



## Incorrigibility Project

The mission of the incorrigibility project is to work toward the development of a system of services for incorrigible youth in Erie County that is accessible, coordinated, effective, and accountable, minimizing the need for formal child welfare or juvenile probation involvement with affected children and families.

According to the Juvenile Act, incorrigibility is defined as #6 under “Dependent Child” as a youth who: (6) has committed a specific act or acts of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his parent, guardian or other custodian and who is ungovernable and found to be in need of care, treatment or supervision.

The Incorrigibility Project set out a strategy as follows: from the current relatively independent, fragmented services available to this population, create a network of services with: a) a single tracking system, b) defined outcomes for each component of the network, c) mechanisms to monitor and document outcomes, d) mechanisms to revise programs when necessary, and e) mechanisms to allocate resources based on outcomes.

A Management Team consisting of Erie County funders directs the Incorrigibility Project. More specifically, representatives from the Erie County Department of Human Services, Erie County Office of Children and Youth, Erie County Juvenile Probation Department, and the School District of the City of Erie provide direction to an Implementation Team composed of program supervisors. The Implementation Team follows through with requests from the Management Teams as well as provides information and recommendations to them.

Over the past year, the Implementation Team has met regularly in order to coordinate effective and efficient services for incorrigible youth in Erie County. These efforts have led to a stronger collaboration among the individual programs. For instance, the Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program now meets monthly with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth Truancy Department Supervisor in order to coordinate efforts on curbing truancy. The Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program has also opened their parenting classes up to parents of juveniles on school-based probation. The Alternative Education Program is currently working with not only the Student Assistance Program and Delinquency Prevention Program, but also the After School Support Program on providing a smoother transition for youth who are returning to their home schools. Currently one Alternative Education Program classroom is operating out of the Boys and Girls Club, home of Project Intercept. The effectiveness of the ongoing collaboration between programs is evidenced in the following report by the low placement rate of juveniles being serviced by these programs.

Seven programs have been identified as serving Erie County incorrigible youth. These include the After School Support Program (ASSP), Alternative Education Program (AEP), Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP), Families Together, Intensive Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program (IJDPP), Project Intercept, and the Student Assistance Program (SAP). CIRCLE, an additional incorrigibility initiative was implemented last year to provide a centralized intake, tracking, and referral service for incorrigible youth. Data was not collected from CIRCLE for this report; however, the program is a referral source for the incorrigibility programs.

System Level Interpretation and Evaluation

Data in this report represent those youth who were enrolled between July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002 in all of the programs listed above with the exception of the Student Assistance Program from which data was not submitted for the July 2001-July 2002 time frame. In addition, Delinquency Prevention Program clients were not included in data collection due to the program servicing entire elementary grades, and not specifically targeting those youth referred to as “incorrigible.”

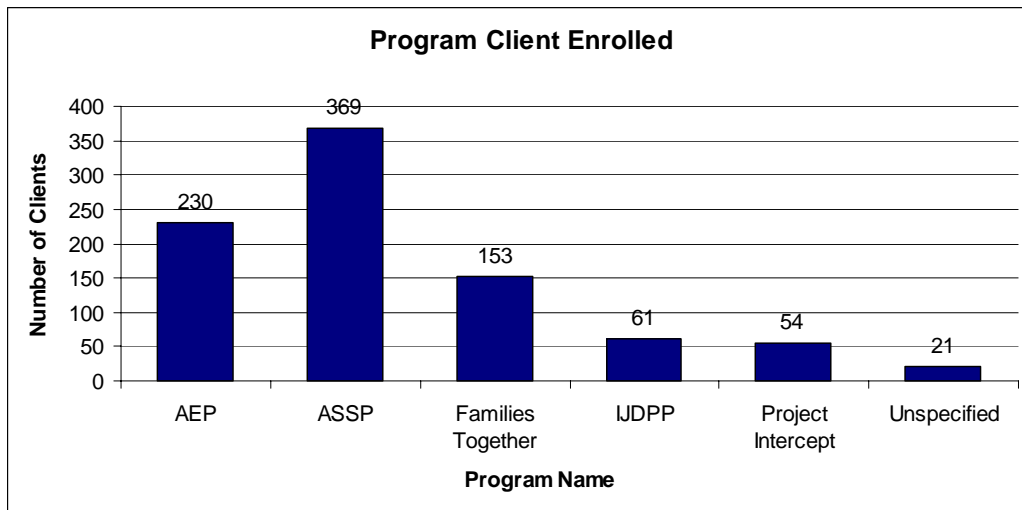
The methodology used in this research project was quantitative analysis of data collected through surveys or “client profiles”. A client profile, consisting of 11 questions, was completed by program staff for each client accepted into their program and then forwarded to a researcher who entered the data into the database that was started in 2000.

