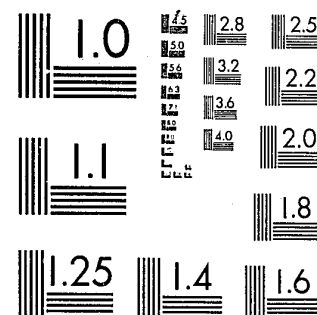


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PROJECT - 188

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FACTORS RELATED TO RECIDIVISM

AMONG ADULT PROBATIONERS IN ONTARIO

SALLY ROGERS

Planning and Research Branch



Ontario

MINISTRY OF
CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES

Honourable
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JANUARY, 1981

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I INTRODUCTION

This study examines recidivism among probationers in Ontario. Although the prediction of success or failure in probation has been the focus of many research studies, the findings vary considerably and are often out of date. Outcome measures vary from personal adjustment to recidivism, but have usually been confined to the period of probation with little attention given to the longer term. Generalizing from research in other locations to probation in Ontario also presents a problem, due to differing eligibility requirements.

A recent study¹ among probationers in Ontario was able to identify factors related to success or failure at termination. Further analyses of these data² identified factors related to the level of supervision which the probationers received.

The present study identifies factors related to recidivism. Interrelationships between social history variables, level of supervision, and recidivism were also explored. Finally, a six item Recidivism Risk Scale was developed which may assist probation officers in their initial assessment of probationers.

It is important to note that when factors are identified as being statistically related to recidivism or predictive of recidivism, a causal relationship cannot necessarily be inferred.

Objectives of This Study

The primary objectives of this study were:

- 1) To establish a base line for probation outcome in Ontario, against which smaller samples drawn for research and evaluation purposes may be assessed.
- 2) To identify factors predictive of recidivism and compare these factors with those related to level of supervision.
- 3) To develop a risk scale to assist in classifying probationers to varying degrees of supervision.

¹ Renner, John. The Adult Probationer in Ontario. Ontario: Ministry of Correctional Services, 1978.

² Madden, Patrick G. Factors Related to Level of Supervision Among Probationers in Ontario. Ontario: Ministry of Correctional Services, 1978.

II METHODOLOGY

A. SAMPLE

In 1977, John C. Renner and Associates conducted a study which produced a descriptive profile of Ontario probationers. The sample reported on here consists of 1,104 of the 1,921 male and female probationers in Renner's original study. In 638 cases the client's name was not recorded on the original questionnaire, and therefore could not be identified for the follow-up investigation. An additional 172 probationers were eliminated because the termination date was unclear or unavailable, and seven probationers had died.

To determine whether the follow-up sample was representative of the original sample, the 1,104 cases were compared with the 817 cases eliminated, on the factors Renner identified as being related to probation outcome. No significant differences between the two groups were revealed.

B. DATA COLLECTION

Recidivism data were obtained from two sources: the Ministry's Adult Information System (A.I.S.) and the probation officers who supervised the clients during the original study. The A.I.S. only contains information on persons who have at one time been admitted to a jail or detention centre. For this reason, the supervising probation officers were requested to provide reconviction data for their clients. Because probation officers may not be aware of further convictions following termination of the order, and the A.I.S. does not contain files for persons never incarcerated, the reconviction data may be slightly under-reported.

C. STATISTICAL ANALYSES

1. Recidivism Measures

Three measures of recidivism were examined:

- i) Reconvictions during the probation period.
- ii) Reconvictions between the date the probation order was issued and 24 months following termination.
- iii) Sentence(s) of incarceration between the date the probation order was issued and 24 months following termination.

2. Individual Variables and Recidivism

Chi-square (χ^2) statistics were calculated on contingency tables between the social history/program variables and recidivism. Where the results proved to be statistically

significant, the χ^2 values were noted with significance levels indicated as follows:

* represents $p < .05$

** represents $p < .01$

n.s. represents not significant, or $p > .05$.

Categories used in describing the variables in this study are generally the same as those in the Renner report. Occasionally, categories were combined or eliminated in order that recidivism rates could be calculated on larger, more stable groups. This was only done if there was a logical basis for combining the data, and if the preliminary analyses revealed similar recidivism rates in the categories to be combined.

3. Development of Recidivism Risk Scale

In order to develop a tool which could be of practical value to probation officers, it was necessary to determine what combination of variables would provide the best predictive estimate of recidivism. To accomplish this, the statistical technique, multiple linear regression, was used. This procedure is described in detail in Appendix A.

III FINDINGS

A. OVERALL RECIDIVISM

One of every five probationers in this study was convicted of further offences while on probation. Two years following termination, this proportion had increased to one in three. Of those probationers receiving further convictions, sixty percent were given sentences which included a period of incarceration.

TABLE 1

OVERALL RECIDIVISM RATES

n=1104

TIME OF RECONVICTION	ANY RECONVICTION		SENTENCED TO INCARCERATION	
	%	N	%	N
During period of probation (only)	8.1	(90)	5.0	(55)
After probation termination (only)	14.8	(163)	10.7	(118)
Reconvictions during both of above	12.8	(141)	6.4	(71)
TOTALS	35.7	(394)	22.1	(244)

B. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL VARIABLES AND RECIDIVISM

1. Demographic Factors

Males were much more likely to be reconvicted (39.8%) than females (16.1%). Younger persons were more likely to be reconvicted than older persons with recidivism rates gradually decreasing after age 19. Married persons had lower reconviction rates than single, separated or divorced persons, but further analyses indicated that this was not the case among younger persons. Marital status was only related to recidivism among persons over the age of 21, which supports the findings of Ardron (1980).

2. Personal Characteristics

Persons who "associated with delinquents", and persons characterized as "making aimless or unproductive use of leisure time" had high recidivism rates. In fact, further analyses revealed that these two characteristics were better predictors of recidivism than any of the other variables examined, apart from criminal history.

3. Living Situation

Probationers living with spouses or both parents had lower recidivism rates than those in other living situations. This is not surprising as the other types of living situations appeared to suggest some degree of family

instability. Indicators of low socio-economic status were also strongly related to recidivism. It is interesting to note that persons living in a large city (over 500,000) were less likely to be reconvicted than those from smaller communities. It is speculated that this difference may be partially due to the greater visibility of persons in smaller communities.

