

CALIBER
ASSOCIATES

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION
OF NEW INFORMATION
CONCERNING RUNAWAY AND
HOMELESS YOUTH**

FINAL REPORT

Prepared by:

Caliber Associates
10530 Rosehaven Street
Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22030

Subcontractor: Human Service Research

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ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was established to “provide national leadership on youth issues and to assist individuals and organizations in providing effective, comprehensive services for youth in at-risk situations and their families.” FYSB administers programs designed to provide positive alternatives for youth, ensure their safety, and maximize their potential to take advantage of available opportunities; generates knowledge relevant to youth in at-risk situations through research and demonstration projects; disseminates youth-related information through a national clearinghouse; and strengthens regional capacities to assist communities in supporting youth and families through training and technical assistance.

FYSB administers runaway and homeless youth grant programs established by Federal legislation dating back to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-415). Through programs such as the Basic Center Program (BCP) for Runaway and Homeless Youth, the Transitional Living Program (TLP) for Homeless Youth, and, until late 1994, the Drug Abuse Prevention Program (DAPP) for Runaway and Homeless Youth, FYSB guides local efforts to serve runaway and homeless youth populations, gathers information about this population, and disseminates information on effective practices to service providers nationwide.

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

In 1992, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) developed the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS). This comprehensive, automated information system helps FYSB’s various Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) grantees collect and maintain standardized youth and program data, with the ultimate goal of improving local programs and increasing the field’s knowledge about runaway and homeless youth and “best practices” in serving them. Under contract with FYSB, Caliber Associates recently conducted a series of analyses of the RHYMIS data collected from October 1991 through June 1995. These analyses were designed to accomplish four key objectives:

1. Develop profiles of the runaway and homeless youth using RHY programs, beginning in fiscal year 1992 through June 1995

- ? Describe RHY grantees' services and staff
- ? Compare the problems and needs of runaway and homeless youth with the services provided by FYSB grantees to identify gaps in needed services, and areas for improvement
- ? Assess the ongoing collection of management information by FYSB grantees using RHYMIS.

This report provides FYSB with information from RHYMIS that can enhance the field's understanding of runaway and homeless youth populations and the services designed to assist them. In addition, it provides a number of recommendations to guide FYSB in planning, implementing, and modifying policies, practices and programs to meet the needs of the Nation's runaway and homeless youth, including ways to improve RHYMIS.

2. DATA AND METHODS

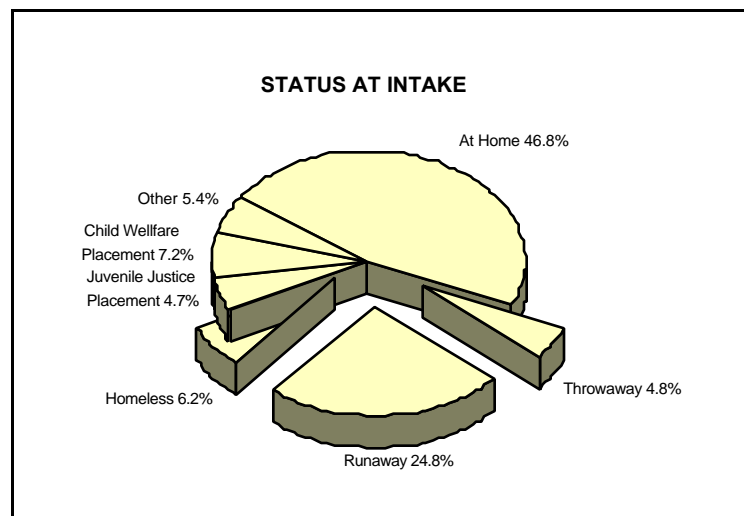
RHYMIS consists of 35 relational databases that cover a number of topics related to RHY program youth, services, and staff. Profiles of the youth served by FYSB-funded RHY programs were developed by analyzing six RHYMIS databases that contained information on youth identification, demographics, family income, services received, problems, and drug use. After eliminating duplicate, blank records, and cases missing information on key variables, the database contained records on 93,389 unique, unduplicated youth. In order to determine how RHYMIS youth compared to subgroups of youth in the general population, they were compared to youth who participated in the study *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors (YRTH)*.¹ In addition, RHYMIS databases containing information about agency funding, services offered, staff demographics, and professional discipline were analyzed to describe RHY grantee services and staff. Profiles of youth, agencies, and staff were constructed using descriptive statistics such as percentages and averages. To supplement RHYMIS data on the FYSB grantees with more qualitative information, reviews were conducted of 20 program monitoring instruments, part of FYSB's program monitoring system which provides detailed qualitative information on grantees' direct services, program development, and program administration.

¹ This study was conducted in 1992-1993 for FYSB by Research Triangle Institute in response to a Congressional mandate supporting research on drug use among runaway and homeless youth, the effect of this drug use on family members, and the relationships between drug use and youth suicide.

3. PROFILES OF YOUTH SERVED BY FYSB PROGRAMS

The typical youth who sought services from FYSB-funded RHY agencies was a white, 15 to 16-year old girl who was unmarried, had no children, and was not pregnant at the time she sought services. She was attending school regularly and working at or close to grade level (within one grade above or below the age-appropriate grade). In addition, she lived at home, had not run away from home previously, but reported being a victim of some type of maltreatment (physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect) and having used alcohol and/or drugs previously. She was likely also to report household dynamics concerns (e.g., conflict with one or both parents, parental substance abuse), psychological problems (e.g., depression, suicidal thoughts/behavior, identity issues), and/or school issues (e.g., poor grades, attendance problems, conflict with teachers).

Youth receiving services from FYSB-funded programs came to the host agencies for various reasons. Almost half still lived at home at the time of intake by the agency, but many had run away from home, been “kicked out” of their homes, or were homeless for other reasons. A small proportion of the youth served by these agencies came to FYSB-funded programs from a juvenile justice or child welfare placement. The chart below presents further information on runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth.



Comparisons of youth in RHYMIS to youth included in the YRTH study indicated that RHYMIS youth differed on several key characteristics. RHYMIS youth overall were slightly older than youth in the general population and were somewhat more likely to be female. RHYMIS youth also were more likely than youth in the general population to have run away previously and less likely to be enrolled in school.

Comparisons of youth by Federal Region found few differences. Differences in the ethnic makeup of youth served reflect regional differences in the general population (e.g., Region 9, which includes the States of California, Arizona, and Nevada, had the highest proportion of Hispanic youth).

Analyses of potential gaps between youth needs and agency services provided found that more than eight in ten youth needing counseling/therapy received it, regardless of which particular problem they experienced. Slightly less than half of youth needing alcohol/drug prevention, life skills training, or recreation received these services. About one in four youth needing health services received them. Less than one in ten youth who might have benefited from support groups, legal services, or employment assistance received these services. These gaps between youth needs and services received may have occurred for any of the following reasons:

- ? Many youth had only short-term involvement with RHY programs, thus precluding services that require lengthy time commitments (e.g., educational support).
- ? Youth may have chosen not to use recommended available services.
- ? Youth may have had difficulty accessing recommended services (e.g., services offered through referrals may have been provided at a distant location).

Gaps suggested by these analyses also may be a function of the way RHYMIS recorded information on youth problems and services received.

Although RHYMIS collects only limited “outcome” information at program exit, analyses showed positive outcomes for many youth: 57 percent of all the youth completed their respective programs and 46 percent of the youth aged 19 and under were attending school regularly at exit from the program. Youth who stayed in programs for longer periods (15 to 530 days) had better outcomes than did youth in programs for 2 weeks or less.

4. AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO YOUTH

The vast majority of FYSB-funded agencies provided services in all of the 13 RHYMIS-specified service areas. Regional comparisons of service availability show that, overall, practically all agencies in each Region provide services in all 13 service areas, either directly or through referrals. Agency staff profiles indicate that 70% of agency staff were female; 56% held a bachelor's degree or higher, most commonly in psychology, counseling, and social work; 56% had 2 or more years experience in RHY service; 74% provide program services; and 57% work full-time for their agency. The review of program monitoring instruments indicate that overall, most programs were rated Excellent or Very Good on most dimensions.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes key findings from the analyses and their implications for FYSB. The implications of these findings include:

- ? FYSB may need to review service delivery criteria and agency outreach efforts to ensure that they are, in fact, serving their target population (i.e., runaway and homeless youth).
- ? Analyses of youth problems support FYSB's comprehensive youth development model for program services and activities, which views youth as maturing individuals with needs in multiple areas.
- ? Educational services or services that address underlying school problems appear to be key needs of the population served by FYSB-funded programs.
- ? Some youth did not receive the key services indicated by their problems, but the reasons for these apparent service delivery gaps are not clear from RHYMIS data.
- ? Technical problems with RHYMIS may have presented a substantial barrier to use by many agencies.
- ? RHYMIS could be modified to make it more useful to individual grantees.

Finally, if FYSB intends RHYMIS to be a performance measurement tool, as well as a management information system, then additional information on youth developmental strengths and youth outcomes should be collected. The added information provided by these items would help document ongoing RHY program effectiveness.

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was to “provide national leadership on youth issues and to assist individuals and organizations in providing effective, comprehensive services for youth in at-risk situations and their families.” FYSB administers programs designed to provide positive alternatives for youth, ensure their safety, and maximize their potential to take advantage of available opportunities; generates knowledge relevant to youth in at-risk situations through research and demonstration projects; disseminates youth-related information through a national clearinghouse; and strengthens regional capacities to assist communities in supporting youth and families through training and technical assistance.

Since its inception, one of the Agency’s major goals has been to meet the needs of the nation’s runaway and homeless youth population through grant programs and research projects. As shown in Exhibit I-1, FYSB administers runaway and homeless youth grant programs established by Federal legislation dating back to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-415). Through programs such as the Basic Center Program (BCP) for Runaway and Homeless Youth, the Transitional Living Program (TLP) for Homeless Youth, and, until late 1994, the Drug Abuse Prevention Program (DAPP) for Runaway and Homeless Youth, FYSB guides local efforts to serve runaway and homeless youth populations, gathers information about this population, and disseminates information on effective practices to service providers nationwide.

In response to the 1992 Amendment to Title III of the JJDP Act (P.L. 102-586), which mandated the development of a national reporting system, FYSB developed the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS). This comprehensive, automated information system helps FYSB’s various Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) grantees collect and maintain standardized youth and program data, with the ultimate goal of improving local programs and increasing the field’s knowledge about runaway and homeless youth and “best practices” in serving them. Using MIS software provided by FYSB, local agencies collect and enter data about their staff and services, as well as the youth served.

Under contract with FYSB, Caliber Associates recently conducted a series of analyses of the RHYMIS data collected from October 1991 through June 1995. The primary goal of these analyses was to provide baseline information on the youth served by FYSB-funded runaway and homeless youth programs, the services provided by grantees, and the staff employed by grantees.

EXHIBIT I-1 FYSB'S LEGISLATIVE HISTORY		
YEAR	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	IMPACT FOR FYSB
1974	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) (P.L. 93-415) Title III is the Runaway Youth Act	? Established Basic Center Program for runaway youth <i>(funded through FY77)</i>
	Amend JJDP Title III (P.L. 95-115)	? Expanded Basic Center Program to include homeless youth ? Offered technical assistance to service providers <i>(funded through FY80)</i>
1980	Amend JJDP Title III (P.L. 96-509)	? Changed title to "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act" ? Required grants to be distributed based upon population under 18 ? Expanded services to families ? Created national communication system, including the Runaway Hotline <i>(funded through FY84)</i>
1984	Amended by Comprehensive Crime Control Act (P.L. 98-473)	? Gave Secretary of DHHS authority to provide information to potential new grantees <i>(funded through FY88)</i>
1988	Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Title III, Subtitle B of P.L. 100-690)	? Established the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth ? Established the Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program Relating to Youth Gangs ? Established funding levels for Basic Centers, States, and Territories
	Amend JJDP Title III	? Authorized grants for research, demonstration, and service projects ? Created the Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth <i>(funded through FY92)</i>
1991	Amend Anti-Drug Abuse Act (P.L. 102-132)	? Re-authorized the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth ? Re-authorized the Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program Relating to Youth Gangs ? Required submission of annual report to Congress on the Drug Abuse Education and Prevention Program Relating to Youth Gangs <i>(funded through FY94)</i>
1992	Amend JJDP Title III (P.L. 102-586)	? Authorized street outreach for youth and home-based services for families ? Established State funding level minimums at \$100,000 and Territories at \$45,000 for Basic Center Programs ? Established the National Reporting System (RHYMIS) ? Authorized temporary demonstration projects to provide services to rural youth <i>(funded through FY96)</i>
1994	Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322)	? Created Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Grant Program
	Amend JJDP Title III	? Created Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth <i>(funded through FY98, pending re-authorization of JJDP)</i>
1995	Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Additional Disaster Assistance, for Anti-Terrorism Initiatives, for Assistance in the Recovery from the Tragedy that Occurred at Oklahoma City, and Rescissions Act, (P.L. 104-19)	? Rescinded \$15.9 million from the Community Schools Youth Services and Supervision Grant Program's FY95 authorization ? Mandated remaining funds to be used only for entrepreneurship, academic, or tutorial programs, or workforce preparation
1996	Appropriation	? Funded Community Schools programs at \$12.8 million and added a drug prevention focus

One key set of analyses compares the problems and needs of runaway and homeless youth with the services provided by FYSB grantees in order to identify gaps in needed services, as well as areas for improvement. This report presents the key findings from these analyses. This chapter provides an overview of FYSB, the RHY programs, RHYMIS, and key study objectives.

1. OVERVIEW OF THE FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU AND ITS PROGRAMS

Through its grant programs and research activities, FYSB sets the national agenda for youth at risk by exploring the needs of youth in at-risk situations, supporting locally-based youth programs that implement best practices, evaluating service delivery procedures used in the field, disseminating lessons learned to the field and the general public, and recommending proven and promising approaches and policies to Congress. The majority of FYSB's programs and research activities have been designed to assist community-based organizations in meeting the needs of three high risk youth populations:

- ? **Runaway**?a youth who, by his/her own decision, is away from home or place of legal residence at least overnight, generally without the knowledge of the parent or legal guardian in charge of the youth's supervision.
- ? **Homeless**?a youth who is in need of services and is without a place of shelter where he/she can receive supervision and care.
- ? **Throwaway**?a youth who has been forced to leave his/her place of legal residence and whose legal guardians or parent figures refuse to assume any further responsibility for his/her care and well-being.