**Section I: Client Data for July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002**

Program Involvement

In the first section, descriptive information is presented pertaining to the youth that were served within the constellation of incorrigibility programs from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002 (N=888). Of those clients enrolled in incorrigibility programming, 41% were enrolled in the After School Support Program, followed by 30% who were enrolled in the Alternative Education Program and 17% enrolled in the Families Together Program (see Figure 1).

Figure 1:

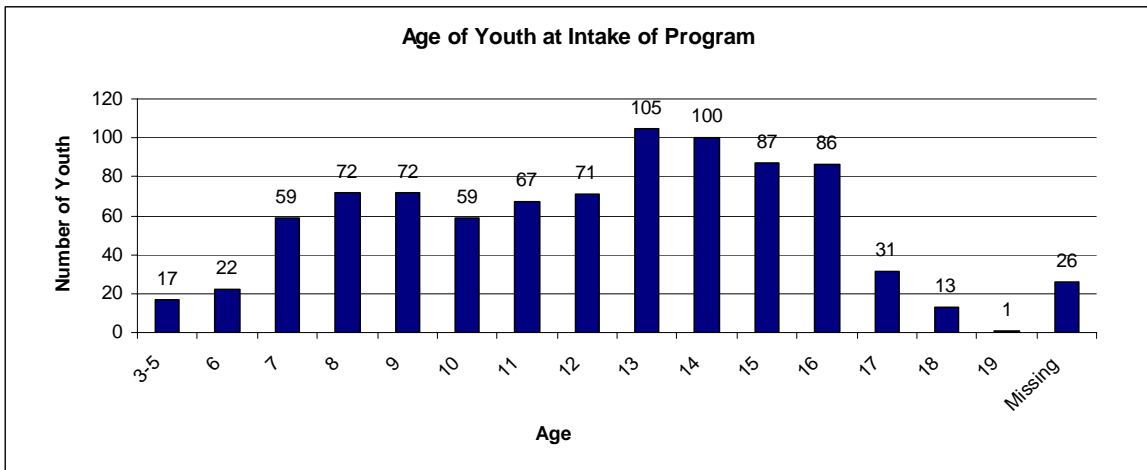


Clients of the incorrigibility programs are referred by other sources. Thirty-seven percent of clients were referred by their school while 31% were referred by the Northwest County Intermediate Unit (IU) and 20% by the Erie County Office of Children and Youth (OCY). The Alternative Education utilizes the school as their primary referral source while the After School Support Program frequently obtains referrals from the IU, and Families Together from OCY which is reflected by these higher level of referrals recorded by these three sources. All other referral sources were widely varied.

Client Demographics

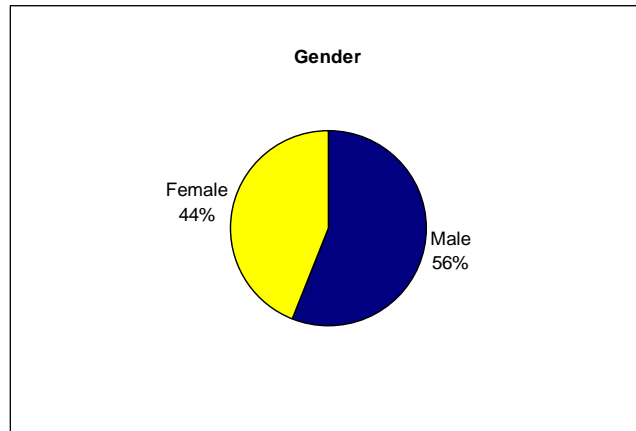
The age range of the typical incorrigible client varies; however, ages thirteen and fourteen account for roughly 24% of the total client population (see Figure 2).

Figure 2.