4. Family Background

Variables which were indicative of disruption or instability in the family life of the probationer were generally found to be associated with recidivism. The strength of the association appears to be a function of: the severity of the disruption, its relevance to the current family situation, and its relationship to delinquent behaviour.

Lack of cohesion within the family during the probation period was associated with high recidivism, as were criminal records among fathers and siblings of the probationers.

"Adoption" or "abandonment" of the probationer as a child were not found to have a statistically significant relationship with recidivism which may be partially due to the small numbers in each of these categories - about 3% of the sample. Also not indicative of recidivism were "death" or "remarriage" of a parent. This is not surprising because, in many cases, these two factors would not reflect current family problems or instability.

5. Educational Background

Any indication of problems at school was associated with high recidivism. Probationers who had spent a significant proportion of their education in classroom settings designed to deal with students showing minimal academic ability or inclination, and persons who had been suspended or expelled from school, had high reconviction rates.

Leaving school at the earliest opportunity often reflects problems related to achievement or behaviour. Persons who quit school in grade 10 or earlier fit into this category. The reconviction rate among this group was 44.3%, compared to only 23.0% among persons who, at the time they left school, had been enrolled in grade 11 or higher. For those attending school at the end of their probation period, the reconviction rate was only 21.5%. This is fairly low compared to the overall reconviction rate of 41% among persons aged 16 to 19.

6. Employment

a) Work Status - Work status at the time the probation order was terminated and general work pattern were highly related to recidivism. Reconviction rates were much lower for persons who were employed and for persons who generally held a job than for those who indicated a lack of employment stability. Among the unemployed group, reconviction rates were similar regardless of whether they:

were seeking full time employment (45.8%), had physical or mental health problems (48.8%), or preferred to "get by" without working (52.5%). Findings were similar when general work patterns were examined with high recidivism rates among the "frequently unemployed" groups, regardless of whether or not the probationers actively sought work.

b) Length of Employment - Length of time at most recent job was also a strong predictor of recidivism; however, this was only the case among persons who were employed at the termination of probation. Among the unemployed, length of time at most recent job was not predictive of recidivism.

c) Type of Occupation - Labourers, who represented at least 44% of the probation population, had the highest reconviction rate among the various occupational categories. In each occupational category, reconviction rates were lower among employed than unemployed persons, with the exception of the service/domestic and professional categories. Homemakers and students were found to have lower reconviction rates (20.0%) than any of the groups in the labour market.

7. Prior Criminality

A prior criminal record is strongly related to recidivism, and in the present study its predictive value was second only to "delinquent associations". Among persons who had been sentenced to probation or incarcerated previously, the reconviction rate was 61%. Three-quarters of these persons received sentences which included incarceration.

Prior penetration into the Criminal Justice System (most severe previous sentence) was also somewhat related to recidivism; however, the reconviction rate was almost as high among persons previously sentenced to probation only, as among those persons previously incarcerated (56.7% vs. 65.8%).

"Age at time of first difficulty with the law" was based on the knowledge of the probation officers, therefore, the data for this variable were somewhat incomplete and possibly inaccurate. Nevertheless, its strong association with recidivism is evident. Those known to have juvenile records had a reconviction rate of 62.7%, compared to only 17.4% among those who were reported to have had their first conviction at age 21 or over. Among the remaining inmates who had their first difficulty with the law between the ages of 16 and 20 years of age, reconviction rates were similar - approximately 37%.

8. Type of Offence Which Led to Probation Order

The highest reconviction rate was found among persons convicted of offences against public order and peace (51%); the lowest rate was among persons convicted of offences against public morals and decency (14.7%). However, only 13% of the sample had been convicted of offences in

either of these categories. Similar reconviction rates were found in relation to the remaining types of offences. (See Appendix C for the types of offences contained in each category).

9. Conditions of Probation

Special conditions connected to the probation order were not strongly predictive of recidivism. Persons ordered to pay restitution had the highest reconviction rate (47.6%) while those ordered to "avoid specific neighborhoods" had the lowest (15.0%). Persons required to abide by various other conditions had fairly similar reconviction rates ranging from 30 to 44%.

10. Problem Areas

a) Types of Problems - Thirteen problem areas were examined. One-half to two-thirds of the sample were represented in each problem area, with two exceptions - "relationship with co-workers" and "progress in school". These two areas were relevant to smaller proportions of the population. When "some improvement" was indicated in the problem area, recidivism ranged from 30 to 40%. If there was "no change", recidivism ranged from 41 to 49%. "Deterioration" in the problem area resulted in recidivism rates of 53% to 87%. The four most critical areas in which "deterioration" resulted in the highest reconviction rates were "avoiding new crimes", "relationship with authority figures", "control of hostility", and "use of leisure time".

b) Number of Problems - A very high proportion of the sample indicated problems in a multiplicity of areas; in fact, one-half of the probationers had problems in eight or more of the areas investigated. Among this latter group, one out of every two were reconvicted within two years. Only one-quarter of the sample indicated less than four problems, and for this group the reconviction rate was only 12.6%.

C. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEVEL OF SUPERVISION AND RECIDIVISM

Probation officers appear to be fairly adept in identifying probationers who are most likely to get into further trouble with the law. Among those given intensive supervision, the reconviction rate was very much higher (60.2%) than among those given minimal or no supervision (20.6%).

It was also found that probation officers tended to have the greatest number of contacts with outside social agencies for clients representing high recidivism risks. Among clients for whom officers frequently contacted outside agencies, the reconviction rate was 58.1%, compared to only 27.3% among clients for whom no assistance was sought.

Probation officers' assessment of probation outcome was highly related to recidivism. Among those cases which officers described as "unqualified successes", the reconviction rate within two years was only 11.3%, compared to 44.5% among the other outcomes described. Many of those described as "failures" were clearly identifiable at the time of termination. Three-quarters of this latter group received further convictions during the probation period.

