



New York State
Office of
Children & Family
Services

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH



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Annual Report 2010

**Runaway and
Homeless Youth
Annual Report
2010**

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Introduction

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) provides a broad framework for the provision of shelter and support services to runaway and homeless youth in New York State. Among the statutory duties of the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) in administering and overseeing the act is to “*submit to the governor and legislature an annual report detailing the numbers and characteristics of runaway and homeless youth throughout the state and their problems and service needs*” [Executive Law, Article 19-H §532-c(d)].

To gather data for the annual report, OCFS conducted an *Annual Survey of Services* of all programs that serve runaway and homeless youth that are funded or certified by OCFS, and any other programs in the state that primarily serve runaway and homeless youth. This report includes information from 42 individual program respondents in 26 counties and New York City. The information contained here features highlights only; refer to the appended tables for further detail.

Although Part E of Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2005 does provide the opportunity for runaway and homeless youth programs to provide respite services for youth, this report is solely concerned with the services provided to youth who present as runaways or otherwise homeless.

Background

OCFS administers the RHYA that requires a local planning process to identify any unmet needs of runaway and homeless youth. OCFS provides a maximum of 60 percent matching funds to counties to operate or contract for runaway and homeless youth services, and issues operating certificates and conducts periodic on-site inspections of residential RHYA programs. The RHYA appropriation for calendar year 2010 was \$4,580,667. In addition, OCFS Youth Development/Delinquency Prevention (YDDP) and Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP) funds may be used for runaway and homeless youth programs.

Information Relative to Short-Term Crisis Programs and Long-Term Transitional Independent Living Programs:

I. Short-Term Crisis Programs (Part I)

A. Overview

Short-term crisis programs serve runaway youth who have left home without parental consent. Shelter and support services are available while staff seek family reconciliation and reunification, when possible, or alternative living arrangements when necessary.

B. Program Models

Shelters – residential programs with up to 20 beds for males and/or females either age 16-20 or under age 18.

Interim families (host homes) – families that provide care to one or two youth under age 21.

Non-residential services – case management, counseling, referral, and advocacy.

Hotlines – information and referral to young people seeking runaway and homeless youth services.

C. County Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Coordinator

Part I funds may be used to support a County Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Coordinator. Each county that receives RHYA funding must have a coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for answering inquiries at any time concerning transportation, shelter and other services available to runaway and homeless youth. The coordinator also conducts local planning, contract management and monitoring of services for runaway and homeless youth.

D. Maximum Length of Stay

Short-term residential crisis services are available for up to 30 days. With the approval of the youth, parent/guardian and County Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Coordinator, residential services may be extended for an additional 30 days. Extensions beyond 60 days are possible if an abuse or neglect matter is pending in Family Court, and the youth agrees to remain in the program.

E. Funding

RHYA Part I funding provides up to a maximum of 60 percent state aid for RHYA activities. At least half of the 40 percent local share must be from local tax dollars. The State appropriation for RHYA I in 2010 was \$2,371,274.

II. Long-Term Transitional Independent Living Programs (Part II)

A. Overview

Long-Term transitional independent living programs are for older homeless youth who lack a place of shelter where supervision and care are available. Programs serve young people who become homeless as a result of a wide range of circumstances and either cannot return home, or have no home to which to return. Developing skills to live independently is the ultimate goal of young people in these programs. Resident turnover is relatively low.

B. Program Models

Supported Residences – programs that provide an environment that approximates actual independent living for up to five young people of the same gender.

Group Residences – programs that provide an environment that encourages the development and practice of independent living skills for between six to twenty males and/or females.

Non-residential services – support services, exclusive of shelter, which include case management, counseling, referral and advocacy and independent living skills.

C. Length of Stay

Under the provision of Section 532-d of the Executive Law, young people may reside in a long-term residential transitional independent living program for up to 18 months. Youth who have reached the 18-month maximum length of stay, but who have not yet reached their eighteenth birthday, may remain at the transitional independent living program for up to an additional six months.

D. Funding

RHYA Part II funding provides up to 60 percent state aid up to the amount allocated to the county for such activities. The entire 40 percent local share may be derived from any combination of local sources; there is no specific local tax match requirement. A county must have short-term crisis services available before Part II funds can be approved for that county. The State appropriation for RHYA II in 2010 was \$2,209,393.

