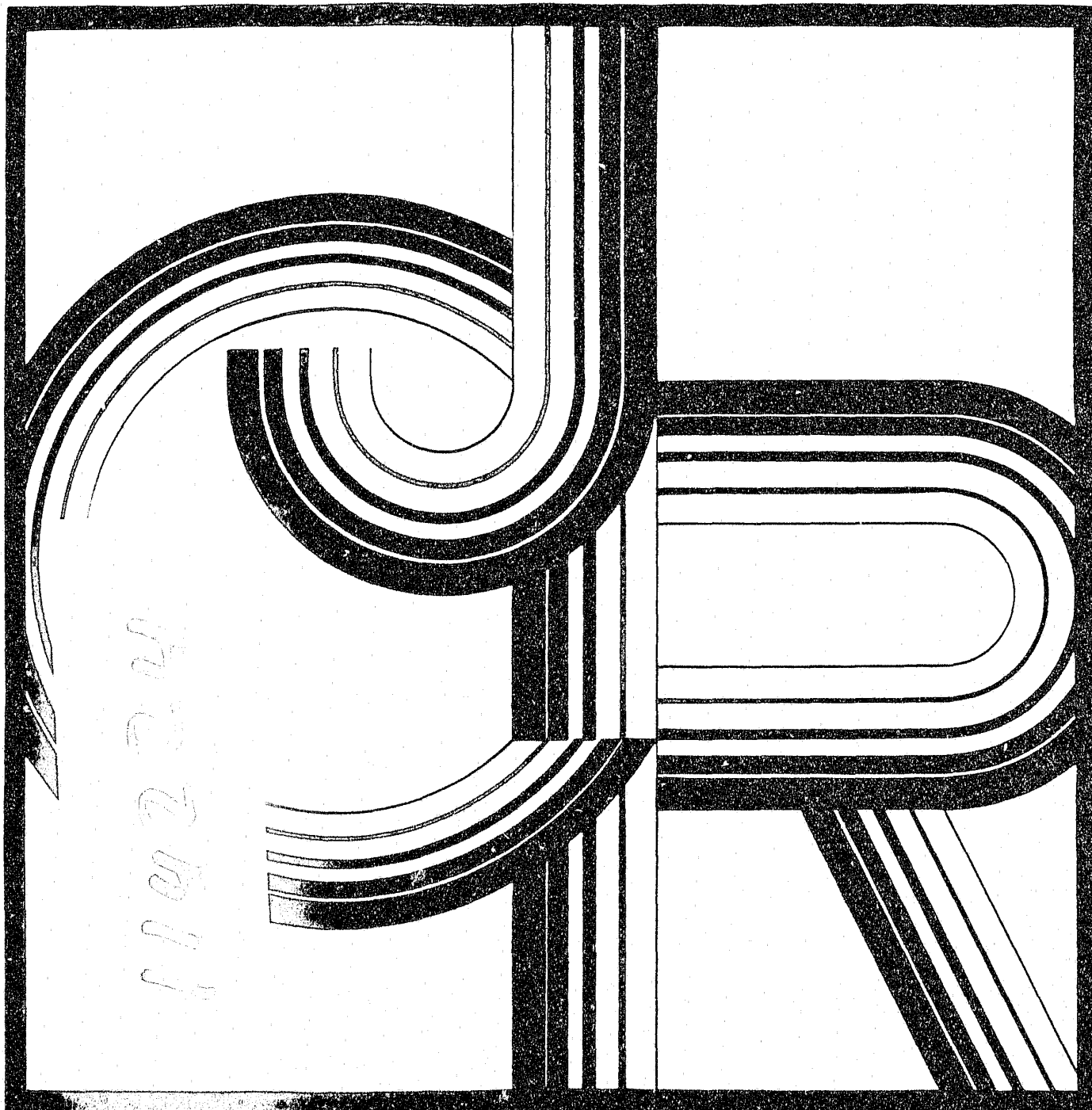




Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

JUVENILE COURT REPORT 1987



114224

JUVENILE COURT REPORT - 1987

114224

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Nebraska Commission on Law
Enforcement & Criminal Justice

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement
and Criminal Justice

Jim Joneson, Executive Director
301 Centennial Mall South
P. O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(402) 471-2194

Prepared By:

Michael Overton
Statistical Analysis Center

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT SELECTED FINDINGS

- o 6,834 juvenile cases reached final disposition in Nebraska courts having juvenile jurisdiction in 1987, 883 cases ~~fewer~~^{more} than in 1986.
- o Of all juvenile cases, 4,307 (63%) were referred for reasons classified as major offenses, 1,719 (25%) for minor or status offenses, and 808 (12%) for neglect and dependent reasons.
- o The most common reason for referral to juvenile court was for theft under \$100, involving about 1 in 5 referrals. Neglect cases accounted for the next highest number, about 9.7%. Possession of Alcohol also accounted for 9.7% of all cases.
- o Almost one-third of the cases disposed of in 1987 involved juveniles who had previously been referred to the same court.
- o Juveniles referred for major and minor offenses were most likely to be placed on probation. Just over 40% of all referrals resulted in this disposition. Over half (51.5%) of the neglect/dependent cases were referred to a public agency or department.
- o 15 and 16 year-olds comprised the largest group of juvenile cases disposed of in 1987. More than twice as many male than female referrals were recorded.
- o Over two-thirds (71.4%) of male referrals were for major offenses, while slightly more than one-third (41.6%) of female referrals were for major offenses.
- o The Separate Juvenile Courts in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties together processed 59% of all juvenile dispositions in 1987.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page(s)</u>
I. Introduction	1
II. Juvenile Court Reporting Program	2-4
III. Referral Background	5-13
IV. Referrals	14-27
V. Dispositions	28-32
VI. Age	33-34
VII. Sex	35-37
VIII. Ethnic Group	38
IX. Living Arrangement	39-40
X. Separate Juvenile Courts	41-43

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

	<u>Page(s)</u>
1. Juvenile Court Reporting Program Flow Diagram	3
2. Juvenile Court Statistical Form	4
3. Map of Juvenile Cases Disposed of by County	6
4. County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data	7-13
5. Top Reasons for Referral	14
6. Major Offense Frequencies	15-17
7. Minor Offense Frequencies	18
8. Neglect/Dependent Referral Frequencies	19
9. Reason Referred	20
10. Disposition Trends by Year: 1977-1987	21-23
11. Source of Court Referrals	24-25
12. Total Prior Referrals by Reason for Referral	26-27
13. Juvenile Court Dispositions	29
14. Elapsed Time in Days Between Referral and Disposition	30-31
15. Month of Disposition	32
16. Reason Referred by Age	34
17. Reason Referred by Sex	36
18. Disposition by Sex	37
19. Reason Referred by Ethnic Group	38
20. Reason Referred by Living Arrangement	39-40
21. Sources of Referral in Separate Juvenile Courts Versus All Other Counties	42
22. Dispositions in Separate Juvenile Courts Versus All Other Counties	43

INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Court Report presents data collected during calendar year 1987 through the Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR) Program concerning young people who were processed by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in the State of Nebraska. These include 90 county courts and the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties.

The JCR program was instituted in 1971 by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (hereafter referred to as the Commission). The program is based on the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Juvenile Court Statistics Series begun in 1927. In 1973 this program was assumed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice under a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The National Center compiles national statistics on juvenile delinquency using data from state reporting programs such as the one in Nebraska.

In Nebraska, the Commission uses data obtained through the JCR program as a basis for its function of juvenile justice planning. The program is also used as a source of information for agencies and individuals dealing with juvenile delinquency and related issues. Readers are reminded that upon request to the Commission, specific information collected in the program may be provided. While this report represents a large amount of data describing the characteristics of young persons who enter the Nebraska court system, interpretation of the information is beyond its scope.

The many county and juvenile court judges, clerks, probation staff, and other court personnel deserve recognition for their time and effort involved in collecting and reporting case information. Without their cooperation, this publication would not be possible.

JUVENILE COURT REPORTING PROGRAM

One of the primary purposes of this report is to provide information that accurately reflects the level of juvenile crime in the State of Nebraska. In this report, the particular indicator used is the flow of juveniles through the Nebraska juvenile court system (see Figure 1). The sources of the data are the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties and the county courts in the remaining 90 counties. Neither the district courts nor the municipal courts in Lincoln and Omaha report juvenile case data to the Commission. District court cases usually involve older juveniles appearing for serious offenses and the volume of such cases is small compared to the number of juvenile cases handled in juvenile and county courts. In addition, the Commission does not collect data on juvenile traffic offenses or citations.

The 93 courts report cases disposed of to the Commission monthly. For each individual juvenile case disposition, the court fills out a Juvenile Court Statistical Form as shown in Figure 2. The following sections of the form are required information on all cases: A. Court Code; E. Age at Time of Referral; M. Manner of Handling; N. Date of Disposition; and Q. Disposition. The remainder of the form is optional, however, the courts are encouraged to include as much information as they possibly can. In the tables contained in this report, references to missing data mean that not all counties completed the section(s) of the form being discussed.

A Juvenile Court Statistical Form Instruction Manual, which is intended to explain how to complete the form, is available to assist persons responsible for its completion. The instruction manual also provides definitions and other pertinent information on specifics on information which is collected.