Relationships between individual variables and level of supervision were very similar to relationships between individual variables and recidivism. Two exceptions were noted. Older clients and married clients had lower reconviction rates than younger or unmarried clients but nevertheless tended to receive similar levels of supervision. This may have been partly due to an interaction effect between these two variables - young "marrieds" were found to have higher reconviction rates than young "unmarrieds".

D. RECIDIVISM RISK SCALE

A simple six factor Recidivism Risk Scale was developed which may assist probation officers at the time of initial contact with their clients in determining an appropriate level of supervision. Four conditions were considered in relation to the factors examined:

- (1) the predictive strength of the factor,
- (2) whether the probation officer could obtain the required information at the time of initial assessment,
- (3) the degree of difficulty in measuring the factor,
- and
- (4) whether the factor ultimately could be measured by a simple "yes" or "no".

Each of the six factors in the Recidivism Risk Scale appear to fulfill these conditions. The presence of any factor contributes "1" towards the total risk score.

The factors included in the Scale are described on the following page. For each of the possible total scores which range from '0' through '6', the following data are presented:

- (1) the proportion of probationers receiving each of the possible scores, and
- (2) the proportion of probationers receiving each score who were reconvicted within two years of probation termination.

Procedures used in the development of the Scale are described in Appendix A.

RECIDIVISM RISK SCALE

(6 Factors)

Total Score (Number of Factors Present)	Proportion of Sample Receiving Each Score		Reconviction Rate
	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
0	3.3	(36)	5.6
1	16.4	(181)	9.4
2	36.0	(397)	24.2
3	20.5	(226)	42.9
4	15.3	(169)	62.7
5	7.1	(78)	76.9
6	1.5	(17)	94.1
Totals	100.0	(1,104)	35.7

Salient Factors

- Mixes mainly with delinquents/criminals.
- Previously sentenced to probation or incarceration.
- Spends most of his/her leisure time aimlessly.
- Is under age 24.
- Male
- Family often subsists only on social assistance.

E. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RECIDIVISM RISK SCORES AND LEVEL
OF SUPERVISION

A strong association was found between the computed recidivism risk scores and the level of supervision which probationers received. The higher the risk score, the more likely the probationer received intensive supervision. There is no way of determining what factors are considered important by probation officers in determining level of supervision, but this strong association implies that the likelihood of further convictions is a major consideration.

To examine whether recidivism risk scores could improve decisions concerning supervision levels, reconviction rates were examined for probationers in the minimal and intensive supervision categories (see Table 17). Surprisingly, only 7.5% (83) of the total sample appeared to be given a level of supervision at variance with the recidivism risk score, that is, minimal supervision given to high risk cases (38) or intensive supervision given to low risk cases (45). For the high risks (scores 4-6) given minimal supervision, the reconviction rate was only 34% which is substantially lower than the overall reconviction rate (69%) for scores in this range. Probation officers were obviously aware of additional factors in these cases, and risk of reconviction was therefore not as great as the calculated risk score indicated. However, the low risks (scores 0-2) who were given intensive supervision had a reconviction rate of 22% which was similar to the overall reconviction rate (18.7%) for scores in this range. In this small proportion of cases, probation officers might have been unable to assess the degree of risk or, more likely, based their decisions on factors apart from risk of reconviction.

IV DISCUSSION

The data contained in this report provide a much needed recidivism baseline for probationers in Ontario. Variables found to be indicative of high recidivism include: criminal history, low socio-economic status, lack of family cohesiveness, problems at school, unproductive use of leisure time, criminal associations, poor employment history, offences against public order, and problems related to inter-personal skills.

The identification of factors which, in combination, best predict recidivism, enabled the researcher to construct a simple, six factor Recidivism Risk Scale. One factor contained in this Scale is "age at time of probation". Previous research has found that offender's "present age" is unrelated to recidivism, but "age at time of first offence" is very strongly related to recidivism. Because the data in this study, describing "age at time of first offence", proved to be either unreliable or unavailable, it was not used in the regression analyses. However, among the probation population, age at time of probation and age at time of first offence tend to be closely related. This accounts for the predictive capacity of probationer's age in the present study. In terms of the Risk Scale, present age also offers the practical advantage of being an easily obtainable, verifiable piece of data.

The Recidivism Risk Scale can serve at least two potential purposes. First, it may be a useful tool to probation officers during the initial assessment process in classifying probationers to various levels of supervision. Use of this scale in no way precludes the need for professional assessment. Additional factors not included in the scale, and determination of probationer's needs are clearly important to the decision-making process. However, with growing caseloads in the Probation Service creating pressure for early and accurate identification of risk level, an expanded information base should surely provide probation officers with some valuable assistance.

A second potential use for this Risk Scale lies in its ability to provide baseline data for research purposes. The Probation Service is becoming involved in an increasing number of programs addressing the specialized needs of its clients. Evaluation of the effectiveness of such programs requires having a measure of "expected" outcome. In addition, the Risk Scale could also help determine "target groups" for specific programs. Although a longer scale employing more sensitive measures would likely increase recidivism prediction, the simplicity of the six factor Recidivism Risk Scale underscores its utilitarian value.

In no way has this study demonstrated causal relationships between the factors described and recidivism. Factors predictive of recidivism may result from the same factors which produce the criminal conduct. Caution should therefore be exercised in attempting to reduce recidivism by influencing factors which, though predictive of recidivism, may not be contributing causes.

APPENDIX A

REGRESSION ANALYSES

In order to identify those factors which, when combined, provide the best prediction of recidivism, the statistical technique employed was step-wise multiple regression, using a forward selection technique. The recidivism measure used was "any reconviction between the date the probation order was issued and 24 months following termination of probation". The reconviction rate for the entire sample during this period was 35.7%.

Sixteen variables were selected, on the basis of their high individual relationships with recidivism, for inclusion in the preliminary regression analyses. To meet the requirements of this statistical method, variables not measured on interval or ratio scales were recoded as dichotomous variables. On the basis of the results, six variables were eliminated because they produced only negligible improvement in the level of prediction or because they suggested subjective and/or complex measurement (i.e. family cohesion, family instability).

