

Follow-Up on Welfare Benefits Received by Job Club Clients

N. H. AZRIN, R. A. PHILIP, P. THIENES-HONTOS, AND V. A. BESALEL

Anna Mental Health & Developmental Center and Nova University

A follow-up was made of the welfare payments received by AFDC clients who had received job-finding counseling. At the 6th-month follow-up, welfare payments had been reduced by about one-half for the Job Club clients vs 15% for the control group.

An intensive job-search program (Job Club) has been found to be effective with the general job-seeker (Azrin, Flores, & Kaplan, 1975; Azrin & Besalel, 1980), as well as with the handicapped (Azrin & Philip, 1979). In a study with AFDC (Aid to Families of Dependent Children) welfare recipients, the persons assigned to the Job Club were found to have almost twice as much success, 66 vs 34% in obtaining employment as did the randomly assigned control clients (Azrin, Philip, Thienes-Hontos, & Besalel, 1980). The effect of the Job Club enrollment on the welfare payments was not evaluated. In the present follow-up study, welfare information was obtained from the agency records at one of the five cities involved in the study. Data were available and complete for 168 clients for all three of the relevant time periods: precounseling, 3-month follow-up, and 6-month follow-up.

Table 1 shows that the mean welfare payments on the day prior to counseling were only slightly different for the two counseling programs and this difference was not statistically significant ($t = 1.46, p > .05$). Analysis of variance for one between- and one within-design (Myers, 1972) showed a significantly smaller amount of welfare payments of the

N. H. Azrin and V. A. Besalel are now at Nova University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. R. A. Philip is now at the National Office of Program Development, Carbondale, IL. P. Thienes-Hontos is now at the Minnesota Community Support Project, Morrison County, MN. The study was done when the authors were at the Anna Mental Health Center. Grateful acknowledgment is given to J. Maedke for the extensive data analysis provided for this study. Reprints may be obtained from N. H. Azrin, Psychology Department, Nova University, 3301 College Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314.

TABLE I
Mean Welfare Payments Received by Job Club and Control Welfare Recipients Prior to Counseling and 3 and 6 Months Later in Dollars per Month

	Job Club (N = 84)	Control (N = 84)
Precounseling	228.30	263.46
Post-3 months	216.56	297.55
Post-6 months	118.70	223.93

Job Club clients $F(1, 166) = 15.89, p < .0001$. The welfare payments were reduced by 48% for the Job Club vs 15% for the controls at the 6-month follow-up. At that time, therefore, the Job Club clients were receiving about one-half the amount of welfare as they had initially and also about one-half of the amount being received by the Control clients. The decrease in welfare payments can be seen to have occurred primarily after the 3rd month, possibly because of delays by the agencies in adjusting these payments after the start of employment.

The present findings indicate that the Job Club program reduced welfare payments by about one-half thereby extending the previous finding that the program resulted in doubling of the number of persons obtaining employment. These results suggest the possible usefulness of this job search program as a component of welfare programs.

REFERENCES

- Azrin, N. H., & Besalel, V. A. *Job counselor's manual: A behavioral approach to vocational counseling*. Baltimore: Univ. Park Press, 1980.
- Azrin, N. H., Flores, T., & Kaplan, S. J. Job-finding club: A group-assisted program for obtaining employment. *Behavior Research and Therapy*, 1975, 13, 17-27.
- Azrin, N. H., & Philip, R. A. The job-club method for the job-handicapped: A comparative outcome study. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 1979, 23, 144-155.
- Azrin, N. H., Philip, R. A., Thienes-Hontos, P., & Besalel, V. A. Comparative evaluation of the Job Club program with welfare recipients. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 1980, 16, 133-145.
- Myers, J. L. *Fundamentals of experimental design* (2nd ed.). Boston, Mass: Allyn & Bacon, 1972.

Received: August 26, 1980