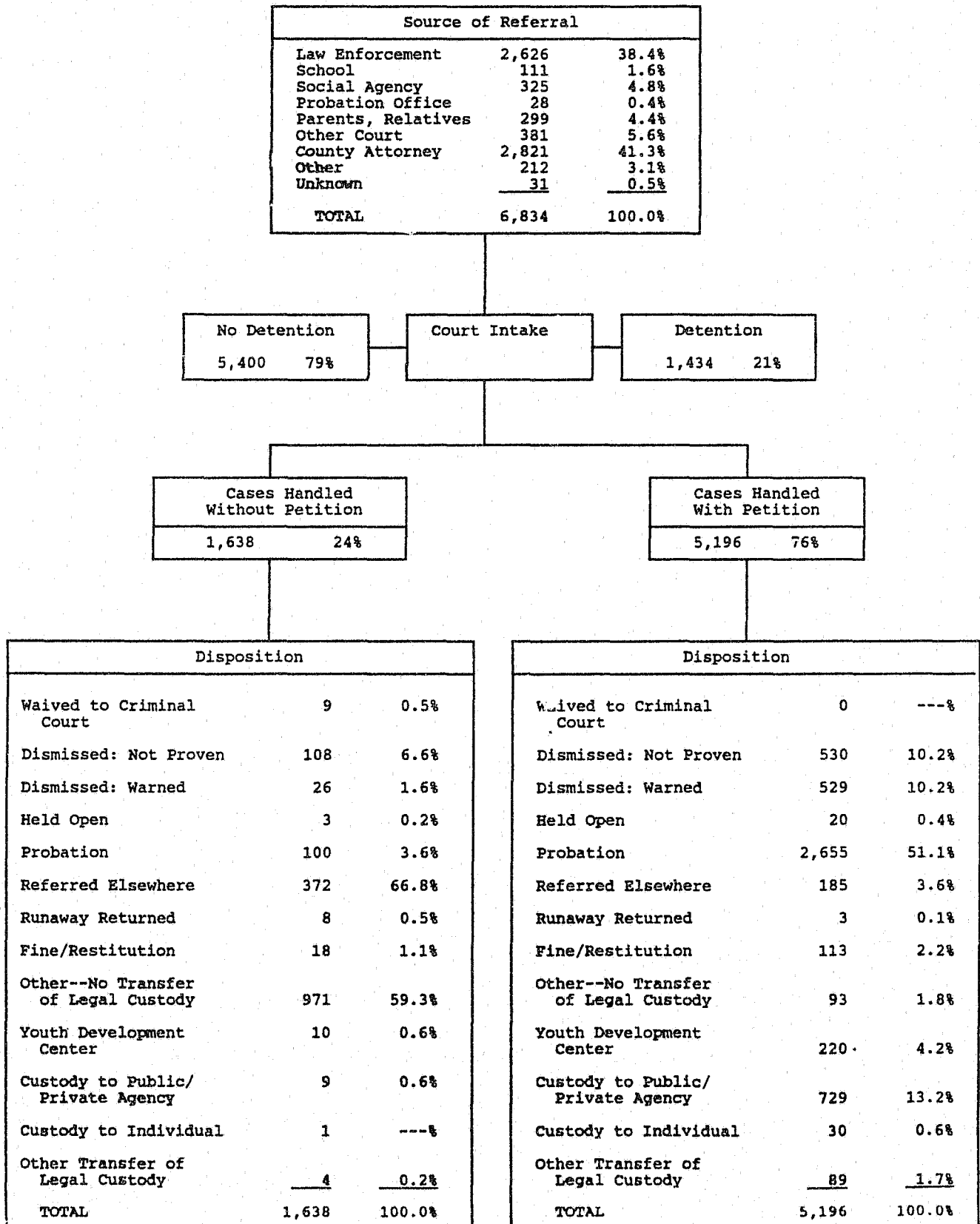
At this time, the Commission has juvenile court data from all counties from 1974 through 1987 and some partial data from 1973.

It is important to note that the information described in this report pertains to dispositions of juvenile cases by county and juvenile courts during calendar year 1987 and not to referrals during that period. Disposition is used in a very broad sense for purposes of most statistics in this report. Disposition refers to those cases filed with a petition as well as those filed without petition. Those wanting strictly disposition cases filed with petition may contact the Commission. The case may have been referred to the court during 1987 or previously. Thus, an accurate count of the number of referrals for a given period is not possible because a statistical form is not received until a final disposition in the case has been determined.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

JUVENILE COURT REPORTING PROGRAM FLOW DIAGRAM

FIGURE 1



Juvenile Court Statistical Form

A. County _____

Court Code _____

B. Child's Number _____

C. Census tract of residence
(Douglas County only) _____

D. Date of birth _____

mo	day	yr
----	-----	----

E. Age at time of referral _____

F. Sex 1 Male 2 Female _____

G. Ethnic Group
1 White
2 Black
3 Indian

4 Mexican-American
5 Oriental
6 Other _____

H. Date of Referral _____

I. Reason Referred
(Enter only one code)

Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults (excluding traffic)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01 Murder | 15 Theft; value over \$300 but less than \$1,000 |
| 02 Manslaughter | 16 Theft; value less than \$300 |
| 03 Assault; 1st & 2nd degree | 17 Theft; value less than \$100 |
| 04 Assault; 3rd degree | 18 Criminal Mischief; Felony |
| 05 Sexual Assault; 1st degree | 19 Criminal Mischief; Misdemeanor |
| 06 Sexual Assault; 2nd degree | 20 Criminal Trespass |
| 07 Robbery | 21 Forgery; Felony |
| 08 Violation of Drug Laws, Felony | 22 Forgery; Misdemeanor |
| 09 Violation of Drug Laws, Misdemeanor | 23 Weapons Offenses; Felony |
| 10 Arson; Felony | 24 Weapons Offenses; Misdemeanor |
| 11 Arson; Misdemeanor | 25 Driving While Intoxicated; 3rd offense |
| 12 Burglary | 26 Disturbing the Peace |
| 13 Unauthorized Use of a Propelled Vehicle | 27 Other Felony _____ |
| 14 Theft; value over \$1,000 | 28 Other Misdemeanor _____ |

Offenses applicable only to juveniles (excluding traffic)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 31. Running away | 34. Ungovernable behavior |
| 32. Truancy | 35. Possessing or drinking liquor |
| 33. Violation of curfew | 36. Other _____ |
| Nonoffenses | 52. Dependent |
| 51. Neglect | |

M. Manner of handling
1 Without petition
2 With petition _____

N. Date of disposition _____

O. Disposition
(Enter only one code)
09 Waived to criminal court;
Complaint not substantiated
01 Dismissed: Not proved or found
not involved
Complaint substantiated
No transfer of legal custody
11 Dismissed: Warned, counseled
12 Hold open without further action
13 Formal probation
14 Referred to another agency or indi-
vidual for service or supervision
15 Runaway returned
16 Fine or restitution
17 Other _____
Transfer of legal custody to:
21 Youth Development Center -
Kearney or Geneva
22 Public agency or department
(including court or jail)
23 Private agency or institution
(Specify) _____
24 Individual (Specify relationship)

K. Care pending disposition
0. No detention or shelter care overnight

Detention or shelter care overnight or longer
in:

1. Jail or police station with separate facilities
2. Jail or police station with no separate facilities
3. Detention home
4. Foster or group home
5. Other _____

The following questions refer to status at time of referral.

P. Diagnostic Services

NEED FOR DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

	Indicated and provided	Indicated but not available	Not indicated
Psychological	1	2	3
Psychiatric	1	2	3
Medical	1	2	3
Social	1	2	3

Q. School attainment
Grade completed (00-12) _____

R. Employment and school status

	Out of School	In School
Not employed	1	5
Employed		
Full time	2	6
Part time	3	7
Preschool	4	

S. Length of residence of child in county
0 Not currently a resident
1 Under one year
2 One year or more _____

T. Living arrangement of child
in home with

- 01 Both parents
- 02 Mother and stepfather
- 03 Father and stepmother
- 04 Mother only
- 05 Father only
- Outside own home with
- 06 Relatives
- 07 Foster or group home
- 08 Institution
- 09 Independent arrangement
- 10 Other _____
- 11 Unknown

U. Marital status of natural parents
01 Parents married and living together
One or both parents dead
02 Both dead
03 Father dead
04 Mother dead
Parents separated
05 Divorced or legally separated
06 Father deserted mother
07 Mother deserted father
08 Other reason (Specify) _____
09 Parents not married to each other
10 Other _____
11 Unknown

V. Combined family annual income
1. Receiving public assistance
Not receiving public assistance
2. Under \$5,000
3. \$5,000 to \$9,999
4. \$10,000 to \$24,999
5. \$25,000 and over
6. Unknown _____

W. Counsel

1. Court appointed
2. Retained
3. Public defender
4. Not represented
5. Other _____

X. Occupation of primary parent or guardian

- 01 Professional or technical
- 02 Managerial or administrative
- 03 Farmer or rancher
- 04 Sales worker
- 05 Craftsman or other skilled laborer
- 06 Clerical
- 07 Service workers or other unskilled laborers
- 08 Unemployed
- 09 Unknown

ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR COURT USE

REFERRAL BACKGROUND

A juvenile may come under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court or a county court sitting as a juvenile court in Nebraska if it is determined that he or she is described in Sections 43-245 through 43-247 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, 1943, Reissue of 1984. For purposes of the Juvenile Court Reporting Program, the following sections are applicable:

- "(1) Any juvenile who has committed an act other than a traffic offense which would constitute a misdemeanor or an infraction under the laws of this state, or violation of a city or village ordinance;
- (2) Any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a felony under the laws of this state;
- (3) Any juvenile (a) who is homeless or destitute, or without proper support through no fault of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who is abandoned by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; whose parent, guardian or custodian neglects or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, or other care necessary for the health, morals, or well-being of such juvenile; whose parent, guardian, or custodian neglects or refuses to provide special care made necessary by the mental condition of the juvenile; or who is in a situation or engages in an occupation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to the health or morals of such juvenile or (b) who, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who deports himself or herself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself, herself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school:"

In this report, referrals to juvenile court are classified into three categories; major offenses, minor offenses, and neglect/dependent cases. Major offense referrals are coded on the Juvenile Court Statistical Form (see Figure 2) under section L. as response 01 through 28. The major offense referrals are coded in categories 31 through 39. Minor offenses are often referred to as "status" offenses and represent offenses applicable only to individuals under 18 years of age. Neglect/dependent referrals are coded as 51 or 52. "Neglect" and "dependent" refer to juveniles described in Section 43-247(3) of Nebraska R.R.S., 1943, Reissue of 1984. The usage of these terms was retained after the definitions of "neglect" and "dependency" were removed from the juvenile code in 1978.

Non-felony motor vehicle related offenses or infraction data are not collected in the JCR program or presented in this report.

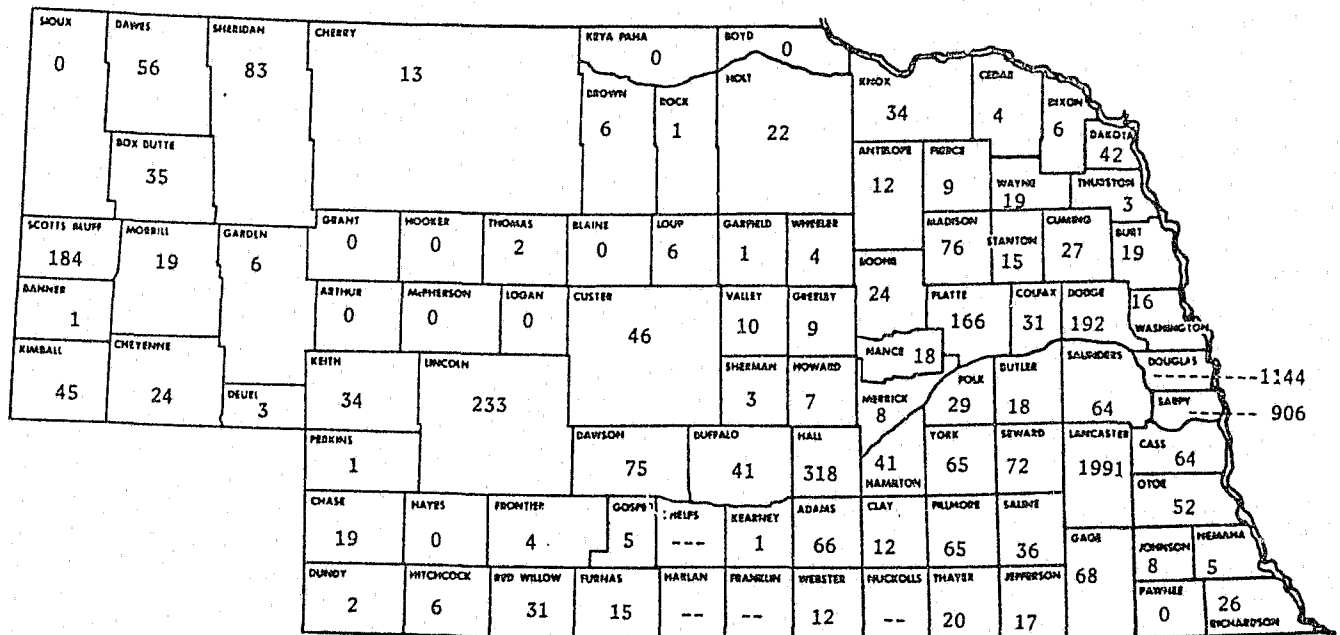
After a case comes to the court's attention, a decision is made whether to handle the case unofficially (without petition) or officially (with petition). Most cases handled without petition are generally disposed of by the court intake staff by one of several options. Many of these options are the same as those for cases handled with petition. If it is decided to file a petition (similar to a "complaint" in an adult case) with the clerk of the court, the procedure is most often performed by the county attorney. After a petition is filed, a hearing is conducted for the juvenile by a judge; no jury is present. The hearing proceeds in an informal manner, applying the rules of evidence used by district courts in civil trials without a jury. The judge will decide the case with one of many disposition options.

The majority of the state's juvenile cases were concentrated in the three most populous counties. In 1987, approximately 59% of the juvenile cases were held in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties. A breakdown of juvenile cases throughout the state may be found in Figure 3 and Table 1.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

JUVENILE CASES DISPOSED OF BY COUNTY

FIGURE 3



1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 1

COUNTY ARREST AND JUVENILE COURT DATA

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS			
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Adams	8,737	130	50	18	0	68 (1.0)
Antelope	2,585	15	11	1	0	12 (0.2)
Arthur	136	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Banner	269	--	1	0	0	1 (0.1)
Blaine	270	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Boone	2,180	--	13	11	0	24 (0.4)
Box Butte	4,068	142	25	8	2	35 (0.5)
Boyd	806	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Brown	1,247	2	2	2	2	6 (0.1)
Buffalo	9,117	228	34	7	0	41 (0.6)
Burt	2,309	28	13	3	3	19 (0.3)
Butler	2,631	21	10	6	2	18 (0.3)
Cass	6,150	113	30	19	15	64 (0.9)
Cedar	3,708	9	4	0	0	4 (0.1)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS					
	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Chase	1,461	2	2	17	0	19 (0.3)
Cherry	1,906	18	7	3	3	13 (0.2)
Cheyenne	2,766	41	18	4	2	24 (0.4)
Clay	2,335	8	11	1	0	12 (0.2)
Colfax	2,799	32	7	17	7	31 (0.5)
Cuming	3,534	42	14	12	1	27 (0.4)
Custer	3,788	76	27	11	8	46 (0.7)
Dakota	5,419	122	25	9	8	42 (0.6)
Dawes	2,402	9	40	10	6	56 (0.8)
Dawson	6,714	110	38	37	0	75 (1.1)
Deuel	667	1	2	1	0	3 (<0.1)
Dixon	2,120	39	3	3	0	6 (0.1)
Dodge	10,037	291	107	59	26	192 (2.8)
Douglas	115,538	3,282	697	143	304	1144 (16.7)
Dundy	698	3	2	0	0	2 (<0.1)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS					
	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Fillmore	2,146	14	18	47	0	65 (1.0)
Franklin	1,068	12	--	--	--	-- (--)
Frontier	1,010	-	0	3	1	4 (0.1)
Furnas	1,570	7	10	5	0	15 (0.2)
Gage	6,138	97	32	33	3	68 (1.0)
Garden	658	2	2	1	3	6 (0.1)
Garfield	640	--	0	1	0	1 (<0.1)
Gosper	591	2	2	1	2	5 (0.1)
Grant	267	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Greeley	1,077	--	2	7	0	9 (0.1)
Hall	14,355	657	143	53	78	274 (4.0)
Hamilton	2,818	58	26	9	6	41 (0.6)
Harlan	1,086	11	--	--	--	-- (--)
Hayes	393	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Hitchcock	1,146	8	6	6	0	6 (0.1)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS					
	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Holt	4,201	2	11	8	3	22 (0.3)
Hooker	261	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Howard	2,079	7	2	1	4	7 (0.1)
Jefferson	2,346	2	9	6	2	17 (0.2)
Johnson	1,369	26	1	3	5	9 (0.1)
Kearney	1,933	21	1	0	0	1 (<0.1)
Keith	2,725	60	20	14	0	34 (0.5)
Keya Paha	385	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Kimball	1,440	58	23	20	2	45 (0.7)
Knox	3,300	44	5	20	9	34 (0.5)
Lancaster	47,064	2,863	1,475	328	188	1,991 (29.1)
Lincoln	11,192	505	157	72	4	233 (3.4)
Logan	309	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Loup	241	5	1	5	0	6 (0.1)
Madison	8,599	208	50	19	7	76 (1.1)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS					
	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
McPherson	161	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Merrick	2,746	38	14	1	3	8 (0.1)
Morrill	1,751	2	12	6	1	19 (0.3)
Nance	1,394	4	13	4	1	18 (0.3)
Nemaha	2,075	33	3	1	1	5 (0.1)
Nuckolls	1,816	21	--	--	--	-- (--)
Otoe	4,099	77	42	7	3	52 (0.8)
Pawnee	909	5	0	0	0	0 (--)
Perkins	1,029	--	1	0	0	1 (<0.1)
Phelps	2,638	42	--	--	--	-- (--)
Pierce	2,485	--	3	6	0	9 (0.1)
Platte	9,002	218	78	87	1	166 (2.4)
Polk	1,820	26	13	16	0	29 (0.4)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS						
COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Rock	715	3	0	1	0	1 (<0.1)
Saline	3,243	18	26	8	2	36 (0.5)
Sarpy	30,621	1,401	484	401	21	906 (13.3)
Saunders	5,559	62	42	13	9	64 (0.9)
Scotts Bluff	11,580	202	144	25	15	184 (2.7)
Seward	4,200	60	45	21	6	72 (1.1)
Sheridan	2,173	86	64	11	8	83 (1.2)
Sherman	1,251	6	3	0	0	3 (<0.1)
Sioux	518	--	0	0	0	0 (--)
Stanton	2,227	8	3	9	3	15 (0.2)
Thayer	1,941	50	15	2	3	20 (0.3)
Thomas	297	0	2	0	0	2 (<0.1)
Thurston	2,450	--	3	0	0	3 (<0.1)
Valley	1,538	10	4	3	3	10 (0.1)
Washington	4,652	31	15	1	0	16 (0.2)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

