

O. E. O. CONTRACT # non-contracted CODE # 0400
 TITLE: Some Relations Between Corpsmen Intake and Dropout Rates: A
Social System Analysis
 GROUP CONDUCTING STUDY: Roy E. Buehler, Ph.D
 TIME SPAN: _____
 CURRENT STATUS: Completed

Purpose: To determine whether peer group attitudes in dormitory life influence Corpsmen adjustment to Job Corps Centers, as measured by the dropout rate of the center . . . An "ideal" living arrangement is one in which:

1. peer group would have important role in influencing Corpsmen behavior
2. counseling would use group processes as much as possible in managing dorm life and maintaining Corpsmen discipline
3. dormitory social system would be developed by adding 6 or 8 new Corpsmen a week to a dorm, until 26 Corpsmen were in each dorm.

For this study, a low dropout rate is considered an indication of effectiveness of the program.

Method: Because of a large influx of enrollees at Parks Job Corps Center in late June, the study was broken into three parts:

1. the first 8 dormitories were filled slowly, according to "ideal" conditions.
2. a second 8 dorms were filled in a period ranging from 48 hours to one week
3. a third group (June 28 - June 30) was filled in 48 hours or less

Several other factors affected the outcome of the study:

1. Corpsmen were not assigned at random throughout the project; rather, judgments of counselors began to enter as assignment criteria
2. short notice of the large influx in late June (camp enrollment went from 600 to 1200 Corpsmen) meant that all plans for adding Corpsmen in small increments had to be dropped
3. changes in staff and staff training procedures in late June, 1965 caused a lessening of emphasis on peer group enforcement practices