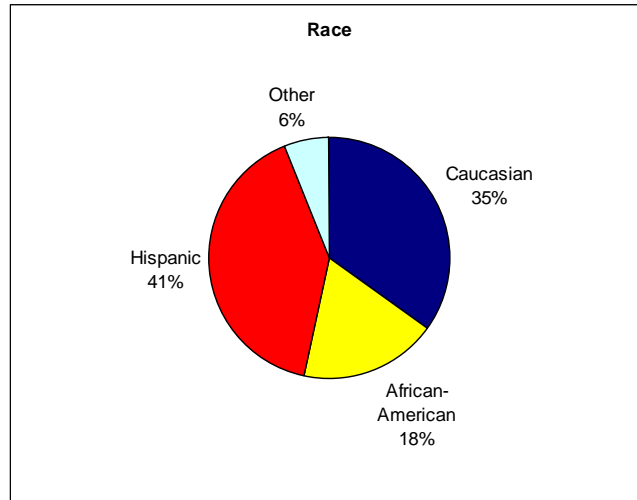
There are slightly more males (56%) being served by the constellation of incorrigibility services than are females (44%) (see Figure 3) which remains consistent with the 2000-2001 data.

Figure 3.



Hispanic youth represent 41% of the entire enrolled population, Caucasian youth make up 35% and African-American youth make up 18% of those enrolled (see Figure 4). Due to the After School Support Program primarily accepting migrant students, this sample is not universally reflective of all programs.

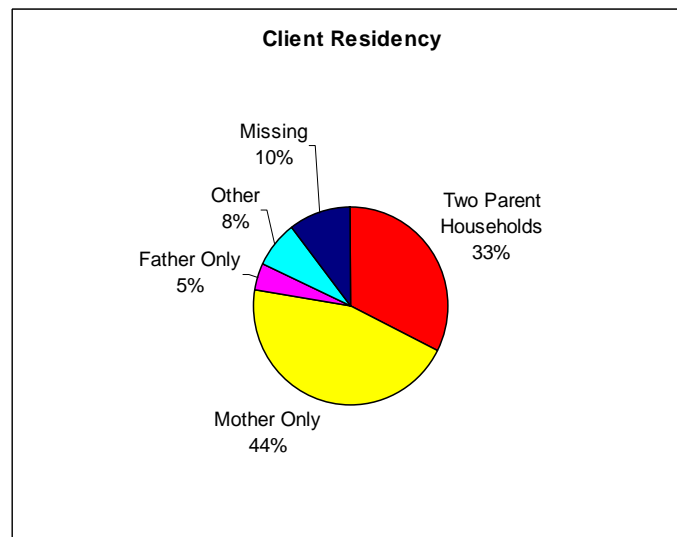
Figure 4.



### Multiple Risk Factors

Many of the youth being served in the spectrum of incorrigibility services face difficult situations. In the analysis, 45% reside with their mothers only while only 5% reside with their fathers, which is up from last year's report of only 31% living in single parent households. Thirty-three percent live in two parent households, which is higher than last year's report of only 15% (see Figure 5). The low percentage of youth living in two parent households may, according to much of the research, indicate family stress and disruption that often translates into greater risk of delinquent behaviors, school failure, or alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

Figure 5.



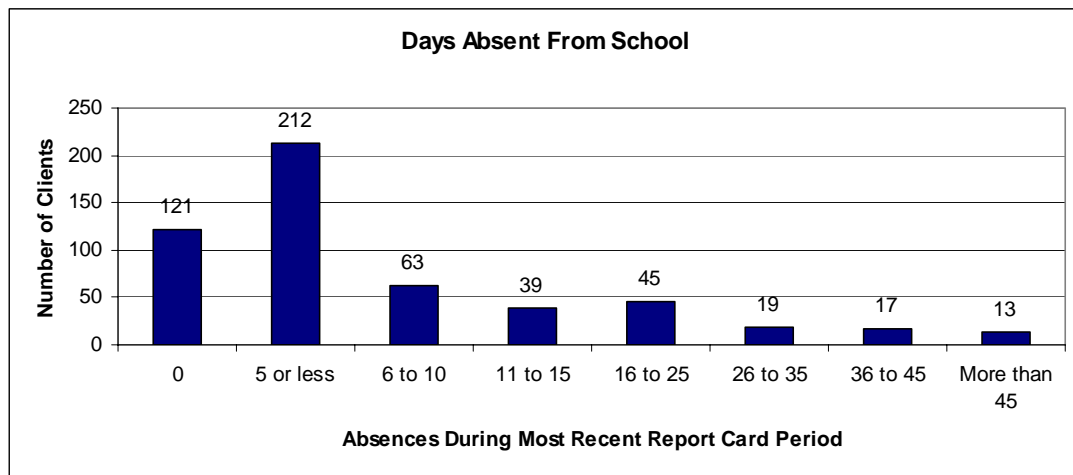
### Educational Status

The majority of incorrigibility clients are enrolled in a regular educational placement curriculum. Sixty-five percent are enrolled in regular educational placement, down 10% from the previous year's client population; 21% are enrolled in a special education program, up 4% from the previous year's client population; and 6% are enrolled in some other educational placement program.