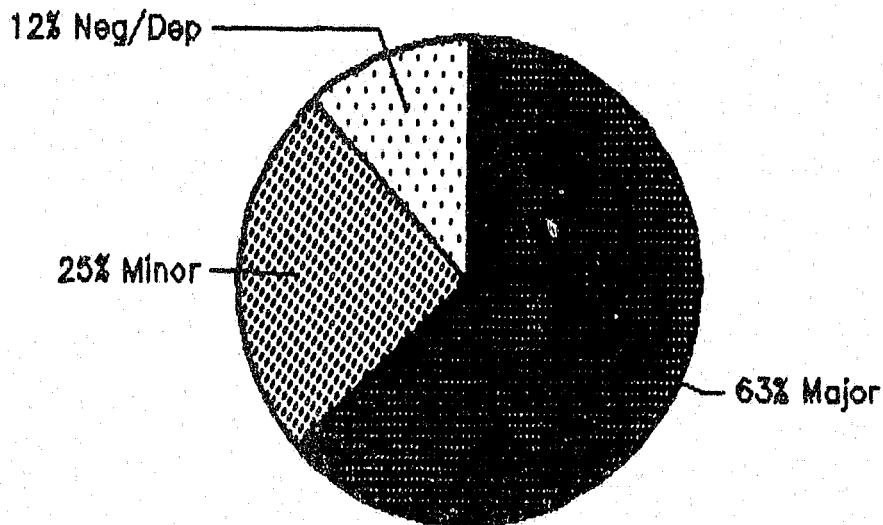
COUNTY	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS					TOTAL CASES (PCT)
	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	
Wayne	2,317	33	12	3	4	19 (0.3)
Webster	1,258	14	4	10	0	14 (0.2)
Wheeler	352	--	1	3	0	4 (0.1)
York	4,114	325	36	21	8	65 (1.0)
TOTAL	448,035	12,344	4,307	1,719	808	6,834

-- Data not available

* Population based on 1980 Census; Bureau of Business Research

** Arrest data from 1987 Nebraska Uniform Crime Report

DISPOSITION TYPES



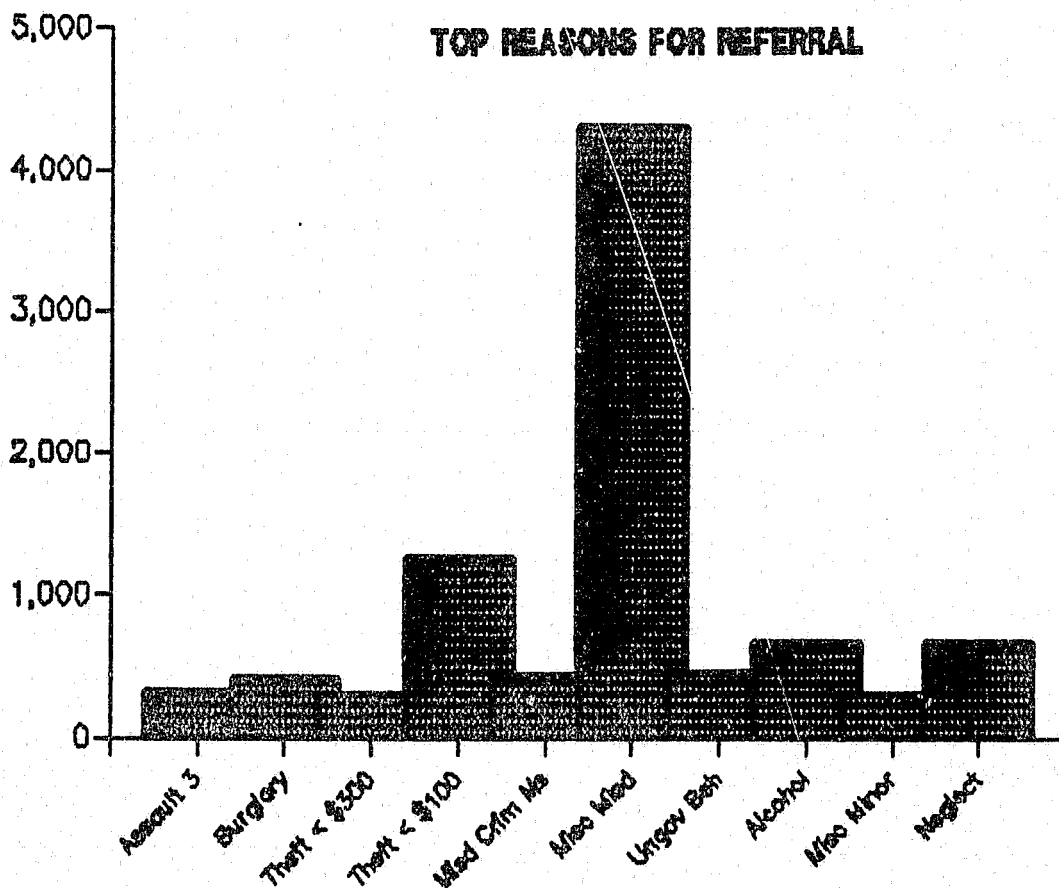
REFERRALS

There were 6,834 juvenile court referrals reported to the Commission in the Juvenile Court Reporting Program in 1987. Of these, 5,196 (76%) were handled with petition, while 1,638 (24%) were handled without petition.

Referrals for major offense categories accounted for 63% or 4,307 of the total number of cases. Minor offense referrals comprised 25.2% or 1,719 of the total, while 11.8% or 808 neglect/dependent cases were reported. Breakdowns of the reasons for referral are given in Tables 2, 3, and 4 and figures for major, minor, and neglect/dependent cases, respectively.

Offenses involving theft of less than \$100 were the most common reason for referral to juvenile court, with about 38.4% of major offense referral cases and 18.3% of all cases disposed of in 1987. As in the past, theft under \$100, misdemeanor criminal mischief, and burglary were the three largest major offense referral categories. Approximately half of all juveniles referred for major offenses were in these categories. For status offenses, minor in possession was the most frequent with 38.5% (661) of all referrals in this category and 9.7% of all referrals.

Twenty-one percent (1,434) of juvenile referrals were detained or placed in a jail facility, detention home, or foster or group home pending disposition of the case. Of all referrals 1.8% (126) were held, at least temporarily, in a jail facility. Over 90% of those detained or held, however, were placed in a detention, foster, or group home.



1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 2

MAJOR OFFENSE FREQUENCIES

OFFENSE TYPE	FREQUENCY	% OF MAJOR	% OF TOTAL
Murder	1	<0.1%	<0.1%
Manslaughter	0	---%	---%
Assault 1 and 2	38	0.9%	0.6%
Assault 3	325	7.5%	4.8%
Sex Assault 1	44	1.0%	0.6%
Sex Assault 2	29	0.7%	0.4%
Robbery	21	0.5%	0.3%
Drug Laws (Felony)	18	0.4%	0.3%
Drug Laws (Misdemeanor)	53	1.2%	0.8%
Arson (Felony)	19	0.4%	0.3%
Arson (Misdemeanor)	17	0.4%	0.2%
Burglary	409	9.5%	6.0%