Assistance is provided to these youth through three programs?the Basic Center Program, the Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth, and the Drug Abuse Prevention Program¹ for Runaway and Homeless Youth. Together, these grant programs and research projects constitute the Federally-supported Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) system.

To monitor the increasing size and complexity of RHY programs and services, FYSB developed the Federally-mandated Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) in 1992. RHYMIS was designed to facilitate the collection, analysis, and reporting of youth and program data for the three RHY programs at both local and national levels. Local agencies administering one or more of these FYSB programs submit quarterly youth

¹ Federal funding for DAPP ended in 1994.

and program data for inclusion in the RHYMIS database. The remainder of this section describes these three FYSB-funded RHY programs and the RHYMIS database.

1.1 Basic Center Program

The cornerstone of FYSB's RHY system is the Basic Center Program (BCP) for Runaway and Homeless Youth, which was authorized by Title III of the JJDP Act (the Runaway Youth Act), as amended in 1977. This program supports local agencies that provide crisis intervention services to runaway and homeless youth under age 18 who are outside the traditional juvenile justice and law enforcement systems. Program grants, which are awarded for up to 3 years, are used to establish, maintain, and enhance local, short-term (up to 15 days) emergency shelters that provide runaway and homeless youth temporary living facilities, food, clothing, counseling, outreach efforts, recreation programs, aftercare, access to community resources, and other related services. The Program's primary goal is to reunite these youth with their families or, when reunification is not an option, provide alternative placements.

FYSB awards discretionary grants annually for the BCP on a competitive basis. Between October 1992 and June 1995, up to \$40 million was available annually for the BCP and was awarded to more than 340 program grantees each year located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories. Funding was provided to community-based organizations ranging from free-standing, single-purpose emergency youth shelters to multi-purpose service agencies.

1.2 Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth

An Amendment to Title III of the JJDP Act in 1988 established the Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth (TLP). This program supports local agencies that provide comprehensive services and supervised living arrangements for up to 18 months to runaway and homeless youth ages 16 to 21 who require longer-term solutions than are provided through the BCP. TLP's goal is to promote the youth's successful transition to self-sufficiency and prevent their long-term dependence on social services. The youth receive life skills training; education, information, and counseling to prevent, treat, and reduce substance abuse; access to medical and mental health services; and referrals for employment and job training.

FYSB awards 3-year discretionary grants for the TLP on a competitive basis. Between October 1992 and June 1995, up to \$13 million was available annually to support, on average, 80 direct-service grantees located across the country. The majority of local agencies administering

TLPs are multi-purpose youth services organizations that also receive FYSB funding to operate temporary shelter and counseling services for runaway and homeless youth.

1.3 Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Title III, Subtitle B of P.L. 100-690) established DAPP. FYSB administered the program from 1988 until September 1994, when Congressional support for this program ended. Most DAPPs were offered as components of BCPs and/or TLPs. Their goal was to reduce drug use among runaway and homeless youth and their families through community-based prevention and intervention services. While DAPP services were tailored to the needs of the community, the core set of services included: individual, group, and family counseling; peer counseling; community education; community support groups and other support services. In addition to direct services, several DAPP projects focused on research and evaluation of drug prevention strategies.

Approximately \$15 million was available annually for DAPP. These funds supported approximately 110 DAPP grants per year. Funding recipients included BCP and/or TLP grantees and other community-based organizations serving homeless and runaway youth.

1.4 Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS)

RHYMIS is a comprehensive, automated information system designed to assist local agencies implementing FYSB's RHY programs in collecting and maintaining standard youth and program data that can be used to help monitor and improve program services and gather information on "best practices." Authorized by the 1992 Amendment to Title III of the JJDP Act (P.L. 102-586), RHYMIS provides a two-part, computer-based protocol that captures both client (youth) and agency information:

- ? **Part I—Youth profiles.** For each youth served by the agency, program staff complete a data collection form covering demographics (e.g., age, race, sex, employment status, living situation), household situation (e.g., number and type of household members), problems and needs experienced by the youth (e.g., child abuse, substance abuse), and services received (i.e., services provided by the agency and referrals to outside services). Demographic information is gathered during the intake interview with the youth. More sensitive information is gathered following the intake interview and, when possible, interviews are conducted with other family members. Some parts of the youth profile are updated at 3-month intervals (e.g., youth problems) or at program exit, whichever comes first.

- ? **Part II—Agency profiles.** Each agency also completes a computerized agency profile, providing information on the types of services offered to runaway and homeless youth, the qualifications and numbers of agency staff, agency-sponsored community educational events, promotional/instructional materials used by the agency, and coordinating agency information.

In fiscal year 1992, FYSB awarded a contract to implement and manage the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System across the BCP, TLP, and DAPP programs. In the following year, grantees were provided with training on the use of RHYMIS. Since that time, local agencies have submitted youth and agency data on a quarterly basis. Approximately 116,000 unique youth records and 256 grantee agency profiles were included in the RHYMIS data that Caliber received to conduct this study.

2. STUDY OBJECTIVES

The analysis of early RHYMIS data was designed to accomplish four key objectives:

- ? Develop profiles of the runaway and homeless youth served by local agencies that administered BCP, TLP, and DAPP programs beginning in fiscal year 1992 through June 1995
- ? Describe BCP, TLP, and DAPP grantees' services and staff
- ? Compare the problems and needs of runaway and homeless youth with the services provided by FYSB grantees to identify gaps in needed services, and areas for improvement
- ? Assess the ongoing collection of management information by FYSB grantees using RHYMIS.

In addressing these objectives, this report provides FYSB with information from RHYMIS that can enhance the field's understanding of runaway and homeless youth populations and the services designed to assist them. In addition, it provides a number of recommendations to guide FYSB in planning, implementing, and modifying policies, practices and programs to meet the needs of the Nation's runaway and homeless youth, including ways to improve RHYMIS.

The remainder of this final project report is organized into the following chapters:

- ? **Chapter II—Data and Methods**, describes the data sources and methodology used in this analysis

- ? **Chapter III—Youth Profiles**, summarizes the characteristics of youth receiving FYSB program services, compares different youth groups (by intake status) and youth from the ten Federal Regions, assesses whether youth received the services they needed, and describes youth outcomes related to the services provided
- ? **Chapter IV—Agencies Providing Services to Youth**, summarizes services provided by the local grantees, and describes characteristics of agency staff
- ? **Chapter V—Conclusions and Recommendations**, discusses the implications of the analysis for FYSB policies, practices and program priorities, and makes recommendations for enhancement of RHYMIS.

A copy of the RHYMIS youth and agency data collection instruments are provided in the Appendix.

II. DATA AND METHODS

This chapter describes the methodology used to analyze RHYMIS data collected from October 1992 through June 1995. It is organized into sections that describe how the following study objectives were accomplished:

- ? Profile youth served by FYSB Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs, including their demographic characteristics, problem areas, services received, and program outcomes experienced
- ? Compare youth served by FYSB RHY programs to youth participating in the *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences Study* conducted for FYSB by the Research Triangle Institute in 1992 and 1993
- ? Describe FYSB-funded RHY grantee services and staff.

The information gained from each of these analyses provides a portrait of the clients served by FYSB grantees, the services provided to these clients, and the staff who provide the services.

1. PROFILING YOUTH SERVED BY FYSB-FUNDED RHY PROGRAMS

RHYMIS consists of 35 relational databases that cover a number of topics related to RHY program youth, services, and staff, as shown in Exhibit II-1. Caliber developed profiles of the youth served by FYSB-funded RHY programs by analyzing six of the RHYMIS databases that contained information on youth identification (YOUTH_ID), demographics (LOG), family income (Y_INCOME), services received (Y_SERV2), problems (Y_PROB), and drug use (YP_DRUG). These databases contained a total of 135,993 youth records, including some duplicate and virtually empty records. The following steps were taken to create an analysis database comprising unique youth with adequate data:

- ? From the original 135,993 youth records, 19,798 were deleted to eliminate duplicates. Only the first record was used for youth who had more than one record in the database.² This resulted in a database containing records on 116,195 unique, unduplicated youth.

² Youth with more than one record may have received more than one series of services during the data collection period (i.e., after exiting the program, the youth return). To develop an accurate representation of the population served, we eliminated the subsequent records for returning youth to prevent duplicate counts.

EXHIBIT II-1 DATABASES INCLUDED IN THE RHYMIS SYSTEM	
DATABASE NAME	DATABASE CONTENTS
Youth Profile Databases	
YOUTH_ID	Youth's identification number, name, and date of birth
LOG	Youth demographic information, including program entry and discharge dates
DEMO	Youth demographic information, including gender, living situation, and runaway status
Y_INCOME	Youth Unearned Income information
Y_LANG	Youth Language information
Y_MEMB	Number of each type of family member that is in the youth's household
Y_REFER	Information on how youth heard about the agency
Y_SERV1	Number of each type of family member that participates in youth's services
Y_SERV2	Information about services provided to youth
YP_DRUG	Youth's suicidal and drug problem information as recorded on the Problems and Assessments form
Y_PROB	Youth's problem information
CONTACT	Youth's contact address
Y_CONT	Information about youth contact person
Agency Databases	
AGENCY	Information about the Agency, including fiscal year being reported, addresses, director, and parent organization
AGE_PART	Program information, including bed capacities, number of youth served, and program descriptions
AGEGRANT	Information about Agency's Program grant
AGE_SERV	Services provided by Program
A_FUND	Program funding sources
A_MARKET	Program marketing strategies
A_STAFF	Program staff members
A_TRAIN	Information about how the Program supports staff training

EXHIBIT II-1 (Continued)	
DATABASES INCLUDED IN THE RHYMIS SYSTEM	
DATABASE NAME	DATABASE CONTENTS
Staff Databases	
STAFF	Basic demographics and employment characteristics of each staff member
SITRAIN	Topics of internal training received by each staff member
SOTRAIN	Topics of external training received by each staff member
S_LANG	Staff member's language knowledge
S_STUDY	Staff member's field(s) of study
Coordinating Agency Profile Databases	
COORDIN	Address and location information about Coordinating Agency
COOR_SER	Services provided by Coordinating Agency
Community Education Events Databases	
EVENT	Description of community education events
E_OCCUR	Where and when community education events took place, and number of people who attended
E_TOPIC	Topic of community education events
E_WHOM	Target audience of community education events
Promotional/Instruction Material Databases	
A_MEDIA	Description of promotional/instructional material items
AM_TOPIC	Topic of promotional/instructional material items
AM_WHOM	Target audience of promotional/instructional material items

- 2 Another 22,797 youth then were excluded from the database because of missing information on key variables (i.e., runaway/homeless status at intake, gender, and problem information). This resulted in a database containing information on 93,395 youth, from which six additional cases were excluded because they had duplicate identification numbers, resulting in a final youth analysis database of 93,389 youth.

Excluding youth from the database did not decrease the representativeness of the profiles developed through these analyses. The 93,389 youth remaining in the database were compared on all possible variables to the 22,803 youth who were excluded, and, as shown in Exhibit II-2, no substantive differences between the two groups were found.³

³ Large percentages of missing data precluded the use of some variables.

EXHIBIT II-2 COMPARISON OF YOUTH INCLUDED AND EXCLUDED FROM FINAL DATASET		
	Youth Included In Final Analysis Dataset (N=93,389)	Youth Excluded From Final Analysis Dataset (N=22,803)
Age		
Mean	15.1 years	15.3 years
Median	15 years	15 years
Number of missing cases	586	889
Percent of cases missing	0.6%	3.9%
Living Situation in Previous Month		
With parents	64.2%	59.6%
Foster home	3.4%	3.0%
On the run	4.3%	3.5%
All others	28.1%	33.9%
Number of missing cases	1,897	11,084
Percent of cases missing	2.0%	48.5%
Runaway/Homeless Status		
At home	46.8%	40.6%
Runaway	24.8%	19.2%
Throwaway	4.8%	3.3%
Homeless	6.2%	7.3%
JJ Placement	4.7%	2.8%
Child Welfare Placement	7.2%	4.9%
Other	5.4%	21.9%
Number of missing cases	0	11,235
Percent of cases missing	0%	49.3%
Gender		
Female	56.2%	53.8%
Male	43.8%	46.2%
Number of missing cases	0	6,080
Percent of cases missing	0%	26.7%
Ethnicity		
White	61.3%	54.3%
African American	21.7%	21.3%
Hispanic	11.9%	16.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.5%	5.6%
Native American	2.7%	2.5%
Number of missing cases	503	6,674
Percent of cases missing	0.5%	29.3%

Descriptive statistical procedures, including frequencies, cross-tabulations, and averages, were performed on the final youth database to develop descriptions of the typical youth served by FYSB-funded RHY programs. All percentages reported are based on either the total sample of 93,389 youth or the appropriate subsample (e.g., only females over the age of 10 were included in calculating the prevalence of pregnancy among youth at intake). Youth with missing data on some particular item were not excluded when percentages were calculated. Including youth with missing data in the calculation of percentages ensured that the percentages reported provided a conservative measure of the prevalence of the characteristic of interest. The level of missing data for each element, also reported as a percentage of the total in these analyses, is one measure of the quality of the RHYMIS data.