In the final regression analyses, the ten remaining variables were all recoded into dichotomous variables. Continuous variables such as age and education level were dichotomized on the basis of the relationships indicated in the individual contingency tables. In order to maintain sample size, missing values were recoded as zero on the predictor variables, and all cases were included in the final analyses. Only 8% of the data on these variables were "missing", and generally "missing" could be interpreted as "no indication" of the factor in question.

To allow for cross-validation, the subjects were randomly assigned to either a construction sample or a validation sample. Step-wise regression using the ten selected variables was performed on the construction sample. From the equation obtained, two weighted recidivism estimate scores were calculated for each probationer in the study. The first score was based on the ten variables selected, but the second score included only six of these variables - those which explained the greatest proportion of the variance in terms of recidivism. The results of the regression analyses are shown in Table 18.

Because a regression formula presents problems in terms of its practical application, a simpler scoring technique was investigated. Two additional scores were calculated for each subject, based on equal weighting of the factors utilized in the calculation of the two weighted scores. Totals for the two unweighted scores ranged from 0 to 10 and 0 to 6, respectively.

In order to examine the strength of the relationships between each of the four recidivism estimate scores and recidivism, Pearson product moment correlations were obtained. All analyses were applied to the construction sample and were tested on the validation sample.

It was found that the unweighted six factor score was able to significantly predict recidivism, accounting for 21% of the variance. Moreover, none of the other scores were able to improve upon the predictive ability of the unweighted six factor score enough to justify the additional computation required (See Table 19).

The actual recidivism rates for each of the possible scores derived from the unweighted six factor Risk Scale are contained on page 10 in the body of this report. The recidivism rate for each of the possible scores obtained from the unweighted Ten Factor Scale are contained in Table 20 in Appendix B.

Reconviction rates based on the presence or absence of each of the factors used in the calculation of the recidivism estimate scores are contained in Table 21.

APPENDIX B

TABLE 2
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND RECIDIVISM

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Age at Time of Probation:</u>			
16	40.1 (67)	22.2 (37)	167
17	42.9 (90)	26.2 (55)	210
18	36.1 (53)	21.1 (31)	147
19	45.5 (40)	30.7 (27)	88
20	36.5 (27)	23.0 (17)	74
21	40.4 (19)	21.3 (10)	47
22 - 25	31.3 (42)	21.6 (29)	134
26 - 30	27.2 (22)	18.5 (15)	81
31 or over	21.5 (28)	15.4 (20)	<u>130</u>
	$\chi^2=25.15^{**}$	(n.s.)	1,078
<u>Sex:</u>			
Male	39.8 (362)	25.3 (230)	909
Female	16.1 (31)	7.3 (14)	<u>192</u>
	$\chi^2=37.69^{**}$	$\chi^2=28.77^{**}$	1,101
<u>Marital Status:</u>			
Single	39.1 (289)	23.7 (175)	739
Separated/divorced widowed	36.5 (35)	26.0 (25)	96
Married/common-law	25.9 (68)	16.3 (43)	<u>263</u>
	$\chi^2=14.86^{**}$	$\chi^2=6.98^*$	1,098
<u>Predominant Language:</u>			
English	37.3 (357)	23.5 (225)	957
French	28.9 (22)	14.5 (11)	76
Other	21.4 (15)	11.4 (8)	<u>70</u>
	$\chi^2=8.79^*$	$\chi^2=8.30^*$	1,103

TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND RECIDIVISM

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Racial Origin:</u>			
Caucasian	35.9 (368)	22.5 (231)	1,026
Indian (Native)	45.7 (16)	20.0 (7)	35
Other	18.8 (6)	9.4 (3)	32
			<u>1,093</u>
	(n.s.)	(n.s.)	

TABLE 3
CRIMINAL CONTACTS, LEISURE TIME AND RECIDIVISM

CONTACTS AND LEISURE TIME	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Client's Contacts</u> <u>with Criminals or</u> <u>Delinquents:</u>			
Mixes with criminals	65.4 (168)	44.4 (114)	257
Is a "lone wolf"	35.5 (54)	21.1 (32)	152
No predominant pattern	27.1 (68)	19.5 (49)	251
Mixes with non-criminals	19.9 (69)	7.2 (25)	347
			<u>1,007</u>
	$\chi^2=144.56^{**}$	$\chi^2=120.70^{**}$	
<u>How Leisure Time Is Spent:</u>			
Productive, organized	21.3 (112)	11.6 (61)	525
Aimless use	55.9 (221)	37.7 (149)	395
			<u>920</u>
	$\chi^2=115.46^{**}$	$\chi^2=85.70^{**}$	

TABLE 4
LIVING SITUATION AND RECIDIVISM

LIVING SITUATION AT TERMINATION OF PROBATION	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
	Reconvicted	Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Community Size:</u>			
500,000 or more	28.1 (74)	17.9 (47)	263
100,000 - 499,999	37.8 (108)	23.8 (68)	286
10,000 - 99,999	36.8 (113)	24.4 (75)	307
9,999 or less	39.8 (98)	21.5 (53)	246
			1,102
	$\chi^2=9.08^*$	(n.s.)	
<u>Living Accommodation:</u>			
Apartment, duplex, house	34.1 (299)	20.2 (177)	876
Other (flat, room, hostel, group home)	46.8 (65)	34.5 (48)	139
			1,015
	$\chi^2=7.78^{**}$	$\chi^2=13.45^{**}$	
<u>Status of Neighbourhood:</u>			
Upper middle/upper- class	22.5 (31)	14.5 (20)	138
Lower middle class	33.4 (221)	19.7 (130)	661
Lower class	52.6 (123)	34.6 (81)	234
			1,033
	$\chi^2=40.54^{**}$	$\chi^2=27.92^{**}$	
<u>Living Companions (at time of offence):</u>			
Both parents	34.5 (149)	20.4 (88)	432
One parent	47.5 (67)	31.2 (44)	141
Foster/group home/inst.	52.6 (10)	31.6 (6)	19
Relatives/friends	40.3 (64)	23.9 (38)	159
Spouse/common-law partner	21.5 (47)	14.2 (31)	219
Alone	45.3 (48)	30.2 (32)	106
			1,076
	$\chi^2=36.25^{**}$	$\chi^2=20.80^{**}$	