Data Collection

This annual report summarizes data collected through the *RHYA Annual Survey of Services*. The survey gathers aggregate data from programs that *primarily* serve runaway and homeless youth. While young homeless people are sometimes served in other program types, such as family and domestic violence shelters, they are not homeless “without supervision and care” as defined in statute because they are with a parent or other caregiver. Therefore, this annual report includes only information reported by programs that primarily serve runaway and homeless youth as defined by the RHYA. It is important to avoid comparisons to previous years because the number of programs reporting each year is different due to start-ups and terminations.

Surveys were sent to runaway and homeless youth programs and to all county youth bureaus that were requested to distribute surveys to any other programs in the county that primarily serve runaway and homeless youth, both residential and non-residential. Thus, surveys were sent to all runaway and homeless youth programs that receive funding or certification from OCFS, and other programs identified by OCFS or the county that primarily serve runaway and homeless youth. OCFS does not presume this report contains data on *every* young person in the state considered to be a runaway or homeless youth. By the very nature of their situation, many runaway and homeless youth are hidden, underground, or reticent to seek services. Therefore, this report only contains data on young people that sought and received services from a program that is part of the known runaway and homeless youth serving network.

Some of the tables are based on *duplicated counts* and others on *unduplicated counts*. Duplicated counts include youth who were provided services more than once during the calendar year. This figure is used to gauge the full number of service units. Unduplicated counts include the actual number of different young people that were served.

The information presented in this report is culled from selected questions on the survey as noted below.

- Table 1: Duplicate Admissions by County: youth served by county**
- Table 2: Characteristics of Runaway and Homeless Youth**
 - gender**
 - ethnicity**
 - age**
 - teen parent**
- Table 3: Issues and Service Needs Identified by Youth**
- Table 4: Services Provided**
- Table 5: Services Referred**
- Table 6: Duration of Service: Short Term**
- Table 7: Duration of Service: Long Term**
- Table 8: Characteristics of Living Situation at Discharge**
- Table 9: Youth Identified But Not Served**

Summary: Overall Admission Numbers in 2010

There were 12,629 admissions to runaway and homeless youth programs during the program year. The largest number of runaway and homeless youth was reported from New York City, with 39% of the total. Thirty-eight percent received support services through non-residential programs and 62% of reported youth were served in residential programs [Table 1]. In addition, 6,205 calls were received throughout the state by runaway and homeless youth hotlines, and 24,505 contacts were made through the RHY prevention/outreach programs that participated in the 2010 survey.

Summary: Characteristics of Youth Served

Fifty-five percent of service recipients were female and 45% of service recipients were male. Forty-two percent were African-American, 30% were White, non-Hispanic, 11% were Hispanic, 16% were multi-racial, 1% percent was Asian/Pacific Islander and less than 1% percent were Native American/Alaskan. Seventy-eight percent of youth served were age 16 and older, 13% were between the ages of 11 and 15, and 8% were age 10 or younger [Table 2].

Summary: Issues and Services

Young people admitted to runaway and homeless youth programs in 2010 reported a wide range of problems and service needs [Table 3]:

- 67% Lack Of Independent Living or Life Skills
- 66% were Homeless
- 60% Conflict With Parent or Parental Figure
- 54% Lack of Affordable Housing
- 33% Issues with Guardian/ Family/ Parent/Custodial Figure
- 24% Education Related Issues
- 45% Unemployed
- 16% Victim of Abuse / Neglect
- 14% Substance / Alcohol Abuse
- 14% Absent Parent (Jail, Deceased, etc)
- 12% Serious Mental Health Issues
- 11% Delinquency / Criminal Activity
- 10% Health Issues
- 9% Pregnant or Parenting
- 6% Child Care for Dependent Children
- 4% Sexual Exploitation
- 4% GLTBQ Issues
- 2% Suicidal Issues
- 2% Gang Violence Issue
- Less than 1% Human Trafficking

Summary: Services Provided and Referred

All youth who were served received case management services and other services either directly by the service provider or through referral to other programs. All residential programs provide basic needs to youth.

