

Comparison of Gains Made By Groups in Job Corps Different Lengths of Time

When the sample is grouped according to length of time in Job Corps within the Center type, the reading gains fluctuate considerably for the Urban Men and Women's Centers but remain relatively constant for Conservation Centers. Some slight peaking is seen for all the groups who recently entered Job Corps. This "recovery phenomenon" is not as pronounced as expected. The percent of Conservation Corpsmen showing improvement remains fairly constant for those on Center a year or more, indicating there is more than instant recall taking place. The percent from the Urban Centers showing improvement, however, decreases for those at the center longer periods of time. The percents showing gain are presented in Table 5.

TABLE 5.—Percent showing improvement in reading between October 1966 and January 1967 by amount of time in Job Corps

Number of months in Job Corps, October 1966	Men's urban, percent showing (N = gain)		Conservation, percent showing (N = gain)		Women's urban, percent showing (N = gain)	
Less than 1.....	28	54	60	65	14	78
1 to 3.....	134	66	255	68	120	60
4 to 6.....	123	73	165	61	114	53
7 to 9.....	70	56	94	68	28	68
10 to 12.....	40	48	39	67	22	50
13 to 15.....	16	56	26	73	16	31
More than 15.....	8	50	15	67	5	0

In arithmetic, gains are also grossly related to the length of time Corpsmembers have been at the center. As in reading, there is a slight peaking for those who recently entered the arithmetic program and a tailing off for Urban Corpsmembers in Job Corps a year or more. Part of the early peaking is a result of Corpsman's recovery of skills forgotten when not used. For those Urban Corpsmembers who have been on center more than ten months, the percent showing improvement decreases. This tailing off in arithmetic and in reading is probably a consequence of Corpsmen completing available academic programs. Percents from center subgroups showing improvement in arithmetic are presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6.—Percent showing improvement in arithmetic computation between October 1966 and January 1967 by amount of time in Job Corps

Number of months in Job Corps, October 1966	Men's urban, percent showing (N = gain)		Conservation, percent showing (N = gain)		Women's urban, percent showing (N = gain)	
Less than 1.....	27	59	61	72	16	81
1 to 3.....	136	68	259	65	122	56
4 to 6.....	123	71	162	57	113	61
7 to 9.....	72	61	87	68	28	68
10 to 12.....	41	66	46	67	21	48
13 to 15.....	17	59	24	79	16	44
More than 15.....	8	38	16	44	5	0

A Comparison of Job Corps Programs Within the Center Types

Dividing the sample into three grade equivalent groups which are roughly equivalent to the Introductory, Elementary and Intermediate Programs, some program strengths and weaknesses are identifiable. Table 7 shows the number of units actually gained between testing periods. A unit is roughly equivalent to one school month or $\frac{1}{40}$ of a school year. These units are unadjusted; they do not take account of forgetting which occurred during the vacation and, therefore, are conservative estimates of the rate of gain. They do, however, illustrate the relationship of gain to the Corpsmembers' achievement level in October.