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)
LIVING SITUATION AND RECIDIVISM

LIVING SITUATION AT TERMINATION OF PROBATION	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Yearly Household Income:</u>			
\$8,000 or less	47.7 (115)	34.4 (83)	241
\$8,001 - \$15,000	32.5 (136)	17.9 (75)	419
\$15,000 or over	27.5 (55)	15.0 (30)	<u>200</u> 860
	$\chi^2=22.97^{**}$	$\chi^2=31.68^{**}$	
<u>Reliance on Social Assistance by Client's Family:</u>			
Frequent use	50.0 (99)	37.4 (74)	198
Infrequent use	32.1 (248)	18.5 (143)	<u>773</u> 971
	$\chi^2=21.26^{**}$	$\chi^2=31.28^{**}$	

TABLE 5
FAMILY BACKGROUND AND RECIDIVISM

FAMILY BACKGROUND VARIABLES	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Cohesiveness of the Client's Family:</u>			
Very cohesive	23.8 (65)	12.1 (33)	273
Somewhat cohesive	34.5 (130)	18.3 (69)	377
Not cohesive	46.1 (136)	32.5 (96)	295
			945
	$\chi^2=31.04^{**}$	$\chi^2=38.48^{**}$	
<u>Delinquent Record of Father:</u>			
Has record	52.7 (49)	37.6 (35)	93
No record	33.7 (228)	18.6 (126)	676
			769
	$\chi^2=11.94^{**}$	$\chi^2=16.69^{**}$	
<u>Delinquent Record of Mother:</u>			
Has record	36.4 (8)	27.3 (6)	22
No record	35.8 (276)	20.9 (161)	771
			793
	(n.s.)	(n.s.)	
<u>Delinquent Record of Siblings:</u>			
Has record	53.2 (101)	34.7 (66)	190
No record	31.4 (174)	17.5 (97)	555
			745
	$\chi^2=27.97^{**}$	$\chi^2=23.67^{**}$	
<u>Client Taken from Parents:</u>			
Yes	55.6 (40)	38.9 (28)	72
No	35.4 (289)	20.7 (169)	817
			889
	$\chi^2=10.71^{**}$	$\chi^2=11.68^{**}$	
<u>Client Adopted:</u>			
Yes	51.7 (15)	31.0 (9)	29
No	36.2 (327)	22.1 (200)	903
			932
	(n.s.)	(n.s.)	

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED)
FAMILY BACKGROUND AND RECIDIVISM

FAMILY BACKGROUND VARIABLES	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Client Abandoned:</u>			
Yes	45.8 (11)	25.0 (6)	24
No	36.3 (321)	22.1 (195)	884
			908
	(n.s.)	(n.s.)	
<u>Parent(s) Died:</u>			
Yes	39.6 (53)	23.9 (32)	134
No	37.0 (305)	22.9 (189)	824
			958
	(n.s.)	(n.s.)	
<u>Parents Separated/Divorced:</u>			
Yes	44.5 (97)	26.6 (58)	218
No	35.4 (257)	21.9 (159)	726
			944
	$\chi^2=5.54^*$	(n.s.)	
<u>Parental Remarriage/ Common-law Union:</u>			
Yes	40.6 (56)	23.9 (33)	138
No	36.0 (272)	22.1 (167)	755
			893
	(n.s.)	(n.s.)	
<u>Parents Separated Intermittently:</u>			
Yes	51.0 (50)	35.7 (35)	98
No	34.7 (242)	20.2 (141)	697
			795
	$\chi^2=9.13^{**}$	$\chi^2=11.07^{**}$	
<u>Prolonged Absence of a Parent:</u>			
Yes	44.4 (79)	31.5 (56)	178
No	34.0 (218)	19.3 (124)	642
			820
	$\chi^2=6.11^*$	$\chi^2=11.30^{**}$	

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED)
FAMILY BACKGROUND AND RECIDIVISM

FAMILY BACKGROUND VARIABLES	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Any of Above Factors:</u>			
Yes	43.4 (186)	26.3 (113)	675
No	30.8 (208)	19.4 (131)	429
			1,104
	$\chi^2=17.43^{**}$	$\chi^2=6.93^{**}$	

TABLE 6
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND RECIDIVISM

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND VARIABLES	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Status at Termination of Probation:</u>			
Still enrolled	21.5 (34)	7.6 (12)	158
Quit, no intent of returning	42.7 (250)	28.0 (164)	586
Quit, intent of returning	41.0 (55)	27.6 (37)	134
Graduated	22.3 (41)	12.0 (22)	184
			1,062
	$\chi^2=42.27^{**}$	$\chi^2=44.42^{**}$	
<u>School Grade Level at Time of Most Recent Enrollment:</u>			
1 to 8	39.8 (47)	31.4 (37)	118
9	50.0 (114)	33.3 (76)	228
10	41.4 (109)	24.0 (63)	263
11 or 12	26.8 (79)	13.9 (41)	295
13 or higher	9.5 (8)	3.6 (3)	84
			988
	$\chi^2=59.86^{**}$	$\chi^2=51.09^{**}$	
<u>Experience in Special School Setting:</u>			
Technical/special opportunity	52.2 (118)	34.1 (77)	226
Standard school setting	29.1 (190)	17.2 (112)	653
			879
	$\chi^2=38.40^{**}$	$\chi^2=27.48^{**}$	
<u>School Discipline Problems:</u>			
Suspended/expelled	53.9 (83)	34.4 (53)	154
Neither of above	26.5 (110)	14.5 (60)	415
			569
	$\chi^2=36.38^{**}$	$\chi^2=26.87^{**}$	