The number of excused days absent from school, the number of days unexcused from school, and grade point averages continue to be difficult to obtain. Forty percent of client absences, 32% of client unexcused absences, and 67% of client grade point averages were not reported. However, this information was more readily reported by programs this year than previously.

Based on available data, 13% of clients were absent zero days during their most recent report card period (see Figure 6). Twenty-four percent of clients were absent between one to five days, which was the most common category of client absences among the entire reporting client population. Roughly seven percent were reported to have been absent six to ten days, and ten percent reported between 11 and 25 days. Less than five percent of clients were reported to have missed more than 25 days.

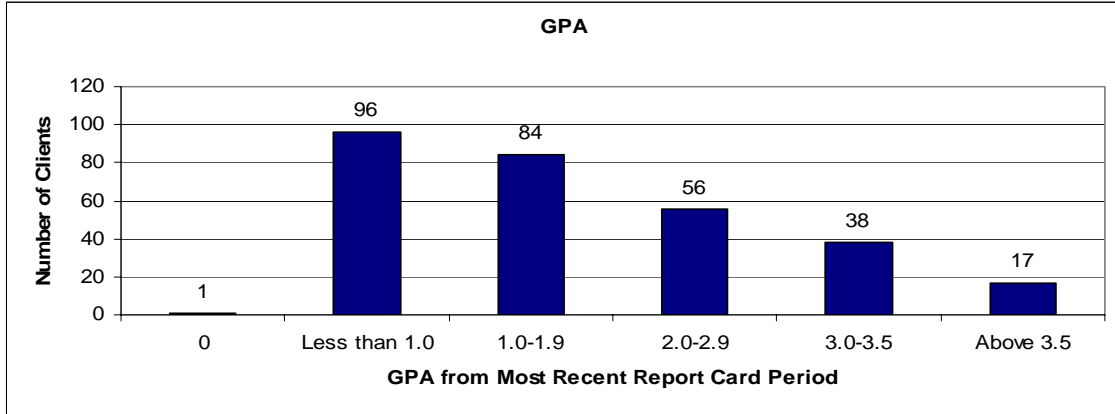
Figure 6.



Data of unexcused absences revealed that thirty-two percent of youth did not report an unexcused absence during their most recent report card period. However, roughly ten percent of clients had between one and five unexcused absences, three percent reported between six and ten unexcused absences, three percent reported between 11 and 20 unexcused absences, and four percent reported over 20 unexcused absences.

Eleven percent of clients reported having a grade point average (GPA) under 1.0, representing the most common GPA range (see Figure 7). This was followed by 10% reporting between a 1.0 and 1.9. Six percent of clients had a 2.0 to 2.9 GPA, four percent reported a 3.0 to 3.5, and less than two percent reported having a GPA above 3.5.

Figure 7.



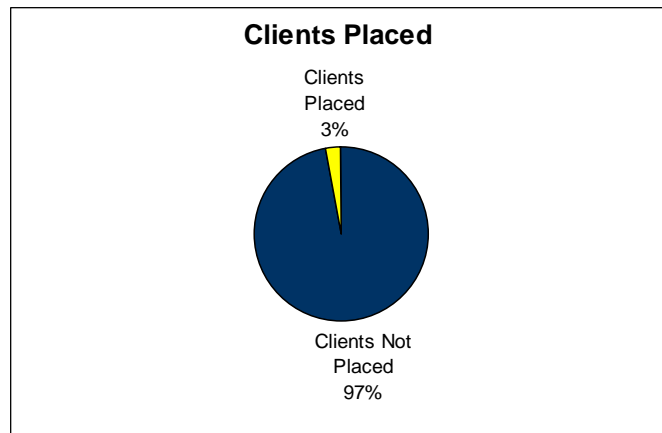
Involved with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth and the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department

At the time the client profile surveys were completed, four percent of the youth involved in the incorrigibility programs were reported to be involved with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth and four percent were reported to be involved with the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department.