2. COMPARE YOUTH SERVED BY FYSB’S RHY PROGRAMS TO YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY *YOUTH WITH RUNAWAY, THROWAWAY, AND HOMELESS EXPERIENCES: PREVALENCE, DRUG USE, AND OTHER AT-RISK BEHAVIORS*

Youth served by FYSB’s RHY programs were compared to youth who participated in the study *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors (YRTH)*.⁴ These comparisons were conducted to determine how RHYMIS youth compared to subgroups of youth in the general population. These comparative analyses were based on information from four data sources:

- ? RHYMIS youth analysis database (N=93,389), as described above
- ? YRTH shelter component—a nationally representative survey of 640 youth aged 12-21 residing in 23 Federally and non-Federally funded youth shelters
- ? YRTH street component—a purposive sample of 600 youth found on the streets or in other public places in 10 urban areas
- ? YRTH at-home component—a nationally representative sample of 6,496 youth aged 12-17 from the 1992-1993 Youth Risk Behavior Supplement of the National Health Interview Survey.

⁴ This study was conducted in 1992-1993 for FYSB by Research Triangle Institute in response to a Congressional mandate supporting research on drug use among runaway and homeless youth, the effect of this drug use on family members, and the relationships between drug use and youth suicide.

Comparisons were made of the distributions of demographic characteristics, substance use reports, and youth problems for the four groups of youth. Descriptive statistics reported include means and percentages.

In order to compare RHYMIS and YRTH youth, the RHYMIS youth were categorized by their status at intake (i.e., at-home, runaway, throwaway, or homeless) and matched to the relevant comparison YRTH study component. Basic demographic comparisons were made between RHYMIS at-home youth aged 12-17 and the YRTH at-home component to determine how RHYMIS youth compare to the general youth population. RHYMIS runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth were compared to the YRTH shelter and street components on demographics, substance abuse, and problem areas to assess the differences between RHYMIS youth and youth found on the street and to determine if RHYMIS youth differ substantively from other youth seeking services at youth shelters.

3. DESCRIBE FYSB-FUNDED RHY GRANTEE SERVICES AND STAFF

Descriptions of FYSB-funded RHY grantee services and staff were developed through the analysis of five RHYMIS databases containing information about agency funding (AGEGRANT, A_FUND), services offered (AGE_SERV), staff demographics (STAFF), and staff field of study (S_STUDY). These databases contained records on 292 unique agencies. Some agencies reported only on staff, some only on funding sources, and some only on services provided. To maximize the information available for analysis, three analysis databases were constructed, each containing the maximum number of agencies for which relevant data were available: a funding database, a service database, and a staff database. The analysis databases have the following characteristics:

- ? Funding database—composed of funding information from 192 unique agencies funded in fiscal years 1993 (131) and 1994 (132).⁵ Fiscal years 1993 and 1994 were selected for this analysis because very few agencies reported for years prior to 1993, and yearly reporting had not been completed in FY 1995 when the data were downloaded for this analysis.
- ? Service database—composed of the 166 agencies in the funding database that also provided information on the services they provide. This database also is restricted to fiscal years 1993 (98 agencies) and 1994 (122 agencies).⁶
- ? Staff database—composed of staff information from 288 agencies, not restricted by fiscal year.

⁵ Of the 192 unduplicated agencies, 71 have both FY 1993 and FY 1994 data.

⁶ Of the 166 agencies in this database, 54 have both FY 1993 and FY 1994 data.

Profiles of the agencies, the services they provide, and their staff were constructed using descriptive statistical techniques including percentages and averages.

To supplement RHYMIS data on the FYSB grantees with more qualitative information, a sample of program monitoring instruments also was reviewed. This monitoring instrument is designed to record the findings of a comprehensive monitoring support system implemented by FYSB in 1992. The monitoring instrument provides detailed qualitative information on the grantees' direct services, program development and program administration. Under this system, review teams composed of a peer monitor and a Federal staff member (usually from the Regional office) conduct site visits to each grantee once during the 3-year grant period. These peer review teams gather information through program stakeholder interviews and focus groups, direct observations, and document reviews, using the protocols and data collection forms provided in the monitoring instrument.

Program monitoring instruments from 48 grantees in six Regions were available for analysis. Of the grantees represented by these instruments, all 48 had a BCP; 9 also had a TLP, while 11 had a DAPP.⁷ Twenty monitoring instruments with the most complete information were selected for review.⁸

Key findings from the analyses described above are presented in the following chapters. Chapter III profiles the youth served by FYSB's RHY programs and Chapter IV profiles the agencies serving them.

⁷ A program monitoring instrument was also received from a grantee with DAPP funding only. This instrument was excluded.

⁸ Some grantees reported that they had only partially completed the monitoring instrument because of its length. Other grantees used the monitoring instrument only as a guide for their program review, the development of the summary report, and/or the identification of training and technical assistance needs. Monitoring instruments with the most complete summary question sections were selected for review.

III. PROFILES OF YOUTH SERVED BY FYSB PROGRAMS

This chapter presents detailed profiles of youth receiving services from Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). It is organized into the following five sections:

- ? Profile of all youth receiving services
- ? Profiles of youth whose status at intake into the program was described as at-risk, runaway, homeless, throwaway, Juvenile Justice placement, or Child Welfare placement
- ? Profiles of youth from the 10 Federal Regions
- ? Analysis of youth needs and services
- ? Analysis of youth outcomes.

These analyses were conducted using RHYMIS data on 93,389 youth collected from October 1991 through June 1995. The data for these youth come from 349 unique agencies receiving FYSB funding.⁹

1. PROFILE OF ALL YOUTH RECEIVING SERVICES

This section presents a general profile of youth who received services at agencies funded through the FYSB programs. Profiles include information on demographic characteristics, runaway history, living situation, family characteristics, education and employment status, and youth problem areas.

The analyses indicate that the typical youth who sought services from these agencies was a white, 15 to 16-year old girl who was unmarried, had no children, and was not pregnant at the time she sought services. She was attending school regularly and working at or close to grade level (within one grade above or below the age-appropriate grade). In addition, she lived at home, had not run away from home previously, but reported being a victim of some type of maltreatment (physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect) and having used alcohol and/or drugs previously. She was likely also to report household dynamics concerns (e.g., conflict with

⁹ For a more detailed description of the methods used to develop the youth analysis database, refer to Chapter II, Section 1.

one or both parents, parental substance abuse), psychological problems (e.g., depression, suicidal thoughts/behavior, identity issues), and/or school issues (e.g., poor grades, attendance problems, conflict with teachers).

The following sections provide detailed information on youth who sought services from FYSB-funded agencies.

1.1 Demographic Characteristics

Youth receiving services from FYSB-funded programs were:

- ? Predominantly between the ages of 15 and 17 years (82%), although they were as young as 5 and as old as 24
- ? More likely to be female (56%)
- ? Most often White (61%) or African American (22%)
- ? Unmarried (99%), childless (98%), and if female, not pregnant (85%).

Exhibit III-1 on the following page presents detailed information on age, sex, and ethnicity of the youth. Exhibit III-2 presents information on marital and parental status for all youth over the age of 12, and pregnancy information for all females over the age of 10.¹⁰

1.2 Living Situation at Program Intake

Almost half (47%) of all youth entering FYSB-funded programs were still living at home. An additional quarter had run away from home. Other youth were homeless, throwaway, emancipated, and child welfare or juvenile justice system placements. Exhibit III-3 displays the status at intake of all youth. Among those who were still living at home at intake (N=38,535):

- ? 89 percent had primarily lived with their parents or legal guardian for most of the past year.

¹⁰ Females are asked if they are pregnant; male youth are asked if their female sexual partner was pregnant. Records for 1.7 percent of male youth over ten years of age indicated a positive response. For 6.3 percent of the male youth over 10 years old, records indicate that the agency staff did not know if the youth's female sexual partner was pregnant.

- ? 77 percent had lived in only one place (i.e., had not moved around) in the month prior to intake.
- ? 88 percent had been living with their parents or legal guardian just prior to program intake.
- ? 33 percent had run away from home in the past.

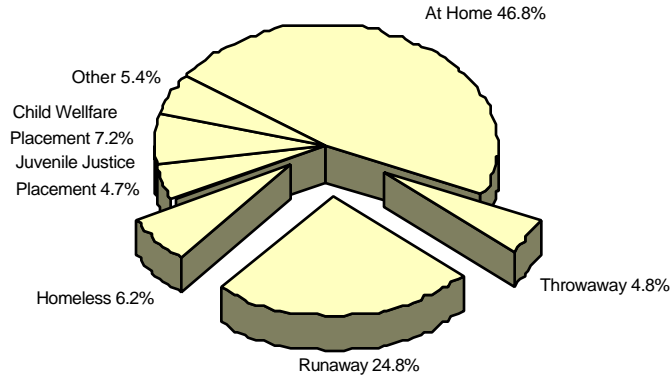
EXHIBIT III-1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH RECEIVING SERVICES		
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
AGE		
Under 10	1,100	1.1%
10	900	1.0
11	1,811	1.9
12	3,989	4.3
13	9,118	9.8
14	15,275	16.4
15	19,414	20.8
16	18,442	19.7
17	14,333	15.3
18	5,992	6.4
Over 18	3,015	2.6
Missing Data	<u>586</u>	<u>0.6</u>
Total	93,389	100.0%
SEX		
Female	52,516	56.2%
Male	<u>40,873</u>	<u>43.8</u>
Total	93,389	100.0%
ETHNICITY		
White	56,906	60.9%
African American	20,163	21.6
Hispanic	11,030	11.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,311	2.5
Native American	2,476	2.7
Missing Data	<u>503</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Total	93,389	100.0%

EXHIBIT III-2					
MARITAL/PARENTAL STATUS OF YOUTH RECEIVING SERVICES					
	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
Marital status of youth 14 to 17 years of age					
Married	0.1%	(36)	0.2%	(87)	123
Not Married	98.8%	(27,746)	98.8%	(38,926)	66,672
Other, Not Specified	0.4%	(120)	0.4%	(144)	264
Missing Data	0.6%	(162)	0.6%	(243)	405
(Subtotal)					67,464
Under 14 Years of Age					16,918
Over 17 years of Age					<u>8,421</u>
(Total)					93,389
Youth 14 to 17 years of age having one or more children					
Yes	2.0%	(549)	3.4%	(1,320)	1,869
No	98.0%	(27,503)	96.6%	(38,069)	65,572
Missing Data	0.0%	(12)	0.0%	(11)	23
(Subtotal)					67,464
Under 14 Years of Age					16,918
Over 17 Years of Age					<u>8,421</u>
(Total)					93,389
Female youth 10 years or older is pregnant					
Yes			4.4%	(1,741)	1,741
No			83.8%	(33,016)	33,016
Don't Know ¹			10.8%	(4,268)	4,268
Missing Data			0.9%	(375)	375
(Subtotal)					39,400
Females Under 14 years of Age					8,478
Females Over 17 Years of Age					4,332
Male					<u>39,926</u>
(Total)					93,389

¹ Either the female youth or agency staff reported that they did not know if the youth was pregnant at intake.

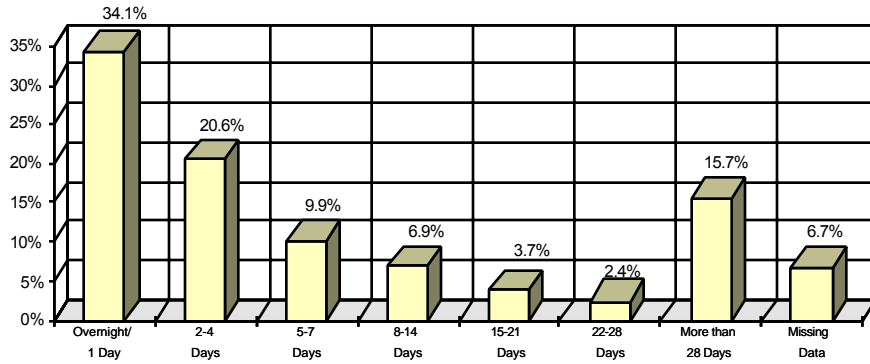
EXHIBIT III-3

STATUS AT INTAKE

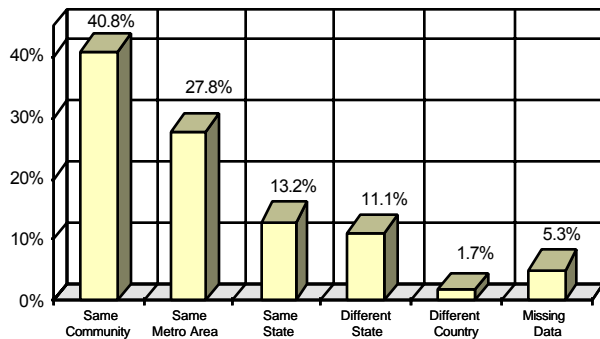


Of those who are homeless, runaways, or throwaways (N=33,431)

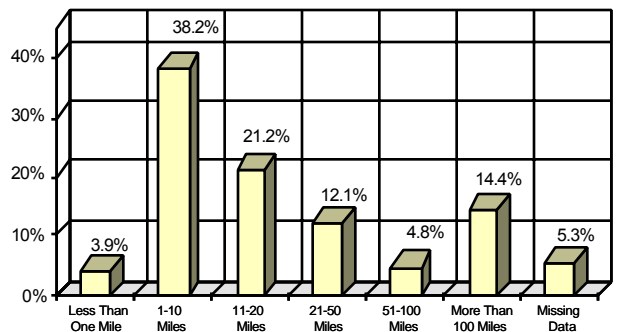
NUMBER OF DAYS YOUTH AWAY FROM HOME WHEN SERVICES BEG/



PROXIMITY OF AGENCY PROVIDING SERVICE RELATIVE TO HOME



DISTANCE OF AGENCY PROVIDING SERVICE RELATIVE TO HOME



Among those who were classified as runaway, throwaway or homeless at intake (N=33,431):

- ? 73 percent had primarily lived with their parents or legal guardian in the past year.
- ? 44 percent had lived in only one place in the month prior to intake.
- ? 45 percent had been living with their parents or legal guardian just prior to program intake.
- ? 74 percent had run away from home in the past.
- ? 65 percent had entered the RHY program within one week of leaving home.
- ? 68 percent had entered a RHY program within the same community or metropolitan area of their home.

Exhibit III-3 presents further information on runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth, including time away from home, proximity of the reporting agency to youth's home, and distance the youth travelled away from home to the agency.

1.3 Family Characteristics

The youth's parents typically were:

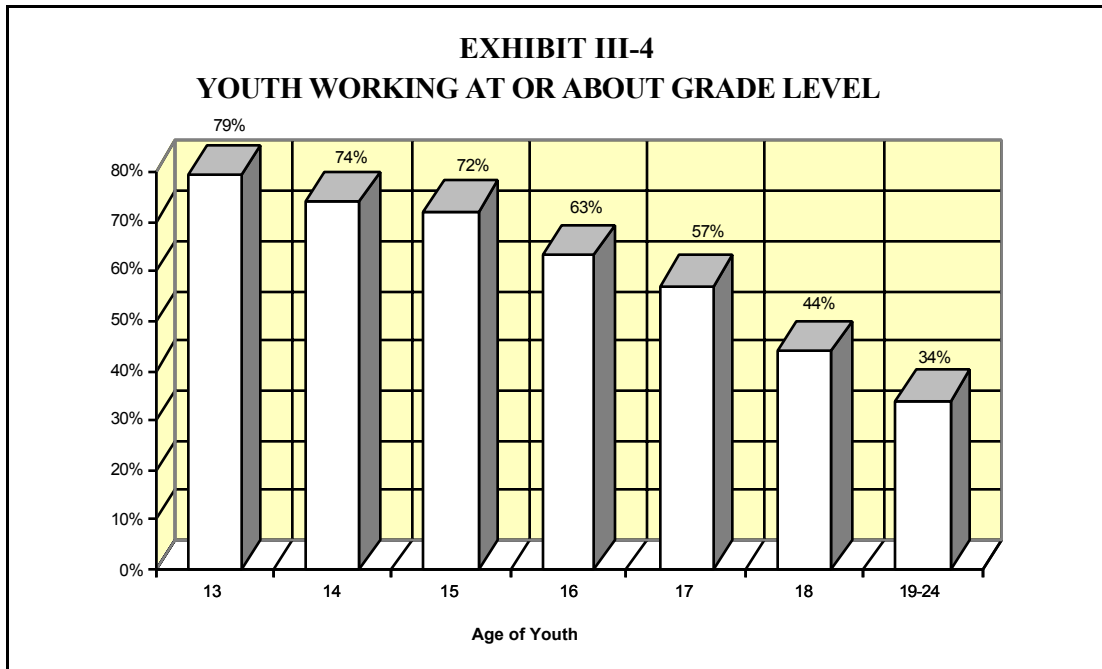
- ? Designated as the legal guardian, although this was more likely to be biological mother only (46%) than both biological parents (24%)
- ? Likely to be unemployed?only about half of the mother and father figures were employed (53% and 50%, respectively).

The majority of families were *not* receiving unearned income (73%).

1.4 Education

Most of the youth receiving services from FYSB-funded programs were school-aged, 19 years old or younger (98%). Most school-age youth were attending school, either regularly (55%) or irregularly (18%). Most were in regular education classes, only six percent were reported to be attending special education classes or alternative/homebound programs.

Although three-quarters of the school-aged youth were attending school, only 60 percent of all youth aged 13 and older were working at their age-appropriate grade level.¹¹ Working at or about age-appropriate grade level was defined for the analyses as the expected grade for students' age, plus or minus one year. Thus, a 13-year old would be at or about grade level if he/she were in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade. Exhibit III-4 displays the proportion of youth aged 13 to 24 who were working close to grade level. As this exhibit indicates, the older these youth were, the less likely they were to be working at their expected grade level.



1.5 Youth Problems

The youth data collection form was designed to record information about problems facing runaway and homeless youth. The form includes 14 general problem areas, each divided into three or more sub-areas. Problem areas and sub-areas specified on the form are displayed in Exhibit III-5.

The most common problems experienced by youth were in the areas of household dynamics, psychological issues, some form of maltreatment (i.e., physical, emotional, or sexual

¹¹ Because information on the last grade completed was not collected in detail below grade 5, conclusions cannot be made about the number of youth younger than 11 whose last completed grade is age-appropriate.

EXHIBIT III-5	
YOUTH PROBLEM AREAS INCLUDED IN RHYMIS YOUTH DATA COLLECTION FORM	
<p>Household Dynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship with Father Figure Relationship with Mother Figure Relationship with Parent's Partner Relationship Between Parent Figures Relationship with Spouse/Partner Relationship with Foster/Group Home Member Relationship with Other Household Member No Parental Figure Youth Unsupervised Divorced Family Blended Family Youth Wants to Live with Other Parent Other 	<p>Psychological Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Depressed Youth Suicidal Poor Self Image Youth's Sexuality/Behavior Youth's Sexual Orientation Parent Figure's Sexuality/Behavior Parent Figure's Sexual Orientation Searching for Biological Parent Racial/Ethnic Identity Loss and Grief Issues of Youth Abandonment Suicidal Friend(s) of Youth Suicidal Family Member(s) Witnessed Violent Crime Crime Victim Mental Health Program of Family Member Other
<p>Housing Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Homeless Family Homeless Youth Rejected from Homeless Shelter Custody Change Chose to Leave Previous Residence Forced to Leave Previous Residence Legally Evicted from Previous Residence Other 	<p>Health Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Has/Suspects Sexually Transmitted Disease Youth Has/Suspects HIV/AIDS Infection Family Planning/Pregnancy Eating Disorder Youth Physically Challenged Youth Not Appropriately Using Medication Health Problem of Family Member Other Chronic Health Problem of Youth Other Current Health Problem of Youth
<p>School/Education Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bad Grades Illiteracy Learning Disability Cannot Get Along with Teachers Poor School Attendance/Truancy Dropped Out Suspended Expelled Other 	<p>Youth Having Trouble Getting Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protective Services Social Services Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Program Day Care Education Program Other
<p>Physical Abuse/Assault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Father Figure By Mother Figure By Parent's Partner By Spouse/Partner By Foster/Group Home Member By Other Household Member By Other Non-Household Member Domestic Violence Youth Assaulting Other 	<p>Socialization Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Social Skills Problem with Peers Violent Youth Behavior Gang Involvement by Youth Cult Involvement Survival Sex Prostitution Selling Drugs Other

EXHIBIT III-5 (Continued) YOUTH PROBLEM AREAS INCLUDED IN RHYMIS YOUTH DATA COLLECTION FORM	
Sexual Abuse/Assault By Father Figure By Mother Figure By Parent’s Partner By Spouse/Partner By Foster/Group Home Member By Other Household Member By Other Non-Household Member Youth Assaulting Other	Neglect By Father Figure By Mother Figure By Parent’s Partner By Spouse/Partner By Foster/Group Home Member By Other Household Member Youth Neglecting Child Youth Neglecting Spouse/Partner
Emotional Abuse By Father Figure By Mother Figure By Parent’s Partner By Spouse/Partner By Foster/Group Home Member By Other Household Member By Other Non-Household Member Youth Abusing Household Member	Involvement With Justice System Youth Charged with Misdemeanor Youth Charged with Felony Alcohol or Other Drug Possession/Distribution (Youth) Drug Possession/Distribution (Parent Figure) Youth on Probation/Suspended Sentence Youth on Parole Youth in Need of Supervision Household Member Spouse/Partner Immigration/Naturalization Other
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Substance Abuse by Household Member Substance Abuse by Spouse/Partner Substance Abuse by Youth	Unemployment Father Figure Mother Figure Parent’s Partner Spouse/Partner Youth Unemployment

abuse or neglect), and school and education. Overall, the analysis of problem areas indicated the following:

- ? *Household Dynamics*—Nearly all youth were reported to have experienced household dynamics problems (87%). They most often experienced conflicts with mother figures (64%), father figures (47%), or parent’s partner (11%). About one in ten youth were reported to have a problem resulting from conflict between parents, while two in ten experienced problems stemming from family divorce.
- ? *Psychological Issues*—More than two-thirds of youth were reported to have at least one psychological problem (69%). The most common of these problems were depression (40%), poor self-image (38%), loss and grief issues (18%), and abandonment (17%). More than a quarter of the youth also had contemplated suicide (29%), though fewer had attempted it (16%). Being a victim of (8%) or witnessing (8%) a violent crime also were mentioned as psychological problems.

- ? *Maltreatment*—More than half of all youth (56%) had been victims of some type of maltreatment including emotional abuse (38%), physical abuse (33%), neglect (25%), and sexual abuse (15%). Some youth also were reported to have assaulted, abused, or neglected another person (10%).

- ? *School/Education Issues*—Many youth were reported to have some type of problem with school (62%). The problems most frequently experienced included bad grades (32%), poor attendance or truancy (29%), and conflicts with teachers (16%). Some youth had dropped out of school (10%) or had been expelled or suspended (23%).¹²

- ? *Substance Use*—More than half of the youth had used tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs (55%) and roughly a third (35%) indicated that they or a family member had a personal problem with alcohol or drugs. Of all youth, regarding lifetime and recent substance use:
 - ? 52 percent had used alcohol; of those, nearly three quarters (72%) had used alcohol within the last six months and more than half (52%) indicated that they had consumed five or more alcoholic beverages at one sitting.
 - ? 35 percent had used marijuana and of those, 77 percent had used marijuana within the last six months.
 - ? 10 percent had used over-the-counter drugs and of those, 62 percent had used them some time during the last six months.
 - ? 8 percent had used inhalants and of those, 52 percent had used inhalants within the last six months.
 - ? 7 percent had used cocaine and of those, 59 percent had used it during the past six months.
 - ? 4 percent had used crack at some time and of those, 61 percent had used it within the last six months.
 - ? 52 percent of the youth had tried some form of tobacco and of those, 83 percent had used it during the last six months.

Other youth problem areas reported in RHYMIS included socialization (44%), housing issues (42%), involvement with the justice system (31%), personal or family unemployment (23%), health (18%), and difficulty getting services (12%).

¹² Youth school attendance problems (e.g., poor attendance, dropping out, suspension) do not necessarily reflect their school status at intake, but rather may reflect long-term problems, recent problems, or problems that occurred after intake.

Most youth receiving services from FYSB-funded programs were reported to have problems in multiple areas, most commonly some combination of household dynamics, psychological issues, maltreatment, and school problems. Analysis of the co-occurrence of these four predominant problem areas indicates that about one-third of all youth had problems in all four areas, and about two-thirds of all youth had problems with at least three out of four problem areas. Thus, it can be expected that, regardless of their presenting problem, youth being served by FYSB-funded programs most likely will be experiencing problems in some or all of these four most common problem areas.

1.6 Comparison of Youth Data from RHYMIS with Youth Data from the *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences Study*

The previous sections provided a portrait of youth who sought service from FYSB-funded agencies. The portrait remains incomplete, however, until these youth are placed into the context of American youth in general and, more specifically, the broader population of runaway and homeless youth. What characteristics do the youth reported in the RHYMIS database share with other runaway and homeless youth? With U.S. youth residing at home? To provide this context, data on youth from the RHYMIS database were compared to data collected on three groups of youth during the *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences Study* (YRTH) conducted by Research Triangle Institute for FYSB in 1992-1993. There were three separate components of this study:

- ? Youth living in shelters? a nationally representative survey of 640 youth, aged 12 to 21, residing in 23 Federally and non-Federally funded youth shelters
- ? Youth on the street? a purposive sample of 600 youth found on the streets or in other public places in 10 urban areas
- ? Youth living at home? a nationally representative household sample of 6,496 youth, aged 12 to 17, from the 1992-1993 Youth Risk Behavior Supplement of the National Health Interview Survey.

The youth represented in RHYMIS and the youth represented in the three YRTH studies were compared in two ways:

- ? RHYMIS youth living at home and aged 12 to 17 were compared to the YRTH at-home component of youth aged 12 to 17 on demographic characteristics and runaway experiences.

- ? RHYMIS runaway, homeless, and throwaway youth were compared to participants in the YRTH shelter and street components on demographic characteristics, runaway experiences, problem areas, and substance use.

Exhibit III-6, III-7, and III-8 present these detailed comparisons. Following are the key findings from these comparisons.

On most relevant characteristics, RHYMIS youth were similar to both the general population of youth and other sheltered or street youth. Key differences identified in the comparison of RHYMIS youth to YRTH youth included:

- ? *Age*—RHYMIS youth overall are slightly older than youth in the general population, but RHYMIS runaway, homeless, and throwaway youth are younger than other sheltered and street youth.¹³
- ? *Gender*—RHYMIS youth were somewhat more likely than youth in the general population to be female.
- ? *Ethnicity*—The ethnic distribution of RHYMIS youth was more similar to that of youth in the general population than the ethnic distribution of sheltered or street youth.
- ? *Previous Runaway Experience*—RHYMIS youth were more likely than youth in the general population to have run away, but overall, they were less likely than sheltered and street youth to have runaway previously.
- ? *School*—RHYMIS youth were less likely to be enrolled in school than were either the general population of youth or other sheltered youth.¹⁴
- ? *Problems*—RHYMIS youth were reported to have more problems with school, home conflict, and abandonment/neglect than sheltered and street youth; however, they had fewer problems with emotional abuse and being asked or forced to leave home.
- ? *Substance Use*—The level of substance use by RHYMIS youth was similar to that of sheltered youth but lower than that of street youth.
- ? *Suicide*—RHYMIS youth were less likely than sheltered or street youth to have attempted suicide.

¹³ On average, RHYMIS runaway, homeless, and throwaway youth are slightly more than one year younger than YRTH sheltered and street youth.

¹⁴ School status was not asked of YRTH youth on the street.