TABLE 7
EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND RECIDIVISM

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Status at Termination of Probation:</u>			
Homemaker	18.4 (9)	6.1 (3)	49
Student	20.5 (17)	9.6 (8)	83
Employed/self-employed full-time	30.8 (161)	18.4 (96)	522
Employed part-time	30.5 (25)	18.3 (15)	82
Unemployed, seeking full-time work	45.8 (60)	29.0 (38)	131
Unemployed, seeking part-time work	33.3 (11)	15.2 (5)	33
Chronically ill/depressed/disturbed, retarded	48.8 (21)	34.9 (15)	43
Preferred to "get by" without working	52.5 (31)	40.7 (24)	59
Unknown	70.4 (38)	55.6 (30)	54
			1,056
	$\chi^2=66.07^{**}$	$\chi^2=74.04^{**}$	
<u>Usual Employment Status:</u>			
Seldom unemployed & maintains same job	23.1 (74)	11.8 (38)	321
Usually employed but changes jobs frequently;seasonal workers	36.2 (71)	23.5 (46)	196
Frequently unemployed but actively seeks employment	49.6 (70)	31.2 (44)	141
Frequently or almost always unemployed; lack of concern for employment	60.6 (131)	44.4 (96)	216
Not really on labour market (homemaker, student,retired,etc.)	20.2 (43)	8.0 (17)	213
			1,087
	$\chi^2=115.10^{**}$	$\chi^2=113.68^{**}$	

TABLE 8
LENGTH OF TIME EMPLOYED ON MOST RECENT JOB

(n=713)

LENGTH OF TIME	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	PROPORTION RECONVICTED		
	Employed at Termination <u>%</u>	Unemployed at Termination <u>%</u>	Totals <u>#</u>
Less than one month	50.0 (of 34)	50.0 (of 34)	68
One month,less than 3	42.5 (of 73)	61.3 (of 75)	148
Three months, less than 6	34.5 (of 113)	47.1 (of 51)	164
Six months, less than 2 years	29.4 (of 194)	41.0 (of 39)	233
Two years and over	15.5 (of 84)	37.5 (of 16)	100
TOTALS	31.5 (of 498)	50.7 (of 215)	713
	$\chi^2=20.43^{**}$	(n.s.)	

TABLE 9
TYPE OF OCCUPATION AND RECIDIVISM

(n=918)

OCCUPATION	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION PROPORTION RECONVICTED		
	Employed at Termination	Unemployed at Termination	Totals
	% #	% #	#
Professional/proprietors/ managers	9.1 (of 22)	0.0 (of 5)	27
Technical/clerical/ sales	22.1 (of 45)	30.4 (of 23)	68
Craftsmen/foremen	20.7 (of 82)	27.8 (of 18)	100
Operatives	25.3 (of 83)	60.0 (of 25)	108
Service/domestic workers	30.9 (of 68)	21.4 (of 56)	124
Labourers	41.9 (of 267)	57.1 (of 224)	491
TOTALS	32.3 (of 567)	47.6 (of 351)	918
	$\chi^2=25.82^{**}$	$\chi^2=35.19^{**}$	

TABLE 10
CRIMINAL HISTORY AND RECIDIVISM

CRIMINAL HISTORY	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	%	%	
	Reconvicted	Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Most Serious Prior Disposition:</u>			
No previous conviction	26.7 (207)	13.9 (108)	775
Fine/suspended sentence	45.2 (38)	33.3 (28)	84
Probation/restitution	56.7 (76)	38.8 (52)	134
Incarceration(1-30 days)	69.2 (27)	56.4 (22)	39
Incarceration(31-729 days)	61.3 (38)	41.9 (26)	62
Penitentiary	80.0 (8)	80.0 (8)	10
			1,104
	$\chi^2=101.75^{**}$	$\chi^2=118.19^{**}$	
<u>Juvenile Record:</u>			
Yes	62.7 (64)	43.1 (44)	102
No	32.9 (330)	20.0 (200)	1,002
			1,104
	$\chi^2=34.55^{**}$	$\chi^2=27.55^{**}$	
<u>Age First Difficulty with the Law:</u>			
Under 16	62.7 (64)	43.1 (44)	102
16	42.6 (75)	26.7 (47)	176
17	34.9 (67)	19.3 (37)	192
18	31.0 (40)	17.8 (23)	129
19	40.8 (29)	28.2 (20)	71
20	35.6 (16)	15.6 (7)	45
21-25	21.5 (26)	12.4 (15)	121
26 and over	13.2 (16)	7.4 (9)	121
			957
	$\chi^2=76.09^{**}$	$\chi^2=56.31^{**}$	

TABLE 11
TYPE OF OFFENCE AND RECIDIVISM

OFFENCE WHICH LED TO PROBATION ORDER	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
Offences against person	40.8 (29)	23.9 (17)	71
Offences against property	37.5 (277)	23.0 (170)	738
Offences against public morals and decency	14.7 (5)	5.9 (2)	34
Drug offences	30.4 (24)	16.5 (13)	79
Offences against public order and peace	51.7 (60)	33.6 (39)	116
Liquor offences	41.7 (10)	37.5 (9)	24
Traffic offences	30.8 (4)	23.1 (3)	13
Other offences	35.0 (7)	25.0 (5)	20
No information on offence	27.3 (15)	20.0 (11)	55 1,150*

* 42 persons had offences in 2 or 3 categories

TABLE 12
CONDITIONS OF PROBATION AND RECIDIVISM

CONDITION	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	100%=
Restitution	47.6 (89)	28.3 (53)	187
Report to probation officer	35.6 (386)	21.9 (237)	1,083
Provide family support	33.3 (15)	24.4 (11)	45
No alcohol/drugs	41.9 (116)	29.6 (82)	277
No weapon	37.9 (25)	21.2 (14)	66
Remain in jurisdiction	35.4 (151)	22.2 (95)	427
Find/maintain employment	39.9 (154)	26.4 (102)	386
Adhere to curfew	42.0 (66)	21.7 (34)	157
Not enter forbidden premises	42.8 (59)	29.0 (40)	138
Avoid specific persons	39.3 (141)	22.8 (82)	359
Reside at specific residence	42.8 (107)	28.0 (70)	250
Attend treatment facility	32.5 (37)	23.7 (27)	114
Attend school	29.7 (30)	13.9 (14)	101
Not own/operate vehicle	44.4 (16)	27.8 (10)	36
Avoid specific neighbourhoods	15.0 (3)	5.0 (1)	20
Keep the peace	38.9 (259)	23.8 (158)	665
Other conditions	33.8 (47)	23.0 (32)	139