**Section II: Data of Clients Placed**

The second section presents data pertaining to client profiles completed for the youth who have been served within the constellation of incorrigibility programs beginning in March 1999 through June 2002 who have been placed following program entry by Erie County Juvenile Probation or the Erie County Office of Children and Youth (N=46). Evaluation of juvenile probation and child welfare placements during the period of July 2001-July 2002 revealed that of the 1710 clients enrolled in incorrigibility programs between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2002, less than three percent of those youth had been placed during July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002 following program entry (See Figure).

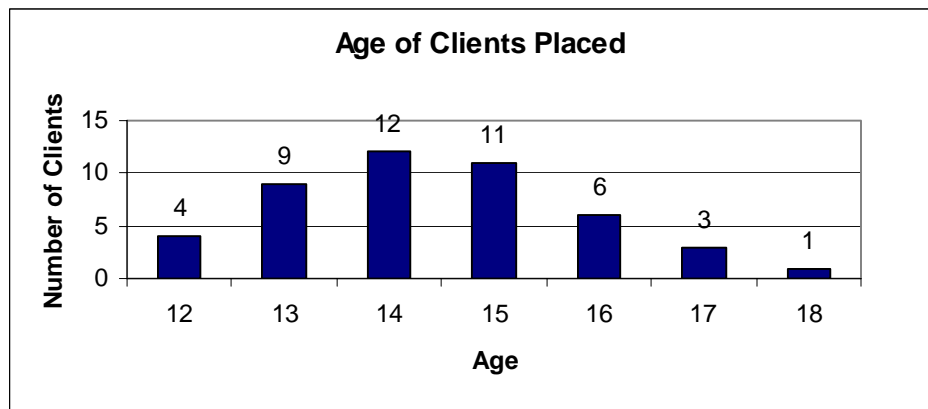
Figure 8.



Of those youth served by incorrigibility programs who have been placed, 76% were enrolled in the Alternative Education Program. The Alternative Education Program is unique from other incorrigibility initiatives in that the program receives referrals from school districts and participation is not voluntary. Sixteen percent of clients placed had been enrolled in IJDPP, four percent in the Families Together Program, two percent in ASSP, and two percent in Project Intercept. Of clients placed, 76% were referred to an incorrigibility program by the school prior to placement. Only five youth who were placed were enrolled in more than one incorrigibility program.

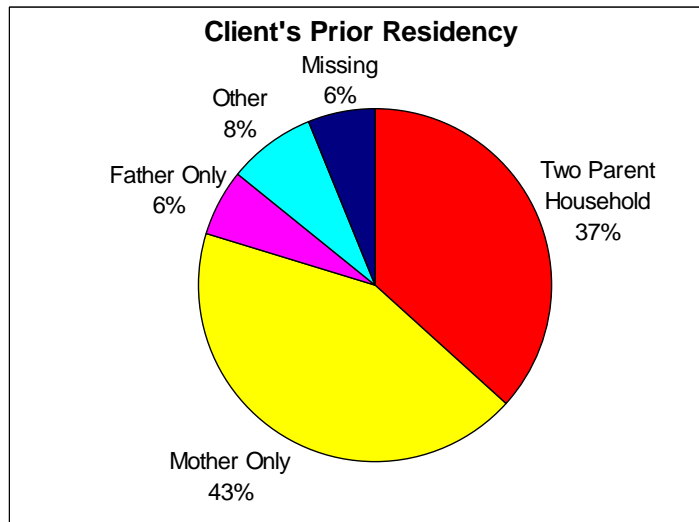
Of those clients placed, 25% were 14 years old and 24% were fifteen years old (see Figure 9), roughly 63% were male, and 49% were Caucasian.

Figure 9.



Of clients placed, 49% were reported as residing in single parent households and 37% residing in two-parent households prior to placement (see Figure 10).