Percent of Youth Who Received Direct Services from RHY Provider [Table 4]:

- 80% Basic Needs
- 79% Case Management
- 59% Independent living/life skills
- 48% Formal counseling
- 31% Employment/employability
- 30% Recreation
- 24% Education
- 12% HIV/Aids counseling
- 10% Alternative housing
- 8% Health care (including dental)
- 7% Parenting education
- 5% Mental health/therapy
- 4% Substance abuse treatment
- 3% Legal

Percent of Youth Who Were Referred to Other Providers for Services [Table 5]:

- 24% Basic needs
- 19% Case management
- 17% Education
- 15% Health care (including dental)
- 15% Independent living/ life skills
- 14% Entitlement (PA, SSI, Other)
- 13% Employment/ Employability
- 12% Formal Counseling
- 11% Recreation
- 10% Alternative housing
- 10% Mental health/therapy
- 7% Other residential(adult shelter)
- 6% HIV/Aids counseling
- 6% Substance abuse treatment
- 4% Parenting education
- 3% Legal

Summary: Duration of Services

Of the 8,078 discharges from short-term crisis (Part I) programs in 2010, 15% were discharged in 1 day, 26% were discharged after stays of 2 to 7 days, 22% of discharges were after 8-20 days, 29% were after 21 and 60 days, and 8% were discharged after stays longer than 60 days [Table 6].

Fifteen percent of 1,599 discharges from long-term transitional independent living (Part II) programs were after stays of two months or less, 35% were 2-6 months stays, 33% were 6-12 months stays, and 17% were 12 month or longer stays [Table 7].

Summary: Living Situation at Discharge

Of the 9,080 runaway and homeless youth for whom a discharge reason was provided in 2010, a third returned to their parent, guardian, or custodian's home. The percentages of youth discharged to various locations are shown below [Table 8].

- 33% Parent/guardian/custodian's home
- 17% Crisis shelter
- 14% Relative or friend's home
- 10% Unknown
- 9% Transitional independent living program
- 7% Living independently
- 3% Other
- 2% Jail/secure detention
- 2% Known to be on the run/
- 2% street
- 2% Foster or group home, non-secure detention
- 1% Mental health/psychiatric residential treatment
- 1% Drug or residential treatment center
- 1% Homeless family shelter
- 1% Residential education/job corps

Report is based on data provided to the Office of Youth Development, Bureau of Compliance by runaway and homeless service providers.

For further information, contact:
Matt Beck
NYS Office of Children / Bureau of Compliance
North Building & Family Services
Office of Youth Development, Room 338
52 Washington St.
Rensselaer, NY 12144
(518) 402-3830
Matt.Beck@ocfs.state.ny.us

TABLE 1
Duplicate Admissions by County
2010

County of Program	Total*	Short-Term		Long Term	
		Residential	Non-Residential	Residential	Non-Residential
Albany	295	134	128	33	0
Broome	248	200	30	18	0
Chautauqua	123	108	0	15	0
Erie	470	295	0	0	175
Genesee	74	0	0	0	74
Herkimer	107	15	92	0	0
Madison	35	5	30	0	0
Monroe	993	605	53	63	272
Nassau	772	278	173	23	298
New York City	4964	4152	0	490	322
Niagara	34	0	0	34	0
Oneida	313	0	284	22	7
Onondaga	473	238	0	95	140
Orange	140	140	0	0	0
Oswego	456	4	437	15	0
Otsego	35	35	0	0	0
Rockland	58	58	0	0	0
Saratoga	148	148	0	0	0
Schenectady	386	136	0	0	250
Schuyler	26	0	26	0	0
Seneca	51	0	51	0	0
Suffolk	972	1	842	30	99
Tompkins	965	2	70	22	871
Ulster	338	238	28	49	23
Warren	51	51	0	0	0
Washington	40	40	0	0	0
Wayne	62	0	17	0	45
Total	12,629	6,883	2,261	909	2,576

* Duplicate counts account for youth with multiple admissions to runaway and homeless youth programs in a calendar year.