EXHIBIT III-6 COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH LIVING AT HOME (AGED 12-17)		
	RHYMIS Youth Living at Home (N=38,535)	YRTH At-Home Component (N=6,496)
Mean Age (in years)	14.8	14.4
Gender		
Female	55.9%	49%
Ethnicity		
White	64.3%	61%
African American	19.2%	16%
Hispanic	11.5%	18%
Other	4.4%	5%
Previous Runaway Experience	35.1%	14.8%
Enrolled in School	81.8%	95%

EXHIBIT III-7 DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS OF YOUTH FROM RHYMIS AND YRTH					
	RHYMIS Homeless Youth (N=5,836)	RHYMIS Runaway Youth (N=23,128)	RHYMIS Throwaway Youth (N=4,467)	YRTH Youth in Shelters (N=640)	YRTH Youth on Streets (N=600)
Mean Age (in years)	17	15.4	16	16.1	17.9
Gender					
Female	47.6%	66.2%	54.5%	60.7%	39.5%
Ethnicity					
White	53.4%	62.0%	55.9%	31.7%	45.9%
African American	26.9%	19.0%	29.5%	40.7%	27.4%
Hispanic	13.8%	12.5%	9.8%	19.7%	17.7%
Other	6.2%	6.5%	4.8%	7.9%	9.0%
Previous Runaway Experience	53.0%	83.0%	56.0%	81.0%	91.0%
Enrolled in School					
All youth	41.6%	69.5%	62.7%	68.0%	N/A
Youth ages 12-17	55.1%	70.7%	66.3%	82.0%	N/A
Family Receiving Unearned Income	48.3%	35.1%	44.7%	45.0%	39.0%

EXHIBIT III-8					
COMPARISONS OF PROBLEMS OF YOUTH FROM RHYMIS AND YRTH					
	RHYMIS Homeless Youth (N=5,836)	RHYMIS Runaway Youth (N=23,128)	RHYMIS Throwaway Youth (N=4,467)	YRTH Youth in Shelters (N=640)	YRTH Youth on the Streets (N=600)
Problems Experienced by Youth					
Problems with Peers	20.7%	19.5%	19.2%	18.3%	30.4%
School Problems	65.6%	62.1%	64.2%	22.0%	37.8%
Conflicts in Home	83.7%	91.3%	94.3%	70.5%	71.7%
Alcohol Abuse by Household Member	39.9%	32.0%	40.9%	23.5%	34.6%
Emotional Abuse	48.3%	41.9%	54.1%	62.9%	69.7%
Physical Abuse	40.3%	37.9%	43.8%	44.6%	44.0%
Abandonment/Neglect	43.6%	23.4%	45.3%	19.9%	23.2%
Asked or Forced to Leave Home	24.1%	5.5%	51.1%	50.1%	53.0%
Substance Use by Youth					
Tobacco	59.2%	56.4%	56.7%	54.9%	77.4%
Alcohol	61.4%	56.9%	59.5%	57.9%	79.4%
Inhalants	11.8%	10.1%	8.1%	9.2%	22.6%
Marijuana	46.2%	39.8%	42.2%	41.7%	73.1%
Cocaine	14.6%	8.2%	8.7%	8.3%	24.7%
Crack	9.2%	4.7%	5.0%	6.1%	26.4%
Stimulants	16.7%	13.2%	12.2%	8.8%	28.1%
Depressants	10.1%	5.8%	6.6%	0.9%	23.7%
Hallucinogens	19.1%	13.3%	13.5%	11.9%	36.3%
Needles	4.2%	1.7%	2.0%	1.5%	15.8%
Suicide					
Attempted	19.8%	18.7%	18.9%	26.0%	32.0%

These analyses identified few differences between youth seeking services from FYSB-funded programs and youth in the general population or sheltered or street youth. Some of the differences identified (e.g., lower substance use by RHYMIS youth than youth on the street) highlight the importance of continuing services that keep RHYMIS youth off the streets and lower their risk for serious problems. Other differences identified (e.g., more frequent school problems among RHYMIS youth, including a lower probability of being enrolled school) suggest potential areas for targeted improvement of RHY programs.

2. PROFILE OF YOUTH WITH DIFFERENT STATUS AT INTAKE

Youth receiving services from FYSB-funded programs came to the host agencies for various reasons. Almost half still lived at home at the time of intake by the agency, but many had run away from home, been “kicked out” of their homes, or were homeless for other reasons. A small proportion of the youth served by these agencies came to FYSB-funded programs from a juvenile justice or child welfare placement. Comparisons of the youth in these different circumstances are presented in Exhibit III-9.¹⁵

Key differences between the groups included:

- ? *Age*—Youth living at home and youth entering the programs from child welfare placements tended to be younger than other youth served.
- ? *Gender*—Youth placed by the juvenile justice system were much more likely to be male, while other groups of youth were more likely to be female or nearly evenly split between the sexes.
- ? *Ethnicity*—African-Americans are consistently overrepresented in all groups, though less so among the runaway and at-home youth.

Differences between these groups in guardianship, school performance, maltreatment, alcohol or drug use, and runaway experiences are not large enough to have significant programmatic implications.

3. PROFILE OF YOUTH FROM THE TEN FEDERAL REGIONS

FYSB uses the Federally implemented division of its States into ten Regions to facilitate providing technical assistance to agencies receiving Federal funding. Exhibit III-10 displays the ten Federal Regions and the distribution of agencies receiving RHY program grants and those that submitted RHYMIS data. Examining regional differences in youth profiles can provide valuable information on the unique needs of each Region. Exhibit III-11 presents the comparison of youth characteristics by Region. Key regional differences between the youth include:

- ? In all Regions, about two thirds of the youth served are living at home or are runaways, and most Regions, with the exception of Regions 8 and 9, serve more at-home youth than runaway youth.

¹⁵ Because their small number, emancipated youth and youth with other, but unspecified, statuses were excluded from the following comparisons.

Exhibit III-9

EXHIBIT III-9 YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS AND INTAKE STATUS						
	RUNAWAY YOUTH N=23,128	HOMELESS YOUTH N=5,836	THROWAWAY YOUTH N=4,467	YOUTH LIVING AT HOME N=43,719	YOUTH PLACED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM N=4,422	YOUTH PLACED BY THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM N=6,728
Average Age (in years)	15.4	17	16	14.6	15.6	14.7
Gender						
Female	66.2%	47.6%	54.5%	54.7%	36.9%	53.1%
Ethnicity						
White	62.0%	53.4%	55.9%	64.4%	51.7%	52.5%
African American	19.0%	26.9%	29.5%	19.2%	27.6%	31.8%
Hispanic	12.5%	13.8%	9.8%	12.5%	14.3%	10.5%
Native American	2.9%	4.0%	2.1%	2.2%	3.3%	3.2%
Asian/Pacific	3.1%	1.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.7%	2.7%
Missing Data	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Guardianship						
Biological Mother Only	46.3%	34.6%	50.3%	51.8%	46.7%	18.2%
School Status						
Youth 13 Years and Older Working at Grade Level	67.5%	48.0%	60.3%	57.9%	58.3%	56.8%
Any Maltreatment	59.8%	68%	73.6%	48.8%	47.4%	69.8%
Alcohol or Drug Abuse	23.9%	29.3%	24.1%	16.7%	29.9%	19.4%
Previous Runaway Experience	83.2%	52.9%	55.5%	33.0%	51.2%	48.1%
Youth Problems						
Youth experiencing at least 3 of the 4 most common problem areas (household dynamics, psychological, maltreatment, school)	65.1%	68.7%	74.8%	60.1%	54.2%	66.2%

EXHIBIT III-10
TOTAL NUMBER OF FUNDED AGENCIES AND NUMBER OF AGENCY AND YOUTH
RECORDS IN RHYMIS FROM EACH FEDERAL REGION

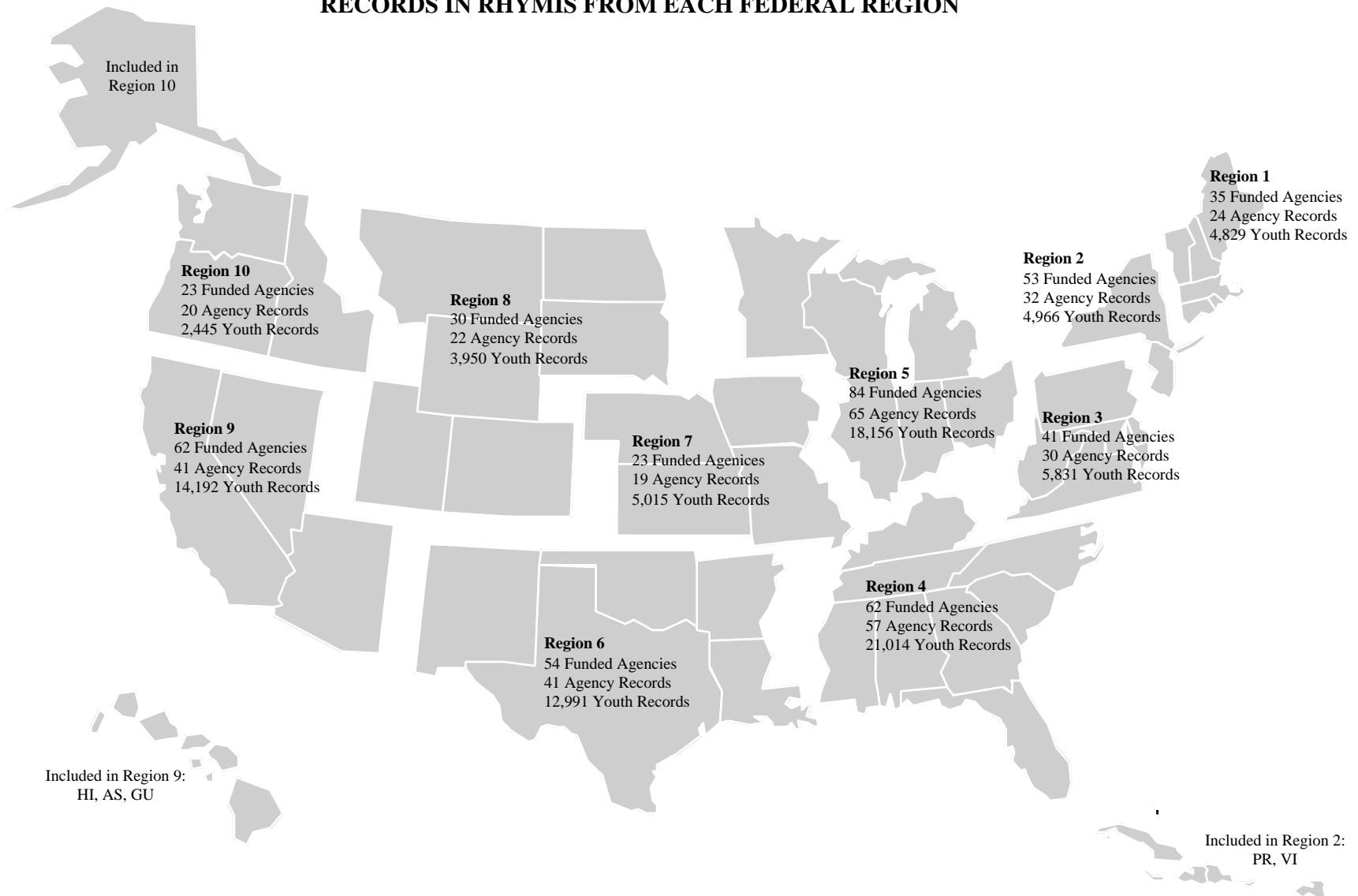


Exhibit III-11 (comparison of youth characteristics by region)

EXHIBIT III-11 COMPARISON OF YOUTH FROM THE TEN FEDERAL REGIONS										
	REGION 1 N=4,829	REGION 2 N=4,966	REGION 3 N=5,831	REGION 4 N=21,014	REGION 5 N=18,156	REGION 6 N=12,991	REGION 7 N=5,015	REGION 8 N=3,950	REGION 9 N=14,192	REGION 10 N=2,445
Average Age (in years)	15.45	15.53	15.17	14.85	15.07	14.8	15.25	15.9	15.32	15.31
Gender										
Female	52.9%	59.0%	62.2%	54.5%	60.1%	50.5%	56.8%	50.6%	58.0%	57.9%
RHY Status										
Runaway	14.6%	27.2%	23.3%	22.6%	23.5%	17.2%	18.0%	36.4%	38.5%	26.9%
Homeless	11.0%	13.6%	4.3%	3.6%	5.2%	4.3%	8.3%	12.9%	6.3%	12.6%
Throwaway	5.5%	7.1%	6.7%	3.1%	6.1%	2.6%	5.1%	5.4%	4.8%	8.5%
At home	45.7%	36.2%	38.2%	53.8%	52.9%	54.1%	45.5%	28.6%	36.9%	36.9%
Emancipated	.3%	1.0%	.3%	.1%	.2%	.2%	.5%	1.3%	.2%	.2%
Juvenile Justice	4.5%	2.1%	4.5%	5.6%	3.5%	8.0%	4.7%	5.0%	3.4%	3.2%
Child Welfare	12.0%	7.7%	17.5%	6.8%	4.2%	8.1%	11.8%	5.3%	3.6%	7.6%
Other	6.5%	5.1%	5.3%	4.3%	4.4%	5.6%	6.0%	5.0%	6.3%	4.1%
Ethnicity										
White	70.6%	55.1%	57.2%	65.8%	63.2%	51.4%	71.8%	74.0%	50.0%	74.0%
African American	15.3%	26.9%	31.2%	27.0%	27.7%	19.6%	17.3%	6.2%	12.7%	4.8%
Hispanic	8.7%	14.6%	7.4%	4.6%	4.6%	23.9%	4.9%	12.4%	25.6%	7.3%
Native American	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.1%	2.9%	4.1%	2.9%	4.9%	2.6%	9.4%
Asian/Pacific	1.9%	1.2%	2.4%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	2.1%	8.6%	4.4%
Missing Data	1.8%	.7%	.4%	.4%	.3%	.2%	2.1%	.5%	.5%	.1%
Guardianship										
Biological Mother Only	37.9%	44.0%	41.2%	48.1%	50.0%	46.8%	41.4%	41.4%	46.4%	46.5%
School Status										
Youth 13 Years and Older Working at Grade Level	64.9%	63.1%	66.3%	63.1%	66.3%	58.8%	67.8%	69.3%	71.2%	69.7%
Any Maltreatment	65.3%	57.5%	58.4%	47.1%	55.1%	56.3%	63.8%	55.1%	60.5%	68.3%
Alcohol or Drug Abuse	28.7%	16.0%	18.5%	14.6%	15.8%	21.0%	23.1%	36.5%	29.4%	31.5%
Previous Runaway Experience	47.9%	51.2%	52.7%	44.7%	46.4%	49.0%	53.6%	63.3%	58.4%	57.9%
Youth Problems										
Youth experiencing at least 3 of the 4 most common problem areas (household dynamics, psychological, maltreatment, school)	73.4%	63.0%	60.9%	57.2%	61.5%	64.2%	72.0%	61.1%	64.8%	74.3%

- ? Differences in the ethnic makeup of youth served reflect regional differences in the general population (e.g., Region 9, which includes the States of California, Arizona, and Nevada, had the highest proportion [26%] of Hispanic youth).