Figure 10:



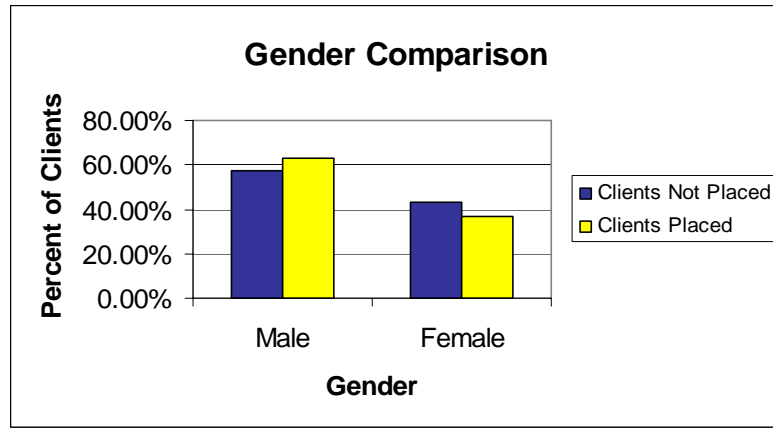
### Section III: Comparison of Clients Placed and Total Clients Served

#### Demographic Comparison

The third section offers a comparison between those youth who have been served by incorrigibility programming and have been maintained in the community/home and those youth who have been served by incorrigibility programming and have been placed through the Erie County Office of Children and Youth or Erie County Juvenile Probation.

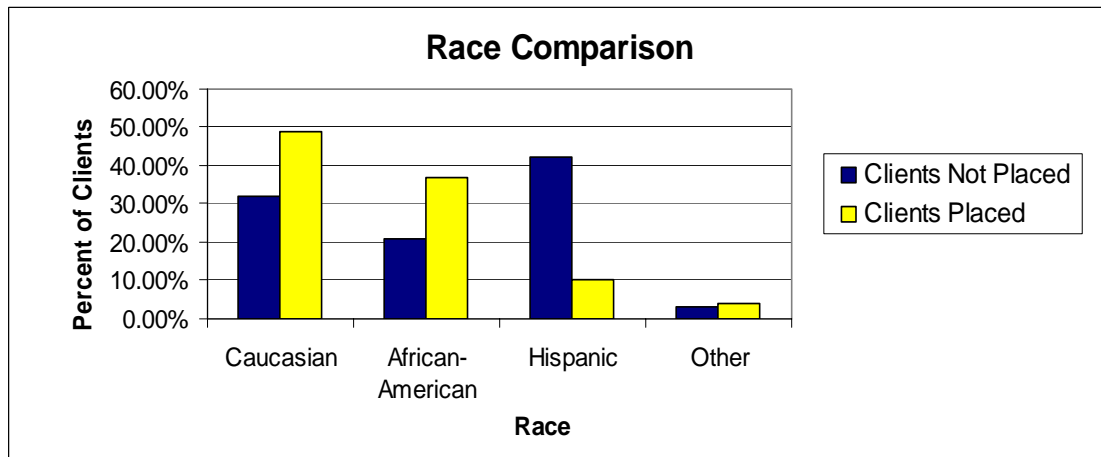
The percentage of males is slightly higher for clients who were placed than for the general client population (see Figure 11).

Figure 11.



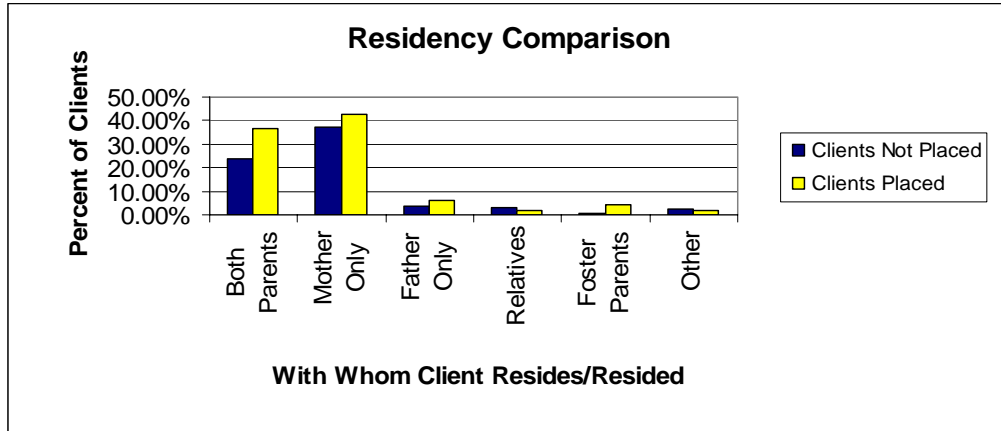
Caucasian and African American clients are placed at rates greater than their proportion of the total population served while Hispanic clients, representing roughly 41% of the total population served, are placed at a rate lower than six percent. (see Figure 12).

Figure 12.