TABLE 2
Characteristics of Runaway and Homeless Youth
Admitted by Program Type
2010

	Short Term						Long Term		
	Admission Total	Residential			Non-Residential	Short-Term Total	Residential	Non-Residential	Long Term Total
		Crisis Shelter	Interim Family	Residential Total					
Admissions/Intake									
Admiss/Dup	12629	6784	99	6883	2261	9144	909	2576	3485
Admiss/Undup	9322	5037	93	5130	1720	6850	811	1661	2472
Gender (unduplicated)									
male	4160	2192	36	2228	815	3043	316	801	1117
female	5162	2845	57	2902	905	3807	495	860	1355
Ethnicity (unduplicated)									
Native American/Alaskan	43	25	0	25	12	37	5	1	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	81	57	0	57	4	61	12	8	20
African American, non Hispanic	3943	2437	22	2459	331	2790	450	703	1153
Hispanic	981	492	6	498	142	640	90	251	341
White, non-Hispanic	2812	881	58	939	1194	2133	133	546	679
Multiracial	1461	1145	6	1151	37	1188	121	152	273
Age at 1st admission (unduplicated)*									
ten and under	780	589	0	589	147	736	44	0	44
eleven	57	22	1	23	33	56	0	1	1
twelve	136	42	3	45	63	108	0	28	28
thirteen	215	111	5	116	77	193	0	22	22
fourteen	332	191	6	197	107	304	0	28	28
fifteen	482	267	11	278	159	437	0	45	45
sixteen	875	439	16	455	264	719	44	112	156
seventeen	1339	674	28	702	258	960	104	275	379
eighteen	1767	935	17	952	261	1213	184	370	554
nineteen	1715	923	5	928	216	1144	194	377	571
twenty	1609	844	1	845	135	980	236	393	629
Teenaged Parents									
Number of teen parents	1153	658	37	695	69	764	190	199	389
Teenagers with children	655	370	8	378	9	387	147	121	268
Children with teen parents	774	487	8	495	14	509	151	114	265

* Age at first admission in 2010. Includes age of teen parents, but NOT age of children with teen parent.

TABLE 3
Issues Identified
2010

	Short Term					Long Term			Totals		
	Residential			Non-Residential	Short Term Total	Residential	Non-Residential	Long Term Total	Residential Total	Non-Residential Total	Grand Total
	Crisis Shelter	Interim Family	Residential Total								
Issues Identified by Youth (numbers reflect duplicate admissions with multiple needs)											
Lack of independent living or life skills	5556	68	5624	996	6620	817	1030	1847	6441	2026	8467
Homeless	5808	38	5846	612	6458	817	1028	1845	6663	1640	8303
Issues with parents or custodial figure	1870	73	1943	936	2879	374	930	1304	2317	1866	4183
Conflict with parent or parent figure	4900	83	4983	1135	6118	429	1037	1466	5412	2172	7584
Education related issues	1486	53	1539	428	1967	352	764	1116	1891	1192	3083
Unemployment	3590	35	3625	855	4480	376	780	1156	4001	1635	5636
Health issues	439	36	475	122	597	219	400	619	694	522	1216
Lack of affordable housing	4826	32	4858	200	5058	755	1002	1757	5613	1202	6815
Victim of abuse or neglect	1053	21	1074	271	1345	241	400	641	1315	671	1986
Serious mental health issues	817	26	843	179	1022	106	332	438	949	511	1460
Substance/alcohol abuse	933	17	950	165	1115	162	430	592	1112	595	1707
Absent parent	915	18	933	254	1187	174	453	627	1107	707	1814
Delinquency/criminal activity	788	11	799	129	928	93	311	404	892	440	1332
Pregnant/parenting / childcare	514	11	525	72	597	134	389	523	659	461	1120
Childcare for dependent child	407	1	408	13	421	117	192	309	525	205	730
Sexual exploitation	342	0	342	39	381	20	109	129	362	148	510
Suicidal	145	0	145	71	216	35	56	91	180	127	307
LGBTQ issues	309	8	317	52	369	59	105	164	376	157	533
Gang violence	81	0	81	17	98	30	102	132	111	119	230
Human trafficking	32	0	32	2	34	3	1	4	35	3	38