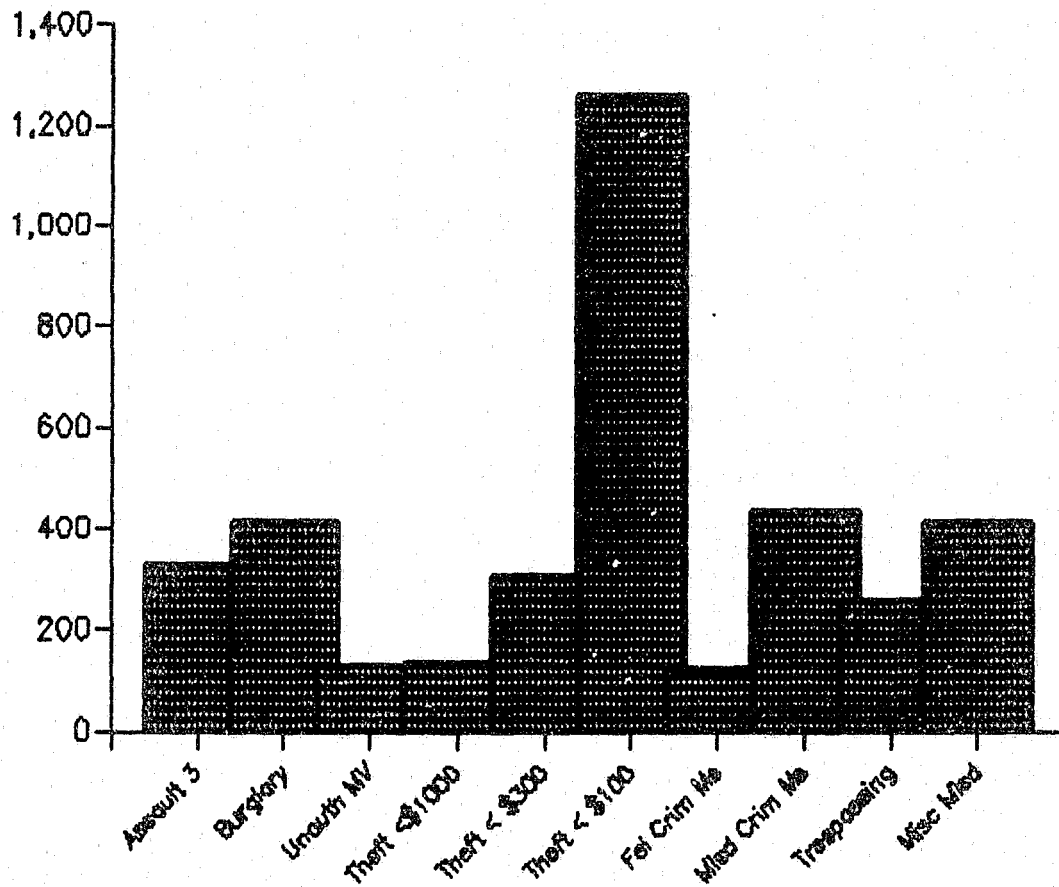
1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 2

MAJOR OFFENSE FREQUENCIES

OFFENSE TYPE	FREQUENCY	% OF MAJOR	% OF TOTAL
Theft Under \$300	301	7.0%	4.4%
Theft Under \$100	1,255	29.1%	18.3%
Criminal Mischief (Felony)	119	2.8%	1.7%
Criminal Mischief (Misdemeanor)	433	10.1%	6.3%
Trespassing	254	5.9%	3.7%
Forgery (Felony)	16	0.4%	0.2%
Forgery (Misdemeanor)	33	0.8%	0.5%
Weapons Laws (Felony)	8	0.2%	0.1%
Weapons Laws (Misdemeanor)	16	0.4%	0.2%
DWI (3rd Offense)	22	0.5%	0.3%
Disturbing the Peace	84	2.0%	1.2%
Other Felony	41	1.0%	0.6%
Other Misdemeanor	409	9.5%	6.0%
TOTAL	4,307	100.0%	63.0%

TOP 10 MAJOR OFFENSES



1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 3

MINOR OFFENSE FREQUENCIES

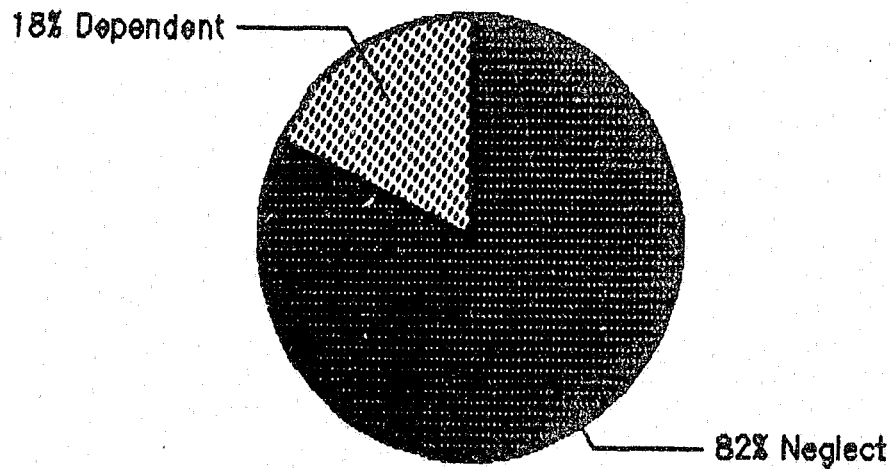
OFFENSE TYPE	FREQUENCY	% OF MINOR	% OF TOTAL
Running Away	39	2.3%	0.6%
Truancy	192	11.2%	2.8%
Curfew Violation	79	4.6%	1.2%
Ungovernable Behavior	448	26.1%	6.6%
Possession/Drinking Alcohol	661	38.5%	9.7%
Other	300	17.5%	4.4%

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 4

NEGLECT/DEPENDENT REFERRAL FREQUENCIES

REFERRAL REASON	FREQUENCY	% OF NEG/DEP	% OF TOTAL
Neglect	662	81.9%	9.7%
Dependent	146	18.1%	2.1%
TOTAL	808	100.0%	11.8%



The category of major offenses may be subdivided into smaller categories of offenses against persons and offenses against property (see Table 5). Offenses against persons, which include murder, manslaughter, assault, sexual assault, and robbery, comprised 10.7% of major offenses and 6.8% of all referrals. Property offenses such as arson, burglary, theft, and forgery constituted the largest proportion of major (and total) referrals, representing 46.8% of all referrals and 79.2% of major offenses referrals. Other major offense referrals which could not be categorized as offenses against persons or as property offenses, such as Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Disturbing the Peace, and drug violations, comprised the remainder of major offense referrals (15% and 9.5% respectively) of the total referrals.

TABLE 5
REASON REFERRED

REASON REFERRED	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL	% OF MAJOR
All Major Offenses	4,307	63.0%	100.0%
a. Persons	462	6.8%	10.7%
b. Property	3,196	46.8%	74.2%
c. Other Major	649	9.5%	15.1%
Minor Offenses	1,719	25.2%	--
Neglect/Dependent	808	11.8%	--
TOTAL	6,834	100.0%	--

Major, minor, and neglect/dependent disposition trends are illustrated in Table 6, along with percentage changes for each year from 1977 to 1986. The positive change from 1979 to 1981 in the number of major offense dispositions reversed a decreasing trend since 1975. There was a considerable increase of 14.8% in the number of reported dispositions in 1987. Major and minor offense categories contained the bulk of this, increasing about 20% each while the number of neglect/dependent cases decreased about 15%.

Year-to-year changes in the number of reported juvenile court dispositions may be the result of several factors. In some years certain jurisdictions were or were not reporting. Also, some jurisdictions may have changed their policies or procedures for the processing of young persons in juvenile court.

It should also be noted that these aggregate figures represent the state as a whole and tend to obscure changes that may have occurred over time in individual jurisdictions or groups of jurisdictions in the referral, intake, scheduling, and processing policies that are applied to individual cases.

As will be explained in another section of this report, all state total data are heavily weighted toward the juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties. In fact, about 60% of all dispositions were reported from these counties. This does not imply, however, that the data are unrepresentative of the state as a whole, but that about 40% of the state's estimated juvenile population live in these counties.

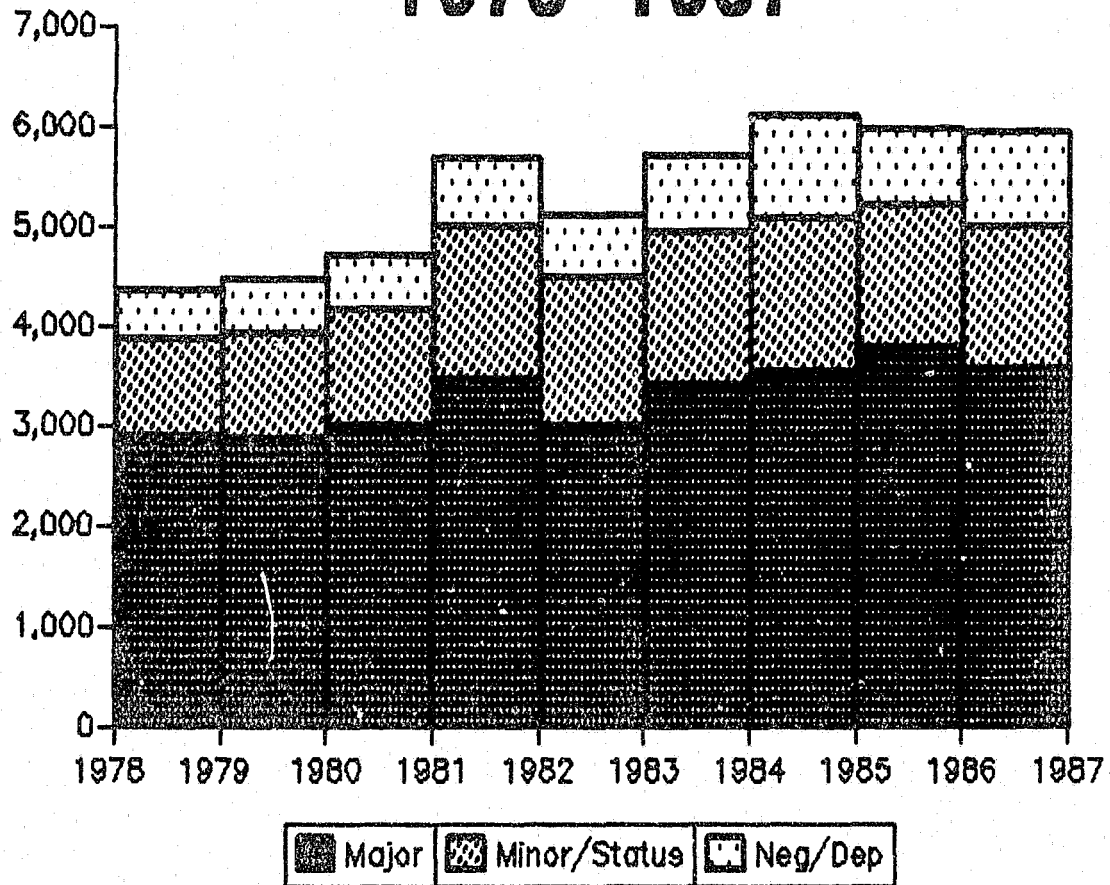
1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 6

JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS BY YEAR: 1977-1987

DISPOSITION YEAR	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	YEAR TOTAL
1977	3,502	1,182	428	5,112
% chg 1976	(- 4.9%)	(- 2.5%)	(- 7.6%)	(- 4.6%)
1978	2,896	962	493	4,351
% chg 1977	(-17.3%)	(-18.6%)	(+15.2%)	(-14.9%)
1979	2,862	1,045	551	4,458
% chg 1978	(- 1.2%)	(+ 8.6%)	(+11.8%)	(+ 2.5%)
1980	2,992	1,161	540	4,693
% chg 1979	(+ 4.5%)	(+11.1%)	(- 2.0%)	(+ 5.3%)
1981	3,439	1,545	698	5,682
% chg 1980	(+14.9%)	(+33.1%)	(+29.3%)	(+21.0%)
1982	2,981	1,498	625	5,104
% chg 1981	(-13.3%)	(- 3.0%)	(-10.5%)	(-10.2%)
1983	3,391	1,547	748	5,686
% chg 1982	(+13.8%)	(+ 3.3%)	(+19.7%)	(+10.2%)
1984	3,543	1,542	1,006	6,091
% chg 1983	(+ 4.5%)	(- 0.3%)	(+34.5%)	(+ 7.1%)
1985	3,782	1,425	767	5,974
% chg 1984	(+ 6.7%)	(- 7.6%)	(-23.8%)	(- 1.9%)
1986	3,567	1,434	950	5,951
% chg 1985	(- 5.7%)	(+ 0.6%)	(+23.9%)	(- 0.4%)
1987	4,307	1,719	808	6,834
% chg 1986	(+20.7%)	(+19.9%)	(-14.9%)	(+14.8%)

DISPOSITION TRENDS 1978-1987



DISPOSITION TRENDS 1978-1987

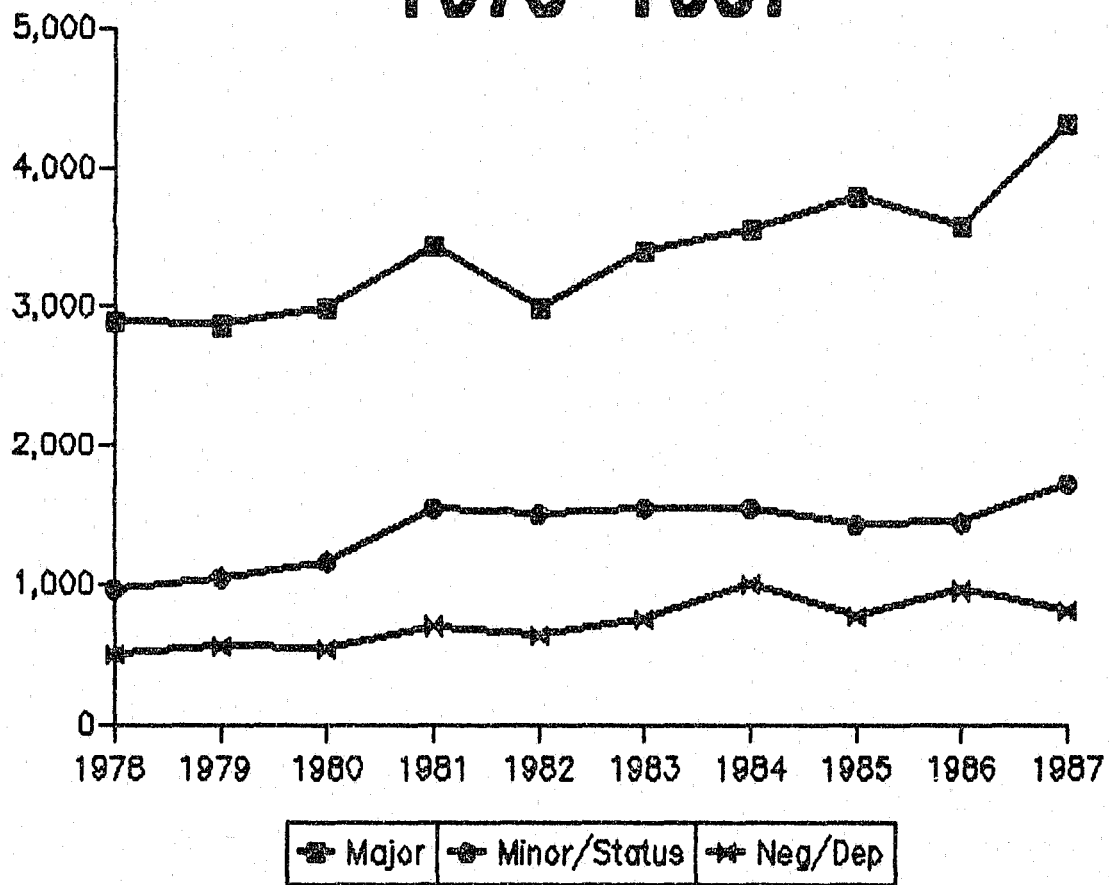


Table 7 includes figures showing the sources of referrals to Nebraska juvenile courts for major, minor, and neglect/dependent cases. The largest number of major offense referrals were from law enforcement. Referrals from the county attorney (51.5%) comprised the next largest category (1,585 or 37%) of sources of referral even though they only referred 4% of the neglect/dependent cases. The vast majority of all cases (80.1%) were referred by law enforcement agencies and the county attorneys. The county attorneys and social agencies were responsible for 731 (91.2%) of the neglect/dependent cases.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

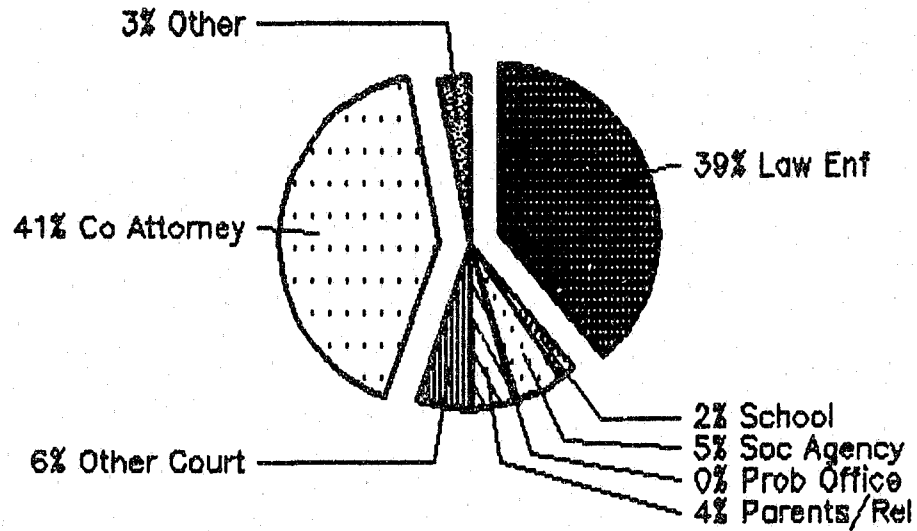
TABLE 7

SOURCE OF COURT REFERRALS

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	MAJOR OFFENSES (%)	MINOR OFFENSES (%)	NEGLECT/DEPENDENT (%)	TOTAL (%)
Law Enforcement	2,207 (51.5%)	386 (22.5%)	33 (4.1%)	2,626 (38.6%)
School	1 (<0.1%)	107 (6.2%)	3 (0.4%)	111 (1.6%)
Social Agency	3 (0.1%)	12 (0.7%)	310 (38.7%)	325 (4.8%)
Probation Office	6 (0.1%)	21 (1.2%)	1 (0.1%)	28 (0.4%)
Parents/Relatives	4 (0.1%)	282 (16.5%)	13 (1.6%)	299 (4.4%)
Other Court	299 (7.0%)	65 (3.8%)	17 (2.1%)	381 (5.6%)
County Attorney	1,585 (37.0%)	815 (47.6%)	421 (52.5%)	2,821 (41.5%)
Other	183 (4.3%)	25 (1.5%)	4 (0.5%)	212 (3.1%)
TOTAL*	4,288 (100%)	1,713 (100%)	802 (100%)	6,803*(100%)

*Does not include 31 cases with missing data

SOURCE OF REFERRALS



One measure of juvenile recidivism in the criminal justice system is the number of young persons who have been previously referred to a juvenile court. For all juvenile cases disposed of during 1987, about one third (31.1%) had been previously referred to the reporting court. Of those previously referred, about half (49.8%) had been previously referred only once.