The following data on residency comparison should be interpreted with caution due to a disproportionate amount of missing data between clients placed and clients not placed (data was not reported for 6% of clients not placed and 29% of clients placed). Based on available data, the majority of clients both placed and not placed reside with their mothers only, followed by living within a two-parent household (See Figure 13).

Figure 13.



Education Status Comparison

The number of absences, number of unexcused absences, and grade point averages of clients has not been consistently reported since the beginning of data collection. Roughly 60% of client absence data, 57% of unexcused absence data, and 74% of grade point average data was not reported for both comparison groups. Therefore, due to the significant amount of missing data, the following findings should be interpreted with great caution.

Based on available data, clients who do not miss school are much less likely to be placed than others (see Figures 14 & 15). In addition, clients who had been placed had a higher percentage of GPAs below 1.0 than the general client population (see Figure 16).

Figure 14.

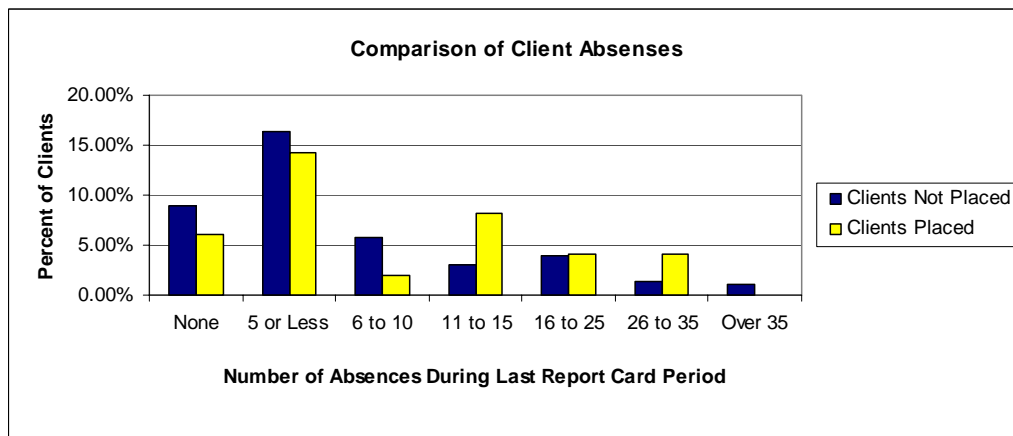


Figure 15.

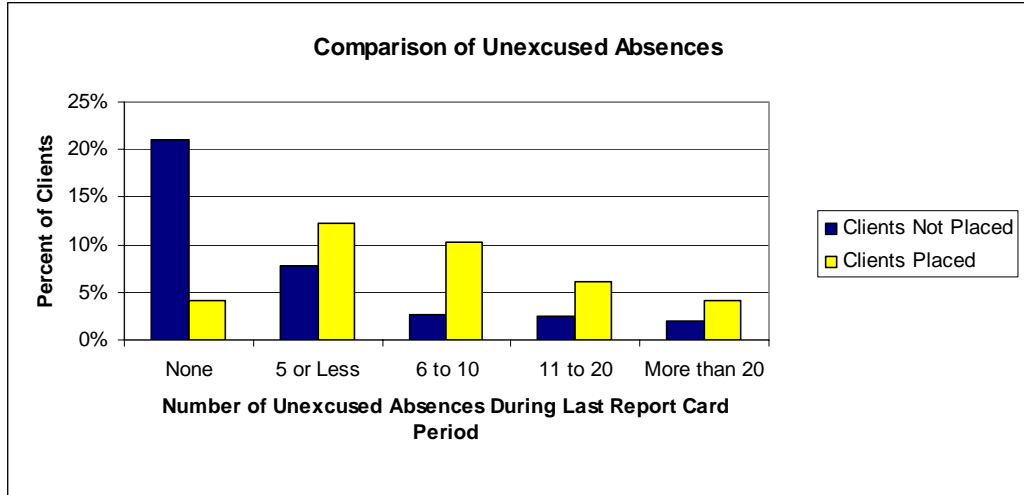
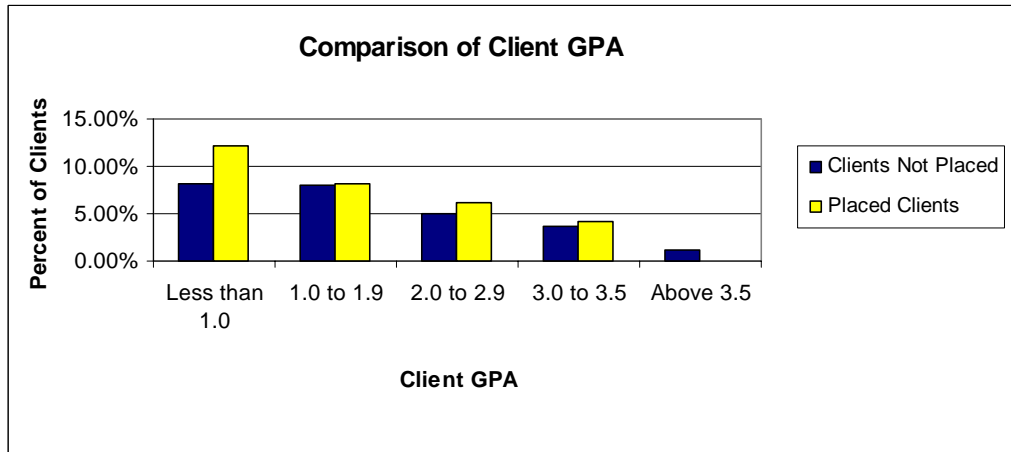