TABLE 4
Services Provided Directly
2010

Services Provided*	Short Term					Long Term			Totals		
	Residential			Non-Residential	Short Term Total	Residential	Non-Residential	Long Term Total	Residential Total	Non-Residential Total	Grand Total
	Crisis Shelter	Interim Family	Residential Total								
Case Management	6043	98	6141	1416	7557	811	1629	2440	6952	3045	9997
Basic Needs**	6669	98	6767	1122	7889	831	1427	2258	7598	2549	1014
Recreation	2440	20	2460	222	2682	422	627	1049	2882	849	3731
Independent living/ life skills	5273	61	5334	394	5728	789	986	1775	6123	1380	7503
Employment/ employability skills	2229	39	2268	208	2476	665	789	1454	2933	997	3930
Formal counseling	4448	50	4498	635	5133	537	386	923	5035	1021	6056
Health care (including dental)	718	0	718	46	764	35	182	217	753	228	981
Education	2110	27	2137	175	2312	365	294	659	2502	469	2971
Alternative housing	326	7	333	126	459	227	570	797	560	696	1256
HIV/Aids counseling	924	6	930	163	1093	216	194	410	1146	357	1503
Parenting education	461	13	474	80	554	169	98	267	643	178	821
Mental health/ therapy	197	1	198	163	361	65	208	273	263	371	634
Legal	89	10	99	25	124	52	141	193	151	166	317
Substance abuse treatment counseling	150	4	154	42	196	64	209	273	218	251	469

*Numbers reflect duplicate admissions and multiple issues and service needs.

**All residential programs provide basic needs to youth.

TABLE 5
Youth Referred to Other Agencies for Services
2010

Referred for Services*	Short Term					Long Term			Totals		
	Residential			Non-Residential	Short Term Total	Residential	Non-Residential	Long Term Total	Residential Total	Non-Residential Total	Grand Total
	Crisis Shelter	Interim Family	Residential Total								
Education	926	51	977	306	1283	311	499	810	1288	805	2093
Case management	981	37	1018	780	1798	123	520	643	1141	1300	2441
Basic needs**	1009	58	1067	802	1869	229	897	1126	1296	1699	2995
Health care (including dental)	787	44	831	299	1130	381	410	791	1212	709	1921
Formal Counseling	667	25	692	340	1032	134	333	467	826	673	1499
Entitlement (PA, SSI, Other)	605	35	640	523	1163	256	334	590	896	857	1753
Recreation	733	15	748	139	887	194	299	493	942	438	1380
Mental health/therapy	650	18	668	279	947	101	180	281	769	459	1228
Employment/ Employability skills	602	35	637	321	958	252	413	665	889	734	1623
Independent living/ life skills training	436	50	486	640	1126	161	550	711	647	1190	1837
Alternative housing	346	28	374	189	563	207	510	717	581	699	1280
HIV/Aids counseling	498	2	500	18	518	111	116	227	611	134	745
Legal	161	4	165	33	198	69	167	236	234	200	434
Other residential (including adult shelters)	414	2	416	118	534	63	264	327	479	382	861
Substance abuse treatment	317	5	322	87	409	84	212	296	406	299	705
Parenting education	75	10	85	211	296	54	156	210	139	367	506

*Numbers reflect duplicate admissions and multiple issues and service needs.

**All residential programs provide basic needs to youth.

TABLE 6
Duration of Services Provided to Youth from Short-Term Crisis Programs
2010

Length of Stay of Discharged Youth (duplicated)	Crisis Shelter			Interim Family			Non-Res		Short Term Total
	Crisis Shelter Bed Days	Crisis Shelter Aftercare	Shelter Total	Interim Family Bed Days	Interim Family Aftercare	Interim Total	Non-Res Programs	Total	
1 day or less	953	38	991	12	0	12	184	184	1187
2-7 days	1977	19	1996	22	5	27	64	64	2087
8-13 days	879	19	898	10	1	11	45	45	954
14-20 days	727	21	748	12	2	14	64	64	826
21-30 days	888	88	976	5	3	8	208	208	1192
31-60 days	891	40	931	3	9	12	242	242	1185
more than 60 days	237	9	246	0	7	7	394	394	647

TABLE 7
Duration of Services Provided to Youth from Long Term Crisis Programs
2010