TABLE 13

INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM AREAS AND RECIDIVISM

<u>PROBLEM AREAS</u>	<u>NO PROBLEM</u>	<u>IMPROVEMENT</u>	<u>NO CHANGE</u>	<u>DETERIORATION</u>	<u>100% = *</u>
Relationship with friends	17.8 (51/287)	32.3 (76/235)	46.1 (183/397)	63.3 (38/ 60)	979
Relationship with parents	23.6 (78/331)	34.5 (87/252)	43.2 (126/292)	64.4 (56/ 87)	962
Relationship with co-workers	23.8 (120/505)	38.7 (41/106)	43.3 (90/208)	67.6 (23/ 34)	853
Relationship with opposite sex	23.3 (84/361)	34.0 (51/150)	43.4 (108/249)	55.6 (25/ 45)	805
Relationship with authority figures	19.6 (69/352)	35.9 (123/343)	40.2 (107/266)	75.0 (69/ 92)	1,053
Use of leisure time	15.9 (46/290)	34.9 (89/255)	41.7 (151/362)	70.9 (61/ 86)	993
Acceptable living quarters	26.5 (135/509)	37.0 (71/192)	44.1 (130/295)	64.3 (36/ 56)	1,052
Progress in employment	18.7 (70/374)	40.6 (130/320)	43.2 (108/250)	61.2 (71/116)	1,060
Progress in school work	33.4 (231/692)	30.7 (31/101)	42.9 (39/ 91)	48.4 (15/ 31)	915
Drug/alcohol use	21.3 (94/441)	38.6 (95/246)	46.7 (98/210)	68.4 (65/ 95)	992
Self-confidence	25.8 (72/279)	30.1 (119/396)	47.2 (152/322)	53.2 (25/ 47)	1,044
Control of hostility	21.0 (83/395)	34.9 (114/327)	49.2 (117/238)	72.2 (57/ 79)	1,039
Avoiding new crimes	17.5 (71/406)	36.1 (137/379)	46.1 (82/178)	86.9 (93/107)	1,070

* Cases were eliminated if probation officer could not say whether or not it was a problem.

TABLE 14
NUMBER OF PROBLEM AREAS AND RECIDIVISM

NUMBER OF PROBLEM AREAS	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		100%=
	<u>%</u> Reconvicted	<u>%</u> Incarcerated	
None	5.3 (3)	5.3 (3)	57
One to three	14.6 (30)	7.8 (16)	205
Four to seven	33.4 (99)	17.6 (52)	296
Eight to ten	46.8 (153)	30.3 (99)	327
Eleven to thirteen	49.8 (109)	33.8 (74)	<u>219</u>
			1,104

TABLE 15
PROBATION PROCESS AND RECIDIVISM

SUPERVISION & PROBATION OFFICER'S EVALUATION	TWO YEARS AFTER PROBATION		
	% Reconvicted	% Incarcerated	100%=
<u>Level of Supervision:</u>			
Intensive	60.2 (106)	43.2 (76)	176
Moderate	42.4 (189)	25.8 (115)	446
Minimal	20.6 (99)	11.0 (53)	481
			1,103
	$\chi^2=102.65^{**}$	$\chi^2=83.20^{**}$	
<u>Frequency of Contact with Social Agencies Concerning the Client:</u>			
Frequently	58.1 (50)	38.4 (33)	86
Several times	46.8 (81)	34.1 (59)	173
Seldom	39.3 (105)	24.0 (64)	267
Never	27.3 (157)	15.3 (88)	575
			1,101
	$\chi^2=47.37^{**}$	$\chi^2=43.58^{**}$	
<u>Probation Officer's Evaluation of Client's Probation Success:</u>			
Unqualified success	11.3 (32)	6.0 (17)	283
Qualified success	32.3 (152)	17.0 (80)	470
Neither success nor failure	51.8 (115)	31.5 (70)	222
Failure	75.6 (96)	61.0 (75)	123
			1,098
	$\chi^2=186.08^{**}$	$\chi^2=169.39^{**}$	

TABLE 16
RECIDIVISM RISK SCORES BY LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

Risk Score	100%=		LEVEL OF SUPERVISION		
	#	%	Intensive	Moderate	Minimal
0	(36)	3.3	2.8	33.3	63.9
1	(181)	16.4	7.7	29.3	63.0
2	(397)	36.0	7.6	36.3	56.2
3	(225)	20.4	15.1	48.0	36.9
4	(169)	15.3	31.4	50.9	17.8
5	(78)	7.1	48.7	41.0	10.3
6	(17)	1.5	35.3	64.7	0.0
Totals	(1,103)	100.0	16.0	40.4	43.6

$$\chi^2=217.67, \text{ d.f.}=12, p<=.01$$

TABLE 17
RECIDIVISM BY LEVEL OF SUPERVISION (INTENSIVE/MINIMAL)
ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL RISK SCORES

Score	Overall Reconviction Rate	LEVEL OF SUPERVISION/ MINIMAL Proportion Reconvicted			
		%	#	%	#
Low {	0	5.6	4.3 (1 of 23)	0.0 (0 of 1)	
	1	9.4	7.9 (9 of 114)	14.3 (2 of 14)	
	2	24.2	19.7 (44 of 223)	26.7 (8 of 30)	
	3	42.9	38.6 (32 of 83)	41.2 (14 of 34)	
High {	4	62.7	55.0 (11 of 30)	77.4 (41 of 53)	
	5	76.9	25.0 (2 of 8)	92.1 (35 of 38)	
	6	94.1	0.0 (0 of 0)	100.0 (6 of 6)	
Totals	35.7	20.6 (99 of 481)	60.2 (106 of 176)		

✓ A moderate level of supervision is not included in this Table.