Figure 16.



Involvement with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth and the Erie County Juvenile Probation Department Comparison

Comparing client involvement with Juvenile Probation and Child Welfare, the percentage of placed clients involved with Juvenile Probation and Child Welfare at the time of incorrigibility program intake was slightly higher than that of the general client population; however, the vast majority of clients placed and total clients did not have current involvement in either system at the time of acceptance into their respective incorrigibility program (see Figures 17 & 18).

Figure 17.

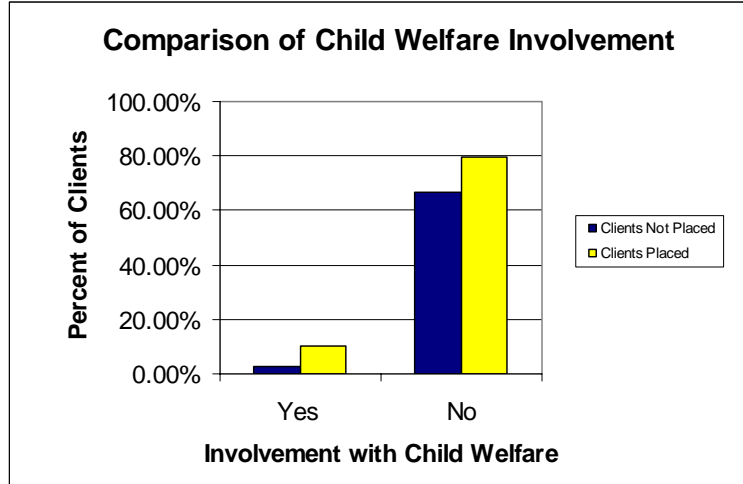
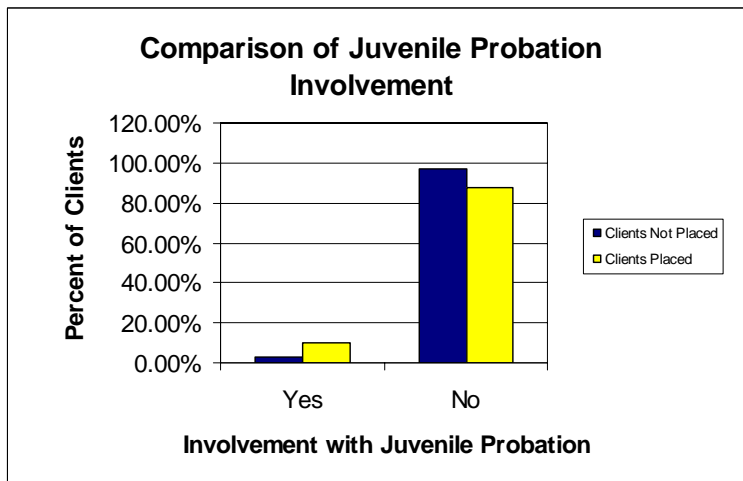


Figure 18.



Looking Ahead

Completion and submission of client profiles of youth involved in the incorrigibility spectrum will continue to be an ongoing data collection process. For the upcoming year, the goal will be to obtain completed data for all clients from all of the incorrigibility initiatives and to establish consistency of completion of all data being submitted.