Most youth across the Regions were working at or about grade level in school. A large proportion had been maltreated, and about 20 percent reported alcohol and drug use. In all Regions, about half of all youth had run away from home before, and in all but one Region, more than 60 percent of youth in all Regions reportedly had experienced problems in the cluster of four commonly occurring problem areas (i.e., household dynamics, psychological, maltreatment, and school). Thus, overall, little regional variation was observed among the population of RHYMIS youth served.

4. ANALYSIS OF YOUTH NEEDS AND SERVICES

Given that the youth served by the FYSB-funded agencies experience many problems, this analysis addressed two questions regarding program services: what services have youth received to deal with their problems, and what gaps exist between youth needs and agency provision of services? The youth profile data collection instrument included 11 major categories of service that youth might receive from the agency: counseling/therapy, hotline support, support groups, alternative housing, education, health, alcohol and other drug prevention, life skills training, recreation, legal, and employment. This section first presents information on the setting and type of services provided to all youth. Results of a more in-depth analysis to determine the extent to which youth received the services they needed are then presented.

Youth treated by FYSB-funded RHY programs could have received services in either long-term or short-term residential settings or non-residential settings.¹⁶ Exhibit III-12 presents the distribution of youth receiving services in each type of setting, by Region. Overall, youth most commonly received services from short-term residential programs (61%) and non-residential programs (34%). Regions 2, 8 and 10 provided a greater proportion of youth with treatment in long-term residential settings than did other Regions.

Exhibit III-13 presents the proportions of youth who received services in each of the 11 unique service categories. The vast majority of youth (84%) received some form of counseling/

¹⁶ As specified in the *RHYMIS Data Elements and Definitions Manual*, **short-term residential services** include emergency and core services (e.g., bed, clothing, food, basic nurturing, protection, crisis intervention, counseling, referral) usually for no longer than 14 days. **Long-term residential services** include structured shelter care, transitional living programs, and independent living programs, in-depth assessments of youth needs, and planning for behavior, education, psychological and placement services. **Non-residential services**

EXHIBIT III-12 TYPE OF SERVICE RECEIVED BY YOUTH IN THE 10 FEDERAL REGIONS					
REGION	NUMBER OF YOUTH	SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL	LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL	NON-RESIDENTIAL	SERVICE TYPE NOT INDICATED
Region 1	4,829	50.4%	4.6%	43.7%	1.3%
Region 2	4,966	50.2%	13.3%	35.8%	.7%
Region 3	5,831	73.2%	2.1%	23.9%	.8%
Region 4	21,014	60.3%	2.1%	37.3%	.3%
Region 5	18,156	58.5%	1.9%	38.4%	1.3%
Region 6	12,991	60.0%	3.7%	36.1%	.1%
Region 7	5,015	74.6%	6.0%	19.2%	.1%
Region 8	3,950	47.9%	15.7%	35.2%	1.2%
Region 9	14,192	68.5%	3.3%	26.2%	2.0%
Region 10	2,445	59.6%	10.1%	29.9%	.4%
TOTAL	93,389	61.1%	4.2%	33.8%	0.9%

Note: Percentages sum to 100 across the rows, by Region.

EXHIBIT III-13 SERVICES RECEIVED BY YOUTH	
SERVICE	PROPORTION OF YOUTH RECEIVING SERVICES
Counseling/Therapy	84.0%
Hotline	33.3%
Support Group	6.4%
Alternative Housing	11.1%
Education	22.2%
Health Services	20.3%
Alcohol/Other Drug Prevention	33.4%
Life Skills Training	34.2%
Recreation	36.5%
Legal Services	1.7%
Employment	4.7%

are provided to youth who do not reside or no longer reside at the program or at a facility operated by the program, including aftercare.

therapy. Recreation and life skills training were provided to more than a third of the youth (37% and 34%, respectively).

In order to assess the extent to which youth who needed services actually received them, service categories were identified that would be appropriate for dealing with each of the 13 problem areas included in the youth profile instrument. For example, a youth who reported being physically abused would likely need counseling/therapy services, while a youth with health problems would likely need health services. Exhibit III-14 displays the service categories identified as appropriate for each problem area. Using data from the “Youth Problems” and “Services to Youth” components of the youth profile instrument, subgroups of youth with particular types of problems were identified. Information on the services provided to these youth was examined to determine the proportion that received the services specified in Exhibit III-14. The existence of a gap between needs (as defined by the problem areas) and services can be inferred when youth with problems in a specific area did not receive the specified service. Exhibit III-15 displays the results of these examinations. Key findings from these analyses include:

- ? More than 8 in 10 youth needing counseling/therapy received it, regardless of which particular problem they experienced.
- ? Slightly less than half of youth needing alcohol/drug prevention, life skills training, or recreation received these services.
- ? About one in four youth with health issues received health services.
- ? Less than one in ten youth who might have benefited from support groups, legal services, or employment assistance received these services.

Although this analysis provides some insight into the gap between youth needs and services, the results must be interpreted cautiously. Without knowing more about specific problems, it is difficult to determine the appropriate service required. For example, youth on parole would be classified as having “legal problems,” but may not need legal services. Further, youth could accept or reject services; thus some gaps between problems identified and services received may have resulted from lack of use rather than lack of availability. RHYMIS does not contain the level of detail about youth problems/needs or service use to assess this issue fully.

EXHIBIT III-14 YOUTH PROBLEM AREAS AND RELATED SERVICE CATEGORIES	
PROBLEMS	SERVICES
Household Dynamics	Counseling/Therapy Hotline Support Groups
Housing Issues	Alternative Housing
School/Education Issues	Youth Education
Psychological Issues	Counseling/Therapy Hotline Support Groups
Health Issues	Health Care
Physical Abuse	Counseling/Therapy
Sexual Abuse	Counseling/Therapy
Emotional Abuse	Counseling/Therapy
Neglect	Counseling/Therapy
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Counseling/Therapy Health Care Support Groups
Socialization Issues	Counseling/Therapy Life Skills Training Recreation Activities
Involvement with Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice System	Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Legal Services Alternative Housing
Unemployment	Employment Life Skills Training

EXHIBIT III-15 SERVICES RECEIVED AMONG SUBGROUPS OF YOUTH WITH PARTICULAR PROBLEMS		
PROBLEMS	SERVICE RECEIVED	PROPORTION RECEIVING SERVICES
Household Dynamics (N=81,759)	Counseling/Therapy Hotline Support Groups	85.8% 35.1% 6.8%
Housing Issues (N=38,911)	Alternative Housing	16.5%
School/Education Issues (N=57,957)	Education	25.3%
Psychological Issues (N=64,294)	Counseling/Therapy Hotline Support Groups	86.0% 37.1% 7.1%
Health Issues (N=16,744)	Health Care	28.7%
Physical Abuse (N=30,796)	Counseling/Therapy	86.2%
Sexual Abuse (N=14,217)	Counseling/Therapy	85.5%
Emotional Abuse (N=35,000)	Counseling/Therapy	86.4%
Neglect (N=22,952)	Counseling/Therapy	85.7%
Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (N=33,035)	Alcohol/Drug Prevention Counseling/Therapy Health Services Support Group	45.0% 85.3% 26.6% 9.4%
Socialization Issues (N=41,449)	Counseling/Therapy Life Skills Training Recreation	86.3% 40.6% 42.0%
Involvement with Juvenile Justice/Criminal Justice System (N=28,968)	Alcohol/Drug Prevention Legal Services Alternative Housing	41.0% 2.9% 13.8%
Unemployment (N=21,726)	Employment Services Life Skills Training	8.5% 40.5%

5. ANALYSIS OF YOUTH OUTCOMES

While RHYMIS youth profile information is focused mainly on status at intake and during program services, a limited amount of “outcome” information is recorded at program exit. These limited data indicate positive outcomes for many youth at program exit. Exit data included in the analysis database indicate that:

- ? 57 percent of all the youth completed their respective programs.
- ? 46 percent of the youth aged 19 and under (N=91,645) were attending school regularly at exit from the program. Of the youth who had not been attending school regularly at intake, 24% were attending regularly at exit. Of the youth who had dropped out, been suspended, or been expelled at intake, 14% were attending school regularly at exit.¹⁷
- ? Outcomes were better for youth who stayed in programs for longer times (15 to 530 days) than for youth in programs for two weeks or less:
 - Among youth in programs for 1 to 14 days (N=41,718), 50 percent were attending school regularly at program exit. Of the youth who were not attending school regularly at intake, 25 percent were attending school regularly at exit, and of those who had dropped out or been expelled or suspended from school, 14 percent were attending school regularly at program exit.
 - Among youth in programs for 15 to 530 days (N=30,296), 57 percent were attending school regularly at program exit. Of the youth attending school irregularly at intake, 34 percent were attending school regularly at exit, and of those who had dropped out of school or been expelled or suspended, 22 percent were attending school regularly at exit.

Outcome indicators currently available in RHYMIS are short-term measures of program success. RHYMIS could be used for ongoing monitoring of longer-term effects of program participation with some modification to include the collection of follow-up information on the youth.

¹⁷ These analysis also were conducted on the sub-group of youth most likely to be impacted by program involvement, those who remained in the program for 15 to 530 days (N=30,308). Of these youth, 57 percent were attending school regularly at exit from the program. In addition, of the youth not attending school regularly at intake, 34% were attending regularly at exit. Of the youth who had dropped out, been suspended, or been expelled at intake, 22% were attending school regularly at exit.

IV. PROFILES OF AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO YOUTH

This chapter presents key findings from the analysis of agency data included in RHYMIS. The analyses examined the number of agencies that received funding from FYSB, the services that agencies provided to youth, and agency staff characteristics. Agency information also was reviewed from a sample of program monitoring instruments, a comprehensive tool for peer review of agency activities. These findings provide important insight into the characteristics and activities of agencies receiving FYSB funding to provide RHY services. Since not all FYSB-funded agencies had been incorporated into the RHYMIS by June 1995, the initial set of analyses focused on assessing whether those agencies in the database could be viewed as a representative sample of all FYSB-funded agencies.

1. REPRESENTATIVENESS OF AGENCY DATABASES

During fiscal years 1992 through 1995, 467 unique agencies received funding from FYSB to support one or more of the three FYSB programs for runaway and homeless youth. Not all of these agencies were included in RHYMIS by June 1995. Training and technical assistance on RHYMIS began for grantees in FY 1993 and, while eventually all agencies could be expected to participate, it takes substantial time to bring all grantees on board. Therefore, the RHYMIS data available for analysis in June 1995 represented only a portion of the funded agencies.

To determine how well the available agency data represented all agencies receiving FYSB funding for RHY programs, the analyses first assessed the regional representatives of agencies included in RHYMIS databases. These regional analyses were limited to fiscal years 1993 and 1994.¹⁸ Exhibit IV-1 presents a summary of these analyses. The data demonstrate few regional differences in levels of agency reporting, suggesting that the agency analyses reported in this chapter were not unduly influenced by the strengths or limitations of a single Region.

2. PROGRAM FUNDING

A total of 192 agencies had program funding information for fiscal years 1993 and/or 1994. For 1993, 131 unique agencies reported and for 1994, 132 unique agencies reported. Among these agencies, 71 reported for both 1993 and 1994.

¹⁸ Very few agencies submitted data for FY 1992, and, because RHYMIS data for this study were aggregated prior to the end of FY 1995, before agencies were required to report on FY 1995, FY 1995 agency records were

EXHIBIT IV-1 RHYMIS AGENCY DATA RECEIVED FROM THE TEN FEDERAL REGIONS FY 1993 and/or FY 1994					
Region	Total Number of Unique Agencies That Received RHY Funding	Number of Agencies Included in the Agency Funding Database	Percent of Total Agencies Included in Agency Funding Database	Number of Agencies Included in the Agency Services Database	Percent of Total Agencies Included in Agency Services Database
Region 1	34	12	35.3%	10	29.4%
Region 2	46	17	37.0%	16	34.8%
Region 3	41	16	39.0%	14	34.1%
Region 4	59	29	49.2%	24	40.7%
Region 5	78	34	43.6%	26	33.3%
Region 6	46	25	54.3%	22	47.8%
Region 7	23	10	43.5%	10	43.5%
Region 8	23	12	52.2%	11	47.8%
Region 9	57	25	43.9%	24	42.1%
Region 10	23	12	52.2%	9	39.1%
TOTAL	430	192	44.7%	166	38.6%

Of the 192 agencies with program funding information, 92 percent received BCP grants, 23 percent received TLP grants, and 27 percent received DAPP grants. Exhibit IV-2 displays the percentages of agencies receiving grant funds in each Region, by program, for each fiscal year. Comparing grant information across Regions indicates that at least three-quarters of the reporting agencies in all 10 Regions had BCP grants, but the proportion of agencies receiving TLP and DAPP grants varies considerably by Region.

incomplete.