Table 8b and 8c present detailed information on prior referrals. Table 8a shows the number of previous referrals to that court, while Table 8b shows the referrals within 1987 and Table 8c shows the number of referrals prior to 1987. Because referrals to courts outside the reporting court's jurisdiction are not included, the data probably presents a conservative estimate of actual prior court referrals. In addition, data on the nature of previous referrals is not collected and it is therefore not possible to identify repeat offenders for certain offenses or types of referrals. The information in the tables does indicate, however, that a significant number of juveniles have appeared previously in juvenile court for one reason or another.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 8a

NUMBER OF JUVENILES BY TOTAL PRIOR REFERRALS BY REASON FOR REFERRAL

REASON REFERRED	Number of Prior Referrals						TOTAL
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
All Major Offenses	2,508	537	191	118	58	100	3,512
a. Persons	248	88	40	24	18	40	458
b. Property	1,983	534	253	147	101	145	3,163
c. All Other	437	91	36	21	8	47	640
Minor Offenses	1,255	252	80	39	19	16	1,661
Neglect/Dependent	707	78	12	3	2	0	802
TOTAL*	4,630	1,043	421	234	148	248	6,724
(%)	(68.9%)	(15.5%)	(6.3%)	(3.5%)	(2.2%)	(3.7%)	(100%)

*Does not include 110 cases with missing data

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 8b

NUMBER OF JUVENILES WITH PRIOR REFERRALS IN 1987 BY REASON FOR REFERRAL

REASON REFERRED	Prior Referrals This Year						TOTAL
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
All Major Offenses	3,474	544	151	73	12	12	4,266
a. Persons	336	83	21	15	3	0	458
b. Property	2,603	390	108	53	6	6	3,166
c. All Other	535	71	22	5	3	6	642
Minor Offenses	1,494	138	26	5	1	1	1,665
Neglect/Dependent	782	22	0	1	0	0	805
TOTAL*	5,750	704	177	79	13	13	6,736
(%)	(85.4%)	(10.5%)	(2.6%)	(1.2%)	(0.2%)	(0.2%)	(100%)

*Does not include 98 cases with missing data.

DISPOSITIONS

Information on juvenile court disposition activity is contained in Tables 9 and 10. Once a juvenile case has been referred to court, the hearing and adjudication process has taken place, and a final disposition is determined, the court submits a Juvenile Court Statistical Form to the Commission.

The disposition outcomes listed in Table 9 summarize the types of determinations which may be made in most juvenile cases. In general, there are three possible outcomes described on the reporting form: the case may be waived to criminal court (only 9 of the total 1987 cases), it may be dismissed because of insufficient grounds (9.3% of the total), or a final determination may be reached based on the substantiation of a complaint and/or petition (the remaining 90.6% were in this category). If the court determines that there is evidence to substantiate the complaint and/or petition, a decision regarding legal custody of the juvenile may be reached. Of these cases, and across all reasons for referral, approximately 17.6% involved a transfer of legal custody of the juvenile to one of the Youth Development Centers or some other agency or individual. The remaining juvenile cases which were not dismissed or waived to criminal court involved no transfer of legal custody, but rather the imposition of a sentence such as probation, restitution, or a fine.

The largest proportion of cases referred to court for a major offense resulted in a disposition of formal probation (47.6%). This was also true for status offense referrals, of which 39.4% resulted in a disposition of formal probation. Over half (51.5%) of the neglect/dependent referrals resulted in transfer of custody to a public agency or department.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 9

JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS

DISPOSITION	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Waived to Criminal Court	0 (--)	9 (0.5)	0 (--)	9 (0.1%)
<u>COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED</u>				
Dismissed	451 (10.5%)	88 (5.1%)	99 (12.3%)	638 (9.3%)
<u>COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY:</u>				
Dismissed; Warned	267 (6.2%)	198 (11.5%)	90 (11.1%)	555 (8.1%)
Hold Open Without Further Action	10 (0.2%)	10 (0.6%)	3 (0.4%)	23 (0.3%)
Formal Probation	2,050 (47.6%)	678 (39.4%)	27 (3.3%)	2,755 (40.3%)
Referred to Another Agency or Individual	255 (5.9%)	196 (11.4%)	106 (13.1%)	557 (8.2%)
Runaway Returned	2 (<0.1%)	9 (0.5%)	0 (---%)	11 (0.2%)
Fine or Restitution	65 (1.5%)	66 (3.8%)	0 (---%)	131 (1.9%)
Other	829 (19.2%)	229 (13.3%)	6 (0.7%)	1064 (15.6%)
<u>LEGAL CUSTODY TRANSFER TO:</u>				
Youth Development Center	213 (4.9%)	14 (0.8%)	3 (0.4%)	230 (3.4%)
Public Agency or Department	105 (2.4%)	171 (9.9%)	416 (51.5%)	692 (10.1%)
Private Agency or Department	27 (0.6%)	10 (0.6%)	9 (1.1%)	46 (0.7%)
Individual	2 (<0.1%)	5 (0.3%)	23 (2.8%)	30 (0.4%)
Other	31 (0.7%)	36 (2.1%)	26 (3.2%)	93 (1.4%)
TOTAL	4,307 (100%)	1,719 (100%)	808 (100%)	6,834 (100%)

Detailed processing times for juvenile court referrals are presented in Table 10. More than one-third of all juvenile court cases (35.6%) were disposed of within 30 days of referral. This proportion was lower for neglect/dependent referrals (11.6% within 30 days) and higher for minor status offense referrals (43.2% within 30 days) and for major offense referrals (37.2% within 30 days).

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 10

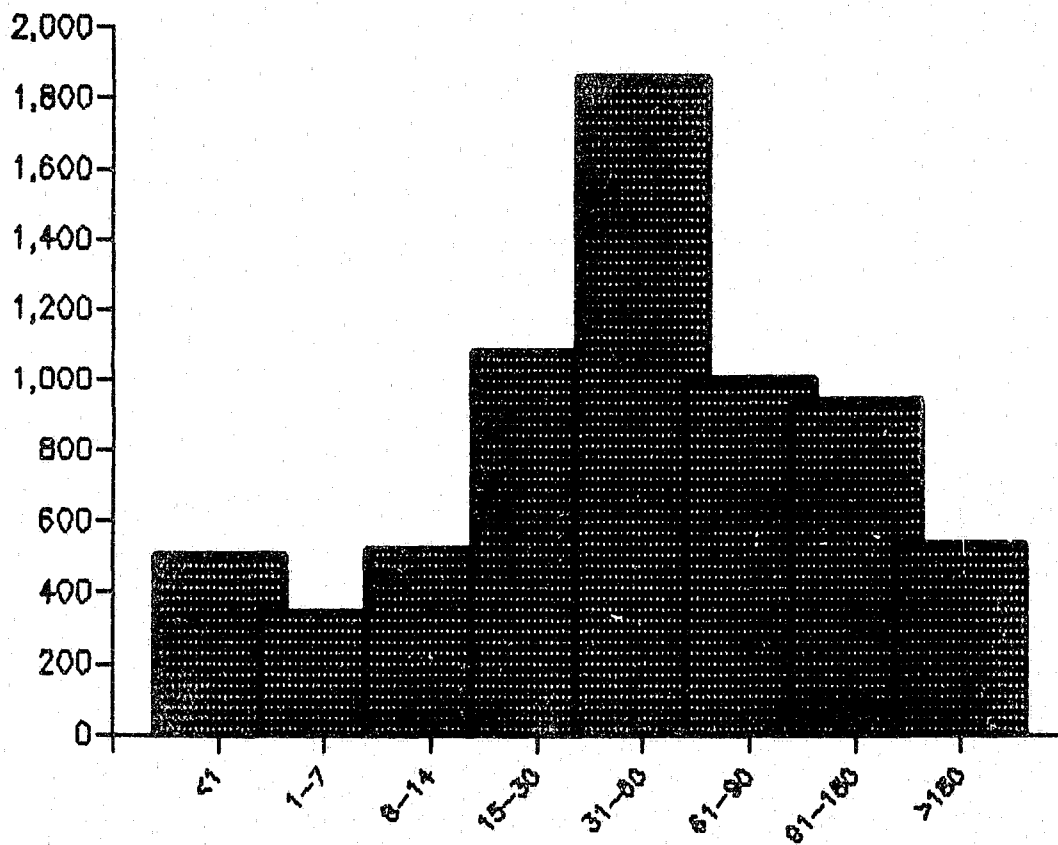
ELAPSED TIME IN DAYS BETWEEN REFERRAL AND DISPOSITION

Number of Days from Referral to Disposition	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Same Day	306 (7.1%)	191 (11.1%)	4 (0.5%)	501 (7.3%)
1- 7 Days	231 (5.4%)	98 (5.7%)	12 (1.5%)	341 (5.0%)
8- 14 Days	361 (8.4%)	137 (8.0%)	23 (2.8%)	521 (7.6%)
15- 30 Days	703 (16.3%)	316 (18.4%)	55 (6.8%)	1,074 (15.7%)
31- 60 Days	1,234 (28.7%)	450 (26.2%)	170 (21.0%)	1,854 (27.1%)
61- 90 Days	672 (15.6%)	170 (9.9%)	155 (19.2%)	997 (14.6%)
91-180 Days	520 (12.1%)	198 (11.5%)	217 (26.9%)	935 (13.7%)
181+ Days	235 (5.5%)	135 (7.9%)	166 (20.5%)	536 (8.4%)
TOTAL*	4,262 (100%)	1,695 (100%)	802 (100%)	6,759 (100%)

*Does not include 75 cases with missing data.