Length of stay of discharged youth (duplicated)	Independent living			
	Youth in residential only	Aftercare	Non-res programs	Grand Total
1-2 months	128	55	50	233
2-3 months	72	39	82	193
3-6 months	131	122	118	371
6-9 months	84	66	149	299
9-12 months	64	34	131	229
12-18 months	78	58	81	217
18+ months	19	14	24	57

TABLE 8
Living Situation at Discharge
2010

	Short Term					Long Term			Total		
	Residential			Non-Residential	Short Term Total	Residential	Non-Residential	Long Term Total	Residential Total	Non-Residential Total	Grand Total
	Crisis Shelter	Interim Family	Residential Total								
Parent/guardian/custodian's home	1858	38	1896	743	2639	157	179	336	2053	922	2975
Relative or friend's home	737	13	750	266	1016	108	117	225	858	383	1241
Crisis shelter	1500	1	1501	0	1501	44	5	49	1545	5	1550
Transitional independent living program	781	5	786	18	804	18	20	38	804	38	842
Living independently	256	1	257	53	310	161	144	305	418	197	615
Foster or group home, non-secure detention	124	2	126	12	138	0	2	2	126	14	140
Mental health/psychiatric residential treatment	108	0	108	4	112	4	2	6	112	6	118
Known to be on the run/street	99	0	99	10	109	11	23	34	110	33	143
Jail/secure detention	139	1	140	3	143	11	5	16	151	8	159
Homeless family shelter	39	0	39	1	40	12	13	25	51	14	65
Drug or residential treatment center	57	0	57	2	59	5	2	7	62	4	66
Residential education/job corps	5	0	5	4	9	4	2	6	9	6	15
Unknown	745	3	748	30	778	36	72	108	784	102	886
Other	117	9	126	22	148	64	53	117	190	75	265

Table 9
Youth Identified But Not Served and Services Needed
2010

Reason Youth Not Served (duplicated)	Short Term					Long Term			Total		
	Residential			Non-Residential	Short Term Total	Residential	Non-Residential	Long Term Total	Residential Total	Non-Residential Total	Grand Total
	Crisis Shelter	Interim Family	Residential Total								
Youth unwilling to follow through or no show	662	50	712	298	1010	271	249	520	983	547	1530
No available shelter space	605	0	605	44	649	113	0	113	718	44	762
Too old	336	15	351	20	371	21	57	78	372	77	449
Mental health problems too severe for program safety	125	16	141	55	196	110	2	112	251	57	308
Severe behavior problems/non-compliance	69	20	89	30	119	90	13	103	179	43	222
Too young	41	0	41	10	51	14	4	18	55	14	69
Violence (including gang involvement)	14	9	23	8	31	12	10	22	35	18	53
Abusing drugs/alcohol - needs treatment	24	9	33	20	53	48	12	60	81	32	113
No interim family available	0	29	29	15	44	0	0	0	29	15	44
Parent with child(ren) not accepted	108	1	109	1	110	2	0	2	111	1	112
Too physically sick/disabled	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pregnant youth not accepted	3	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	3	1	4
Other reasons	298	95	393	277	670	196	86	282	589	363	952
Services Needed											
Supportive(long term) housing/greater than 1 year	258	343	601	40	641	199	141	340	800	181	981
Employment	533	46	579	85	664	119	256	375	698	341	1039
Supportive (short term) housing/less than 1 year	524	70	594	70	664	108	449	557	702	519	1221
Vocational training	348	28	376	45	421	22	63	85	398	108	506
Counseling	211	0	211	27	238	4	82	86	215	109	324
Parent training	113	0	113	11	124	5	85	90	118	96	214
Basic needs	120	1	121	31	152	0	70	70	121	101	222
Mental health	257	25	282	78	360	33	98	131	315	176	491
Case management	82	1	83	24	107	0	64	64	83	88	171
General health care	122	0	122	2	124	3	23	26	125	25	150
Recreation	0	0	0	30	30	0	5	5	0	35	35
Substance abuse treatment	157	6	163	5	168	19	71	90	182	76	258
Education	103	0	103	3	106	3	0	3	106	3	109
Life skills/Independent living training	65	6	71	29	100	10	24	34	81	53	134
Legal	17	0	17	1	18	3	2	5	20	3	23
HIV/Aids	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
PA, SSI or other entitlement	47	6	53	22	75	23	37	60	76	59	135