EXHIBIT IV-2 PROGRAM FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEARS 1993 AND 1994 IN THE TEN FEDERAL REGIONS^{1,2}								
Region	Number of Agencies Reporting (N=192)		Proportion of Reporting Agencies that had BCP Grants		Proportion of Reporting Agencies that had TLP Grants		Proportion of Reporting Agencies that had DAPP Grants	
	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994
Region 1	8	7	75%	86%	50%	43%	88%	71%
Region 2	9	13	78%	77%	44%	31%	44%	15%
Region 3	11	12	100%	92%	27%	17%	18%	25%
Region 4	22	13	82%	92%	14%	0%	18%	15%
Region 5	22	26	91%	92%	27%	15%	27%	19%
Region 6	15	20	93%	100%	20%	20%	13%	10%
Region 7	9	6	89%	100%	33%	33%	33%	33%
Region 8	8	8	100%	100%	0%	13%	25%	13%
Region 9	21	19	95%	90%	10%	5%	29%	32%
Region 10	6	8	83%	88%	17%	50%	50%	38%
TOTAL	131	132	89%	92%	22%	19%	30%	24%

¹ Percentages by Region for each fiscal year will not total 100 percent because the agencies could have received funding from more than one of these grant programs.

² The total number of agencies reporting in 1993 and the total number reporting in 1994 does not equal the total number of agencies reporting overall (N=192) because 71 of the agencies received funding and reported data in *both* fiscal years.

3. AGENCY SERVICES

Of the 192 agencies that reported grant funding data, 166 provided information about the services they have available, either directly or through referrals to other agencies. The vast majority of these 166 agencies provided services in all of the 13 RHYMIS-specified service areas. Exhibit IV-3 displays the proportion of agencies reporting the availability of specific services associated with each service area for FY 1994. These proportions indicate that:

- ? The overwhelming majority of agencies made available services in all service areas (either directly or through referral)

? The services least likely to be available were host homes (55%), transitional living (65%), and outdoor adventure/challenge services (54%).

EXHIBIT IV-3 SPECIFIC SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM AGENCIES - FY 1994			
Services	Percent of Agencies Making Service Available		
	Directly	By Referral Only	Total
Counseling/Therapy			
Crisis Intervention	96%	3%	99%
Individual (Youth)	96	3	99
Individual (Parent)	80	15	95
Family	91	7	98
Home-Based	51	21	72
Group (Youth)	92	7	99
Group (Parent)	47	36	83
Outdoor Adventure/Challenge	28	39	67
Peer (Youth)	64	21	85
Expressive Art	49	25	74
Other	41	8	49
Youth Education			
Assessment	51	43	94
Tutoring	55	37	92
Alternative Education	21	63	84
GED Prep/Test	24	66	90
Vocational Training	7	78	85
Other	21	22	43
Life Skills Training			
Communication Skills	96	3	99
Assertiveness	92	5	97
Conflict Resolution	96	3	99
Goal Setting/Life Planning	95	4	99
Budgeting	67	21	88
Employment	60	30	90
Consumerism	54	26	80
Hygiene	88	10	98
Sex Education	81	16	97
Parenting Skills	71	22	93
Nutrition	75	17	92
Leisure Skills	86	9	95
Household Management	75	18	93
Other	47	7	54
Hotline			
Crisis Counseling	84	5	89
Information and Referral	85	6	91
Other	41	2	43
Basic Support Services (Food, etc.)			
Food	88	10	98
Clothing	87	11	98
Emergency Shelter	85	13	98
Transportation	87	11	98
Other	50	4	54
Outreach			
Outreach Services in the Community	79	11	90

EXHIBIT IV-3 (Continued)

SPECIFIC SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM AGENCIES - FY 1994			
Services	Percent of Agencies Making Service Available		
	Directly	By Referral Only	Total
Health Care			
General Medical	23%	71%	94%
Dental	5	84	89
Psychological or Psychiatric	20	75	95
Substance Abuse Assessment	44	49	93
Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment	16	77	93
Eating Disorders	16	73	89
Gynecological	7	85	92
Pre-Natal	6	85	91
HIV/AIDS Related	29	64	93
Other	16	30	46
Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention			
Education/Information	90	7	97
Positive Peer Leadership	63	21	84
Alternative Activities/Recreation	75	18	93
Refusal Skills	76	17	93
Substance Abuse Screening	52	41	93
Other	31	9	40
Alternate Housing			
Other Emergency Youth Shelter	30	49	79
Foster Home	10	74	84
Host Home	24	37	61
Group Home	22	60	82
Transitional Living Program	25	46	71
Independent Living Program	17	57	74
Job Corps	4	79	83
Residential Treatment	10	72	82
Other	11	31	42
Legal Services			
To the Youth	4	91	95
To the Family	2	88	90
Recreational Activities			
Organized Sports Activities	64	25	89
Arts and Crafts	80	16	96
Field Trips	83	12	95
Other	47	6	53
Support Groups			
Alcoholics Anonymous	10	84	94
Narcotics/Cocaine Anonymous	7	85	92
Alateen	6	84	90
Alanon	4	88	92
Other	22	31	53
Employment			
Career Counseling	45	44	89
Job Training	11	76	87
Employment Referral/Placement	24	62	86
Job Corps Non-Residential	3	70	73
Other	21	18	39

While an overwhelming majority of agencies made most services available to youth, some services were more commonly made available by referral to another agency, rather than directly from the FYSB-funded agency. Services most commonly available directly from the FYSB-funded agency

included: counseling/therapy; hotline counseling, information and referral; basic support services; and community outreach. The service areas usually available only through referral included health care, legal services, support groups and employment services.

Regional comparisons of service availability show that, overall, practically all agencies in each Region provide services in all 13 service areas, either directly or through referrals (see Exhibit IV-4). These findings indicate that despite the regional differences in TLP and DAPP programs, some of the services associated with these programs (e.g., life skills training, alcohol and other drug prevention activities) are being provided at high levels across all Regions.

4. AGENCY STAFF

More agencies provided staff data than provided either program funding or services data. As shown in Exhibit IV-5 (on page 47), 288 agencies across the ten Regions submitted information on their staff to RHYMIS. Exhibit IV-6 summarizes the basic demographic characteristics of agency staff for the 288 agencies that submitted staff data for FY 1992-95. Key findings included:

- ? A substantial majority (70%) of agency staff were female
- ? Over half (56%) held a bachelor's degree or higher
- ? The most common staff disciplines were psychology, counseling, and social work
- ? More than half (56%) had 2 or more years experience in RHY service
- ? Most staff (74%) provide program services

The majority of staff (57%) work full-time for their agency. Part-time employees tend to have fewer years of experience and receive lower salaries, as indicated in Exhibit IV-7.

**EXHIBIT IV-4
SERVICES PROVIDED IN FISCAL YEARS 1993 AND 1994 IN THE TEN FEDERAL REGIONS¹**

Region	Number of Agencies Reporting (N=166)		Agencies Providing Counseling		Agencies Providing Education		Agencies Providing Life Skills Training		Agencies Providing Hotlines		Agencies Providing Basic Support Services		Agencies Providing Health Services		Agencies Providing Alcohol/Drug Prevention	
	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1993	FY 1994
Region 1	5	6	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Region 2	8	13	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Region 3	8	11	100%	100%	88%	100%	88%	100%	88%	100%	88%	100%	88%	100%	88%	100%
Region 4	17	13	88%	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	82%	77%	94%	100%	94%	100%	94%	100%
Region 5	15	21	100%	100%	93%	91%	87%	100%	93%	95%	87%	100%	87%	100%	87%	100%
Region 6	11	20	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	82%	85%	100%	100%	91%	90%	100%	95%
Region 7	9	6	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Region 8	7	7	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Region 9	15	18	93%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%	83%	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	94%
Region 10	3	7	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%

¹ The sum of the total number of agencies reporting in 1993 and the total number reporting in 1994 does not equal the total number of agencies reporting overall (N=166) because 54 of the agencies received funding and reported data for *both* fiscal years.

EXHIBIT IV-5 RHYMIS STAFF DATA RECEIVED FROM THE TEN FEDERAL REGIONS, OCTOBER 1991 THROUGH JUNE 1995			
Region	Total Number of Unique Agencies That Received RHY Funding	Number of Agencies Included in Staff Database	Percent of Total Agencies Included in Staff Database
Region 1	35	19	54.3%
Region 2	53	25	47.2%
Region 3	41	29	70.7%
Region 4	62	44	71.0%
Region 5	84	56	66.7%
Region 6	54	33	61.1%
Region 7	23	16	69.6%
Region 8	30	14	46.7%
Region 9	62	36	58.1%
Region 10	23	16	69.6%
TOTALS	467	288	61.6%

EXHIBIT IV-6 AGENCY STAFF CHARACTERISTICS		
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
SEX		
Female	4,518	70.4%
Male	1,863	29.0
Missing Data	<u>37</u>	<u>0.6</u>
Total	6,418	100.0%
ETHNICITY		
White	4,241	66.1%
African American	1,108	17.3
Hispanic	402	6.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	113	1.8
Native American	86	1.3
Missing Data	<u>468</u>	<u>7.3</u>
Total	6,418	100.0%
EDUCATION LEVEL		
High School/GED	1,480	23.0%
Associate Degree	563	8.8
Bachelor's Degree	2,372	37.0
Masters Degree	1,157	18.0
Doctorate Degree	50	0.8
Other (unspecified)	179	2.8
Missing Data	<u>617</u>	<u>9.6</u>
Total	6,418	100.0%
STAFF FIELD OF TRAINING¹		
Counseling	1,652	25.7%
Criminology	572	8.9
Education	883	13.8
Family Systems	827	12.9
Medical/Health Care	282	4.4
Psychiatry	87	1.4
Psychology	1,835	28.6
Social Work	1,656	25.8
Other (not specified, not included above)	919	14.3
Not Applicable	478	7.4
YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN RHY SERVICE		
Less than one year	1,407	21.9%
1-2 years	1,465	22.9
3-5 years	1,412	22.0
6-10 years	1,075	16.7
11+ years	<u>1,059</u>	<u>16.5</u>
Total	6,418	100.0%
ROLE WITHIN AGENCY		
Management	1,005	15.7%
Program Support	4,773	74.4
Resource Development	83	1.3
Missing Data	<u>557</u>	<u>8.7</u>
Total	6,418	100.0%
FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS		
Part-Time	2,291	35.7%
Full-Time	3,626	56.5
Missing Data	<u>501</u>	<u>7.8</u>
Total	6,418	100.0%

¹ The sum of percentages for field of training will not total 100 percent because staff could indicate more than one area.

EXHIBIT IV-7 EXPERIENCE AND SALARY CHARACTERISTICS FOR FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES					
Staff Employment Status	Years of Experience in Field		Annual Salary		
	N	Mean Years	N	Mean Salary	Median Salary
Full-Time Employee	3,543	6.7	3,544	\$16,454	\$17,000
Part-Time Employee	2,240	4.3	2,240	\$5,697	\$4,940
Missing Data	635		634		
Total	6,418		6,418		

Management staff are slightly more likely than other staff to be white, to have more education, and to be full-time employees. Management staff also tend to have worked longer for the agency, have more years of experience, and earn the highest salaries (see Exhibit IV-8).

EXHIBIT IV-8 EXPERIENCE AND SALARY CHARACTERISTICS FOR STAFF IN DIFFERENT ROLES							
Staff Role	Years of Service with Agency		Years of Experience in Field		Annual Salary		
	N	Mean Years	N	Mean Years	N	Mean Salary	Median Salary
Management	972	5.0	993	10.7	993	\$21,217	\$22,656
Program Support	4,649	2.0	4,713	4.7	4,714	\$10,362	\$10,712
Resource Development	83	1.7	77	7.4	77	\$15,068	\$15,800
Missing Data	714		635		634		
TOTAL	6,418		6,418		6,418		

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING INSTRUMENT DATA

To supplement the RHYMIS grantee data with more qualitative data, analyses were also conducted on data collected through the comprehensive monitoring system designed by FYSB in 1992 to obtain detailed, qualitative information on the grantees' direct services, program development, and program administration. Under this system, review teams composed of a peer monitor and a Federal staff member (usually from the Regional Office) conduct site visits to each grantee once during the 3-year grant period. These peer-review teams gather information through interviews with program stakeholders, direct observations, and agency document review, using protocols and data collection forms provided in the program monitoring instrument. The review team then uses the monitoring instrument to synthesize the data in order to accomplish three main goals:

- ? Assess conformance of the RHY grantee with Federal regulations, standards, and legislative requirements
- ? Identify administrative and programmatic strengths and effective practices
- ? Identify areas where technical assistance may be needed.

Following the site visit, the Regional Offices prepare and disseminate to each grantee a summary report that presents the key site visit findings and recommendations for program improvement. The completed instruments and summary reports are housed in the respective Regional Offices.

To facilitate the data collection process, each grantee receives a copy of the monitoring instrument prior to the site visit and is able to gather the materials needed to answer the questions contained in the instrument. At some sites, the grantees complete the descriptive sections of the monitoring instrument prior to the site visit and may even conduct self-assessments using the instrument. The review team then confirms the descriptions, based on their observations and discussions with program stakeholders, before assessing the program. At other sites, the review team completes the entire instrument during the site visit, using the materials assembled by the grantee, interviews, and observations.

Program monitoring instruments from 48 grantees in six Regions were available for analysis. Of the grantees represented by these instruments, all 48 had a BCP; 9 also had a TLP,

while 11 had a DAPP.¹⁹ Twenty monitoring instruments with the most complete information were selected for review.²⁰

The monitoring instrument contains three sections covering direct services, program development, and agency administration. Each section includes multiple modules. For example, the direct services section includes modules on outreach and community education, individual intake and case planning, temporary food and shelter, aftercare, and other related topics. In general, each module contains a set of specific questions asking the grantee to describe the program activities implemented within the service area and a set of summary questions asking the reviewer to assess several aspects of the grantee's overall performance in that area. This review focused on three summary questions included in 13 of the monitoring instruments 19 modules.²¹ These summary questions include:

- ? *Qualitative Assessment:* Based on your answers to these summary questions, what is your assessment of the project's overall performance in [this service area]? Please explain, if necessary.
- ? *Recommendations:* What training and/or technical assistance would be beneficial to the project's provision of [this service area]? Please note any training and/or technical assistance requested by the grantee.
- ? *Recommendations:* Is corrective action recommended to address conformance issues regarding [this service area]? If yes, please explain.