TABLE 18

REGRESSION RESULTS: SOCIAL HISTORY VARIABLES

Variables	B	Beta	Simple R	F
Mixes mainly with delinquents/criminals	0.211	0.19	.34	17.08*
Previously sentenced to probation or incarceration	0.181	0.16	.22	15.75*
Aimless use of leisure time	0.119	0.12	.31	6.61*
Less than 24 years of age	0.157	0.14	.17	12.55*
Male	0.116	0.09	.14	5.80*
Family frequently subsists on social welfare	0.106	0.09	.18	4.33*
Quit school before grade 11	0.069	0.07	.15	2.87*
Frequently unemployed	0.061	0.04	.10	1.27*
Significant time in special education classes	0.027	0.02	.17	0.35*
Juvenile record	0.037	0.02	.17	0.30

	Multiple R	R ²	
Construction sample	.460	.21	F (10,548)=14.74**
Validation sample	.489	.24	

* p<.05

** p<.01

TABLE 19

CORRELATION RESULTS: COMPARISON OF
RECIDIVISM PREDICTION SCORES CALCULATED
BY FOUR DIFFERENT METHODS

RECIDIVISM PREDICTION SCORES	MULTIPLE R	
	Construction Sample (n=559)	Validation Sample (n=545)
(1) Regression equation (10 steps)	0.460**	0.489**
(2) Regression equation (6 steps)	0.452**	0.477**
(3) Risk scale (10 factors)	0.438**	0.477**
(4) Risk scale (6 factors)	0.447**	0.465**

** p<.01

TABLE 20
ALTERNATIVE RECIDIVISM RISK SCALE
(10 factor)

Total Score (Number of Factors Present)	Proportion of Sample		Reconviction Rate
	<u>%</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
0	1.1	(12)	8.3
1	8.0	(88)	3.4
2	23.8	(263)	12.9
3	21.4	(236)	33.1
4	17.0	(188)	39.4
5	10.1	(111)	53.2
6	10.8	(119)	62.2
7	5.7	(63)	77.8
8 or more	2.1	(24)	91.7

Salient factors

- Mixes mainly with delinquents/criminals.
- Previously sentenced to probation or incarceration.
- Spends most of his/her leisure time aimlessly.
- Is under age 24.
- Male.
- Family often subsists only on social assistance.
- Quit school before grade 11.
- Frequently unemployed (excludes students/homemakers).
- Significant proportion of time in special education classes.
- Juvenile record.

RECONVICTION RATES
ACCORDING TO
EACH OF THE INDIVIDUAL RISK FACTORS

(n=1,104)

Factors	RECONVICTION RATES	
	Factor Present	Factor Not Present
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
(1) Mixes mainly with delinquents	65.4 (of 257)	26.7 (of 847)
(2) Previous probation or incarceration	60.8 (of 245)	28.5 (of 859)
(3) Leisure time spent aimlessly	55.9 (of 395)	24.4 (of 709)
(4) Under age 24	39.3 (of 817)	25.4 (of 287)
(5) Male	39.8 (of 909)	16.4 (of 195)
(6) Social assistance	50.0 (of 198)	32.6 (of 906)
(7) Quit school before grade 11	42.3 (of 695)	24.4 (of 409)
(8) Frequently unemployed	49.6 (of 141)	33.6 (of 963)
(9) Special education classes	52.2 (of 226)	31.4 (of 878)
(10) Juvenile Record	62.7 (of 102)	32.9 (of 1,002)

TABLE 21

APPENDIX C

- A. OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON: includes the:
- Abduction
 - Assault/Wounding
 - Assault on a Peace Officer
 - Assault, Common
 - Manslaughter/Murder
 - Attempted Murder
 - Rape and Attempted Rape
 - Threatening and Intimidation
 - Suicide, attempt to commit
- B. OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY
- Arson and attempted Arson
 - Break and enter
 - Damage to property
 - False pretences
 - Fraudulently obtaining food or lodging
 - Fraud: other
 - Forgery/Uttering
 - Possession: housebreaking instruments
 - Possession: property obtained by crime, \$200 and under
 - Possession: property obtained by crime, over \$200
 - Robbery: armed
 - Robbery: other or unknown
 - Taking without owner's consent (e.g. joyriding)
 - Theft: \$200 and under
 - Theft: over \$200
 - Theft: attempted
 - Trespass
- C. OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC MORALS AND DECENCY
- Bigamy, feigned and unlawful marriage, polygamy
 - Breach of Child Welfare Act
 - Breach of Deserted Wives' and Children's Maintenance
 - Non-support
 - Keeping, employed or frequented a bawdy house
 - Perjury
 - Prostitution
 - Corrupting morals
 - Contributing to juvenile delinquency
 - Incest
 - Indecent assault
 - Indecent exposure or other indecent act
- D. OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER AND PEACE
- Breach of Excise Act
 - Breach of Probation Act
 - Breach of Recognizance
 - Breach of Narcotic Control/Food and Drug Acts: cannabis (marijuana)
 - Breach of Narcotic Control/Food and Drug Acts: other addicting, controlled and restricted drugs
 - Breach of Narcotic Control/Food and Drug Acts: other or unknown
 - Breach of Railway Act
 - Carrying unlawful weapons
 - Causing a disturbance/disorderly conduct
 - Conspiracy
 - Escape lawful custody
 - Gaming, betting, lotteries
 - Obstructing an Officer
 - Public Mischief
 - Vagrancy
- E. LIQUOR OFFENCES
- Driving while ability impaired
 - Intoxication or drunkenness
 - Other liquor offences (e.g. underage drinking)
 - Drunk driving or drunk in charge of auto
- F. TRAFFIC OFFENCES
- Careless driving/dangerous driving
 - Criminal negligence in operation of motor vehicle
 - Driving while licence suspended or without licence
 - Leaving scene of an accident
 - Other traffic offences
- G. STATUS OFFENCES
- Immorality (Under the J.D.A.)
 - Incorrigibility (J.D.A.)
 - Unsatisfactory probation (J.D.A.)
 - Truancy
- H. OTHER
- Offences which do not reasonably fall into any of the above categories

END