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In December of 1966 the Job Corps asked Louis Harris and Associates to conduct a study of ex-Corpsmen who had left the centers before finishing their training. These are the "dropouts", the youth who did not make it in the Job Corps. The purpose of the study was fivefold:

1. To determine what the dropouts were doing just before they entered the Job Corps and what they felt the future held for them. Were they now working, in school, or unemployed? What kind of work were they doing and how much were they earning?

2. To determine what they have done since leaving the Job Corps. What was the first thing they did and what are they doing now? Has their employment status improved and have their expectations brightened?

3. To study their Job Corps experience. How did they find out about the Job Corps and what were their main reasons for wanting to join? How accurate or fanciful was the picture of the Job Corps as pointed by the screening agency? What did they like and dislike about their experience in the Job Corps and most important of all, why did they leave?

4. To present the demographic characteristics of the dropout group and to discern their personal activities and involvement with the community in which they live.

5. To compare the dropouts to Job Corps graduates who were placed on jobs or in school as of May 31, 1966. The information on the graduates comes from a study conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation.