

TABLE 7.—Unadjusted gains¹ for center groups (October 1966 to January 1967) by October achievement level (N's in parenthesis)

CONSERVATION CENTERS		
October grade level	Median reading gain	Median arithmetic gain
1.0 to 2.9	3+ (255)	5+ (121)
3.0 to 5.9	2- (356)	2 (454)
6 and up	-5 (60)	-1- (87)
All levels combined	2 (671)	2+ (662)
MEN'S CENTERS		
1.0 to 2.9	13 (16)	11- (13)
3.0 to 5.9	5+ (176)	5 (208)
6 and up	0+ (225)	3+ (203)
All levels combined	3 (419)	4 (424)
WOMEN'S CENTERS		
1.0 to 2.9	11 (10)	7.5 (5)
3.0 to 5.9	3- (113)	3 (159)
6 and up	0 (197)	-3 (158)
All levels combined	1- (320)	1 (322)

¹ Explanation of codes: Often + or - will follow a median in the table. In lieu of computing exact medians, this indicator is used for approximation purposes due to the imprecise nature of the data. A + means greater than. For example, 3+ means the median is between 3 and 3.5 months. 4- on the other hand represents a gain between 3.5 and 4 months.

The Introductory Program—The greatest gain is made by Corpsmembers scoring between 1.0 and 2.9 grade equivalents on the S.A.T. The very large gains made by Men's and Women's Urban Centers are suspect. The small number of Corpsmembers from Urban Centers in this lower group may very well have been mistested; their October scores, therefore, would not be an accurate measure of their skill and consequently their gains are spurious. The suspicion about their scores is reinforced when one considers that very low achievers are not normally assigned to Urban Centers. Because the gains are suspect in Urban Centers, a definite conclusion about these programs can not be drawn. These gains may reflect program strength since other anecdotal reports from Centers indicate that the Introductory Programs are highly successful.

The gains made by the Conservation Center sample in the first to third grade level are more acceptable since the N's are more substantial. Of 121 persons, 81% showed improvement in arithmetic and of 255 Corpsmen, 78% showed improvement in reading. The achievement rate in reading is three times as fast as the average school student and in arithmetic about twice as fast. A separate analysis by length of time in center indicates that the greater rate of gain is evidenced by Corpsmen in this group who had been at the center six months or less. This rate was not entirely out of proportion to gains for other groups but does demonstrate a recovery effect. A large percentage, more than 75%, of all the different length of stay groups show improvement.

The Elementary Programs—Those Corpsmembers achieving between third and sixth grades make adequate gains. Gains made by Urban Men in reading and arithmetic are impressive. In both skills the Urban Corpsman gained almost six units for the period under investigation. Corpswomen at this level gained on the average about four units during the period under investigation. The Conservation Centers Corpsmen, on the other hand, show steady but non-exceptional progress.