The results of this analysis are presented in Exhibit IV-9, which is organized by module.

Key findings from the review of a sample of 20 monitoring instruments include:

- ? In all of the *direct service* modules except Recreation/Leisure Activities, roughly two-thirds of the grantees received ratings of Excellent or Very Good.

¹⁹ A program monitoring instrument was also received from a grantee with DAPP funding only. This instrument was excluded.

²⁰ Some grantees reported that they had only partially completed the monitoring instrument because of its length. Other grantees used the monitoring instrument only as a guide for their program review, the development of the summary report, and/or the identification of training and technical assistance needs. Monitoring instruments with the most complete summary question sections were selected for review.

²¹ The six remaining modules were either left incomplete by the majority of reviewers or covered document reviews for which no qualitative assessments or recommendations were made.

? Overall, grantees received the highest ratings in Outreach and Community Education: 82 percent received ratings of Excellent or Very Good.

EXHIBIT IV-9	
RESULTS OF PROGRAM MONITORING INSTRUMENT	
SUMMARY QUESTIONS ON OVERALL PERFORMANCE	
Program Monitoring Instrument Module	Summary Question Results ^{1,2}
<i>DIRECT SERVICES</i>	
Outreach and Community Education	Overall performance (n=17): 41% Excellent 41% Very Good 12% Acceptable 6% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=14): 93% No 7% Yes
Individual Intake and Case Planning	Overall performance (n=19): 21% Excellent 53% Very Good 16% Acceptable 11% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=14): 71% No 29% Yes
Case Disposition	Overall performance (n=18): 11% Excellent 61% Very Good 22% Acceptable 6% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n = 14) 79% No 21% Yes
Temporary Shelter and Food	Overall performance (n=18): 44% Excellent 28% Very Good 22% Acceptable 6% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=15) 73% No 27% Yes
Individual, Family, Group, and Peer Counseling	Overall performance (n=19): 21% Excellent 42% Very Good 32% Acceptable 5% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=15) 93% No 7% Yes
Skill Building Services	Overall performance (n=15): 27% Excellent 40% Very Good 33% Acceptable 0% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=11) 100% No 0% Yes

¹ These results are based on a sample of 20 monitoring instruments. Due to missing data, the sample size for individual summary questions differs. The total number of responses to each summary question is included to the immediate right of the question.

² Based on an analysis of responses to the question—Is corrective action recommended?—it is clear that reviewers varied in their interpretation of this question. While some reviewers only recommended corrective action when they thought the grantee deserved the lowest overall performance rating (i.e., significant improvement needed), others recommended corrective action to grantees receiving the higher performance ratings (i.e., acceptable, very good, excellent) for whom they had recommended any additional training and/or technical assistance. Thus, it cannot be assumed that all recommendations for corrective action signify that grantees are out of compliance with Federal, State, or local regulations.

EXHIBIT IV-9 (Continued)	
RESULTS OF PROGRAM MONITORING INSTRUMENT	
SUMMARY QUESTIONS ON OVERALL PERFORMANCE	
Program Monitoring Instrument Module	Summary Question Results ^{1,2}
Recreation/Leisure Activities	Overall performance (n=17): 12% Excellent 29% Very Good 53% Acceptable 6% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=14) 86% No 14% Yes
Aftercare Services	Overall performance (n=19): 16% Excellent 47% Very Good 26% Acceptable 11% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=15) 87% No 13% Yes
Individual Client Files	Overall performance (n=18): 28% Excellent 39% Very Good 33% Acceptable 0% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=15) 87% No 13% Yes
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
Coordination and Service Linkages	Overall performance (n=16): 31% Excellent 38% Very Good 25% Acceptable 6% =Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=10) 70% No 30% Yes
Ongoing Project Planning	Overall performance (n=17): 12% Excellent 53% Very Good 35% Acceptable 0% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=10) 100% No 0% Yes
AGENCY ADMINISTRATION	
Reports and Data Collection	Overall performance (n=18): 44% Excellent 28% Very Good 22% Acceptable 6% Improvement Needed Corrective action needed? (n=15) 73% No 27% Yes
Budget and Finance	Concerns? (n=15) 93% No 7% Yes Corrective action needed? (n=10) 90% No 10% Yes

- ? Grantees were rated the lowest in Recreation/Leisure Activities: only 41 percent received ratings of Excellent or Very Good.
- ? In the two *project development* modules, roughly two-thirds of the grantees received Excellent or Very Good ratings.
- ? The grantees were rated highly in the *agency administration* modules: 72 percent of the grantees received ratings of Excellent or Very Good for Reports and Data Collection, and 93 percent of the 15 monitoring instruments with complete Budget and Finance modules reported “No Concerns” about the grantees’ budgets.

Corrective action was most frequently recommended in the modules covering grantee conformance issues, including Coordination and Service Linkages (30%), Individual Intake and Case Planning (29%), Temporary Shelter and Food (27%), and Reports and Data Collection (27%). Due to apparent inconsistencies in reviewers’ interpretation of this question, however, it is not clear what percentage of the grantees for whom corrective action was indicated were, in fact, out of compliance with Federal, State, or local regulations. Based on this analysis, it is clear that some reviewers recommended corrective action whenever they had provided *any* recommendations for training and/or technical assistance.

Following are the review recommendations or the grantee requests for training and technical assistance that were reported most frequently across the 20 monitoring instruments reviewed:

- ? Selecting and utilizing comprehensive, user-friendly, standardized assessment/intake tools that are non-threatening and cover a wide range of behavioral, social, academic, and other program-related topics
- ? Developing a record and file management system, computerization of client files
- ? Developing and implementing a comprehensive, user-friendly case management system
- ? Developing “safe arrival” procedures (including verification forms)
- ? Developing treatment plans, measurable goals, and behavioral objectives
- ? Identifying additional resources
- ? Increasing cultural sensitivity

? Increasing outreach activities (particularly in rural areas)

- ? Establishing and maintaining a Safe Place component
- ? Involving youth in program development and implementation (e.g., peer mediation, peer counseling, focus groups with youth)
- ? Developing alternative indoor and outdoor recreation/leisure activities
- ? Networking and formalizing collaborative efforts.

Peer reviewers and/or grantees also frequently mentioned issues related to RHYMIS, including training on the use of RHYMIS, integrating RHYMIS with in-house databases, and expanding the use of RHYMIS to all youth served by the grantee.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter highlights key findings from the analysis of RHYMIS data. It discusses the implications of these findings for the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) policies, practices, and program priorities, and makes recommendations for action by FYSB. The chapter is organized around the four key objectives of the study:

- ? Developing a profile of youth served by FYSB-funded RHY programs
- ? Describing FYSB-funded agencies' services
- ? Analyzing the “match” between reported youth problems/needs and services youth received
- ? Assessing RHYMIS as a management information tool.

Highlights are accompanied by references to the chapter and section in which the relevant analyses were presented.

1. PROFILES OF YOUTH SERVED BY RHY PROGRAMS

Key findings from the development of youth profiles include:

- ? Almost half of the youth (47%) served by RHY programs were living at home.
- ? Most of the clients had multiple problems, which most frequently included some combination of household dynamics problems, psychological problems, reported maltreatment, and school problems.
- ? Compared to the general population and other sheltered and street youth, RHY program clients were less likely to be enrolled in school.
- ? Compared to other street youth, RHYMIS runaway, homeless and throwaway youth were less likely to have used alcohol or other drugs.
- ? Compared across Regions, client characteristics (e.g., intake status, problems reported) did not differ substantively, beyond expected regional differences in ethnicity.

Detailed youth profile data are provided in Chapter III.

Four important implications follow from these findings. First, the fact that almost half the youth served by RHY programs lived at home suggests that a substantial proportion of the potential client population requires services aimed at *preventing* them from leaving home, rather than *intervention* services after the youth have left home. If RHY programs are intended to provide services primarily to unsheltered runaway and homeless youth rather than at-home youth, FYSB may need to review service delivery criteria and agency outreach efforts to ensure that they are, in fact, serving their target youth.

Second, the finding that most youth reported problems in multiple areas supports FYSB's comprehensive youth development model for program services and activities, which views youth as maturing individuals with needs in multiple areas.²² The youth development model promotes a broad array of interlinked activities and programs serving the psychological, sociological, economic and familial needs of youth, rather than disjointed services focusing on discrete pathologies. Such a combination of activities and programs would address holistically the causes and consequences of the multiple problems reported by these youth.

Third, youth served by FYSB-funded programs are often not enrolled in school and often report having school problems. These findings indicate that educational services or services that address underlying school problems are key needs of the population served by FYSB-funded programs, regardless of whether youth are still living at home or have run away or become throwaways or homeless.

Finally, FYSB should ensure that substance abuse prevention activities are widely and consistently available to the youth they serve. According to RHYMIS data, these youth were less likely to report using alcohol and other drugs than were other street and sheltered youth; however, they were also younger than the comparison groups. Substantial empirical evidence shows that the likelihood of substance use increases with age.²³ Without exposure to substance use prevention information, substance use among RHYMIS youth during their later teens could be expected to equal that reported by the comparison groups. Emphasis on substance abuse prevention activities in FYSB-funded programs may help moderate RHY program participants' expected age-related increases in alcohol and other drug use.

²² Analyses of the relationship between youth intake status and problems indicate that in each intake status category (e.g., at-home, runaway, homeless, throwaway), the majority of youth reported multiple problems.

²³ Gonet, M.M., 1994. *Counseling the Adolescent Substance Abuser: School-Based Intervention and Prevention*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

2. GRANTEE SERVICES

Key findings from the description of grantee services include:

- ? Less than half of FYSB-funded grantees provided input to RHYMIS during FY 1993 and FY 1994.²⁴
- ? Of those that submitted agency-level data, almost all FYSB-funded grantees reported making available the majority of the service areas listed in RHYMIS.
- ? Some service areas were more likely to be made available by referral to another agency rather than directly, in particular education services, health care, legal services, and support groups.

These analyses are detailed in Chapter IV, Sections 2 and 3.

According to these data, the FYSB-funded RHY programs were providing a wide range of services. Review of a sample of program monitoring instruments indicates that the majority of agencies were providing services rated as either Excellent or Very Good by peer-review teams. FYSB may want to consider, however, increasing technical assistance and training to grantees in the use of RHYMIS, and also enhancing the grantee benefits of using RHYMIS. The low participation rate in RHYMIS during these early years suggests that perhaps individual agencies had technical problems participating, or did not perceive the value of their participation in RHYMIS. Review of selected monitoring instruments suggests that technical problems with RHYMIS may have presented a substantial barrier to use by many agencies, since many of them included requests for technical assistance and additional training in the use of RHYMIS. Beyond increasing technical assistance to ease agency use of RHYMIS, RHYMIS could be modified to make it more useful to individual grantees. These modifications might include the capability to generate agency-level reports easily and to incorporate into the database all youth served by an agency.

3. THE “MATCH” BETWEEN REPORTED YOUTH PROBLEMS/NEEDS AND SERVICES RECEIVED

²⁴ Data for this study were aggregated prior to the end of FY 1995, before agencies were required to report on FY 1995; therefore it is not possible to determine how many agencies ultimately submitted RHYMIS data for that year.

One of the fundamental objectives of this study was to examine the extent to which client needs were being met by the FYSB-funded service providers. Three key findings from the analysis of the RHYMIS youth database provide insight into the degree to which reported youth problems/needs were met by the services they reportedly received:

- ? Youth records indicated that some youth did not receive some needed services as suggested by their presenting problems, most often educational services, alcohol and drug prevention services, health services, support groups, legal services, and employment assistance. (Chapter III, Section 4)
- ? Overall, youth were reported to have received fewer services than agencies reported having available (e.g., most agencies reported the availability of alcohol and drug prevention [AODP] services, yet many youth whose presenting problems indicated that they needed AODP services did not receive these services, according to their records). (Chapter IV, Section 3)
- ? Services most likely to be provided through referral only were least likely to have been received by the youth needing them, according to RHYMIS youth records (e.g., educational services, health care, and legal services). (Chapter IV, Section 3)

These findings indicate that despite the fact that most agencies report offering a wide range of services, some youth did not receive the key services indicated by their problems. These gaps between youth needs and services received may have occurred for any of the following reasons: (1) many youth had only short-term involvement with RHY programs,²⁵ thus precluding services that require lengthy time commitments (e.g., educational support); (2) youth may have chosen not to use recommended services; (3) youth may have had difficulty accessing recommended services (e.g., services offered through referrals may have been provided at a distant location); (4) gaps suggested by these analyses may be a function of incorrectly matching youth problems with the appropriate service areas (as described in Chapter III, Section 4). Based on how “Services to Youth” currently are reported in RHYMIS, it is not possible to determine whether youth received the services they needed. Further, if they did not receive needed services, it is not possible to ascertain why they did not receive them.

In order to determine whether youth needs are being met by RHY programs, and ultimately, to assess the effectiveness of the services provided, RHYMIS must capture more information about the links between individual youth needs and service use. In addition to recording “information about problems facing runaway and homeless youth” (Part III of the

²⁵ The median duration of program services was 9 days.

Youth Profile) and “information on services *provided* to youth” (Part IV of the Youth Profile), if agency staff also recorded their assessment of youth service needs, FYSB could better determine the extent to which these needs are being met. Further, if agency staff also recorded the reason(s) recommended services were not received, FYSB would be in a better position to assess overall program requirements, availability, accessibility, and use patterns.

4. RHYMIS AS A PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT TOOL

Analysis of RHYMIS data revealed that only a few short-term indicators of youth outcomes were collected (e.g., attending school at exit, program completion). Further, information to assess the success of FYSB’s developmental approach was not available (e.g., youth functional and copying skills).

If FYSB intends RHYMIS to be a performance measurement tool, as well as a management information system, then it is important that youth outcomes be collected. To better reflect FYSB’s emphasis on the youth development approach, RHYMIS also should include additional information on youth developmental strengths. The added information provided by these items would benefit both service providers and FYSB by documenting ongoing RHY program effectiveness.