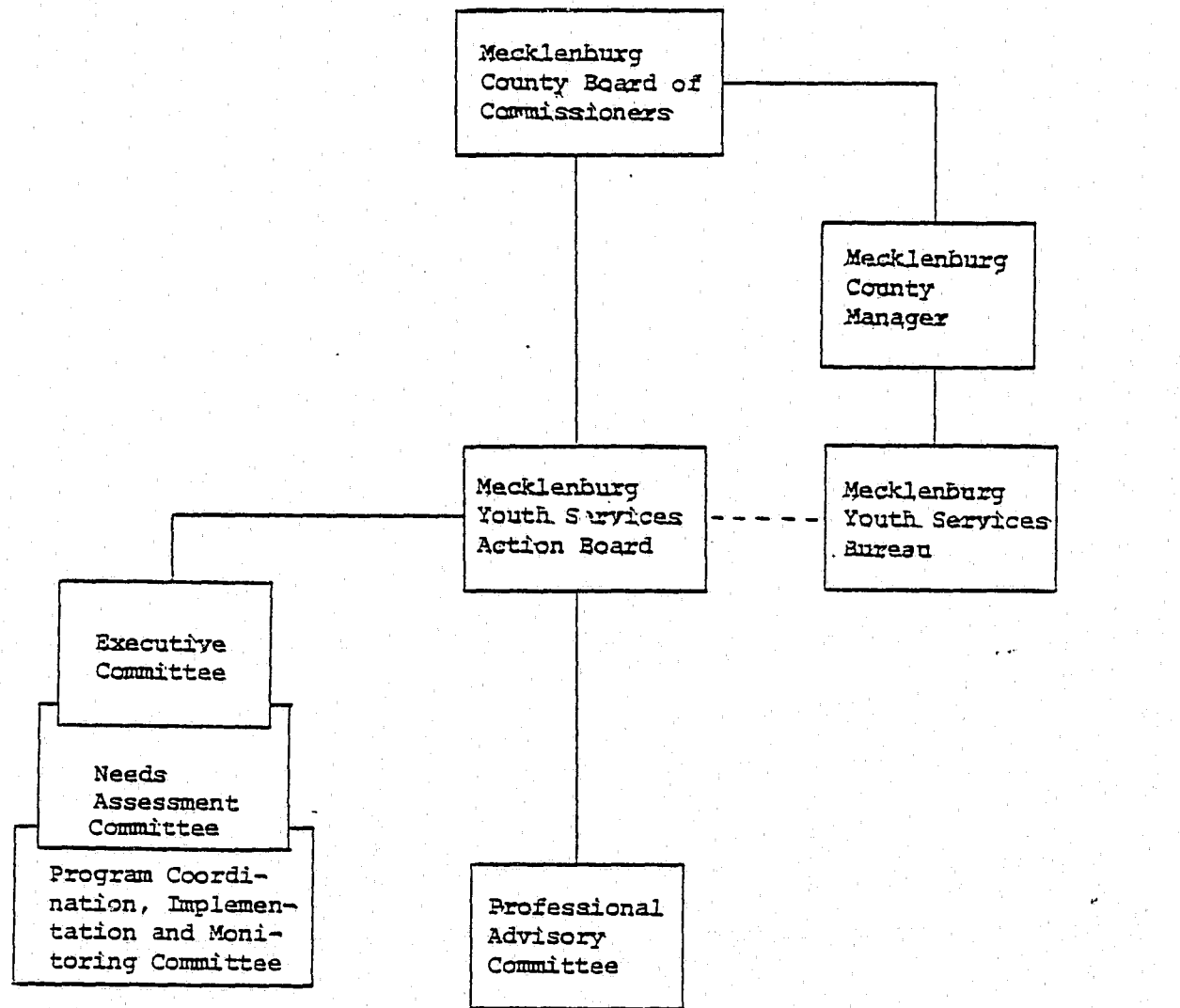
ATTACHMENT C

LEGAL STATUS OF CLIENTS SERVED DURING THE 1979-80 FISCAL YEAR

	INTENSIVE		INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL		TOTALS	
	No Petition	Petition	No Petition	Petition	No Petition	Petition
Pre-petition	151 86%	24 14%	112 91%	13 9%	263 88%	37 12%
Post-petition	7 78%	2 22%	14 93%	1 7%	21 88%	3 12%
					284 88%	40 12%

ATTACHMENT D

CHART DEPICTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION, COORDINATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES IN CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG



Legend

Authority _____
Staff and Technical Assistance

END