Overall neglect/dependent referrals took more time to process than either major or minor referrals.

ELAPSED TIME IN DAYS BETWEEN REFERRAL AND DISPOSITION



1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 11

COURT ACTIVITY BY MONTH OF DISPOSITION

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
January	513 (7.5%)
February	526 (7.7%)
March	586 (8.6%)
April	462 (6.8%)
May	514 (7.5%)
June	532 (7.8%)
July	530 (7.8%)
August	538 (7.9%)
September	676 (9.9%)
October	659 (9.6%)
November	580 (8.5%)
December	<u>718 (10.5%)</u>
TOTAL	6,834 (100%)

AGE

Information concerning the age of juveniles referred to court is presented in Table 12. In proportion to juveniles referred, generally speaking, the older juveniles were referred for major and minor offenses, and the younger primarily for neglect/dependency.

In the under 10 year-old age group, 76.7% of the referrals were described as neglect/dependent, as compared to 1.8% of the 17 year-old age group. The under 10 age group as a whole, however, represented only 9.9% of all juvenile referrals. Of these 64% of all neglect/dependent referrals were in the under 10 year-old age group. The remainder of neglect/dependent referrals were distributed fairly even across age categories.

The 15 and 16 year-old age groups had the largest proportion of referrals for major offenses categories; together, 45% of all major offense referrals involved these age groups (add 17 year-olds and the percentage is even higher, 61.3%). Similarly, in minor status offense cases about 59.3% of all of these referrals involved 15 and 16 year-olds.

Across all referral categories, the 15 year-olds and 16 year-olds accounted for the largest number of referrals, each accounting for a little over 20%.

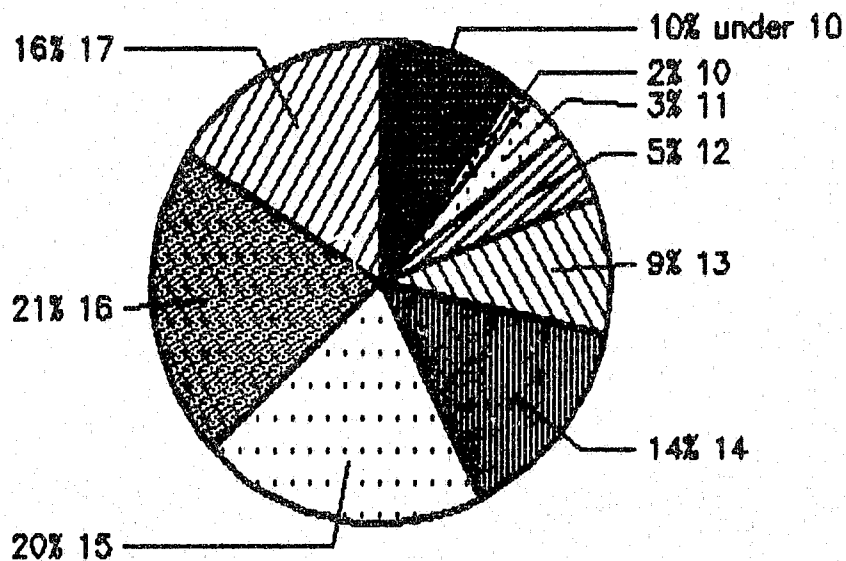
The average age at time of referral for all juvenile cases disposed of during 1987 was 13.7. The average age at time of referral for major offenses cases was 14.6, status offense cases was 14.8, and neglect/dependent cases was 6.2. The offense categories experienced a slight decrease in average ages while the neglect/dependent average disposition age decreased by approximately one and one-half years.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 12

REASON REFERRED BY AGE

AGE	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Under 10	91 (2.1%)	66 (3.8%)	517 (64.0%)	674 (9.9%)
10	76 (1.8%)	4 (0.2%)	29 (3.6%)	109 (1.6%)
11	142 (3.3%)	23 (1.3%)	32 (4.0%)	197 (2.9%)
12	254 (5.9%)	59 (3.4%)	31 (3.8%)	344 (5.0%)
13	471 (10.9%)	101 (5.9%)	43 (5.3%)	615 (9.0%)
14	714 (16.6%)	232 (13.5%)	37 (4.6%)	983 (14.4%)
15	901 (20.9%)	421 (24.5%)	59 (7.3%)	1,381 (20.2%)
16	954 (22.1%)	444 (25.8%)	40 (5.0%)	1,438 (21.0%)
17	704 (16.3%)	369 (21.5%)	20 (2.5%)	1,093 (16.0%)
T O T A L*	4,307 (100%)	1,719 (100%)	808 (100%)	6,834 (100%)



SEX

More than two times as many males were referred to juvenile courts in Nebraska than females in 1987. This breakdown was similar to 1986. The 4,909 males comprised about 72% of all referrals while 1,928 (28.2%) females composed the remainder.

The proportion of male referrals was even higher for major offenses where over 4 of 5 referrals were male. Minor offenses were more equal in proportion to male and female dispositions, with 58.8% of minor referrals being male. However, there were 417 (51.6%) females compared to 391 (48.4%) males in the neglect/dependent referral category. This puts the split between male and female even smaller, a pattern of the last few years with females outnumbering males.

Distribution of females in the three different referral categories was not as uneven as that of males. Males were referred on major offenses 71.4% of the time, over two times as much as the other categories combined.

As Table 14 indicates, the most frequent disposition category for both males and females was formal probation, disregarding the general "other." Over two-fifths (43.3%) of male referrals resulted in probation while just under one third (32.6%) of female referrals resulted in probation. It should be noted, however, that the proportions of males and females referred for various reasons were quite different and this could have a direct effect on the proportions of males and females in the various disposition categories.

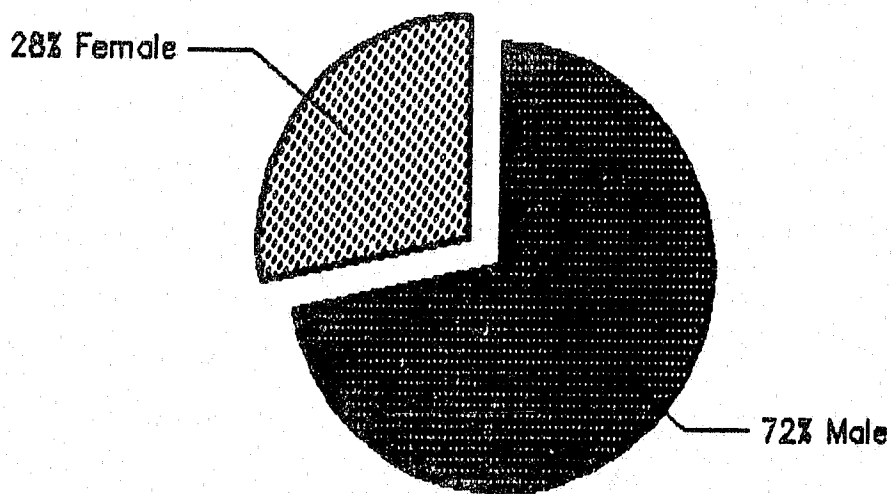
1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 13

REASON REFERRED BY SEX

SEX	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Male	3507 (81.4%)	1011 (58.5%)	391 (48.4%)	4909 (71.8%)
Female	800 (18.6%)	708 (41.2%)	417 (51.6%)	1925 (28.2%)
TOTAL	4307 (100%)	1719 (100%)	808 (100%)	6834 (100%)

SEX



1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 14

DISPOSITION BY SEX

DISPOSITION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)
Waived to Criminal Court	9 (0.2%)	0 (-- %)	9 (0.1%)
<u>COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED</u>			
Dismissed	465 (9.5%)	173 (9.0%)	638 (9.3%)
<u>COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED - NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY</u>			
Dismissed; Warned	370 (7.5%)	185 (9.6%)	555 (8.1%)
Hold Open Without Further Action	15 (0.3%)	8 (0.4%)	23 (0.3%)
Formal Probation	2,128 (43.3%)	627 (32.6%)	2,755 (40.3%)
Referred to Another Agency/Individual	364 (7.4%)	193 (10.0%)	557 (8.2%)
Runaway Returned	7 (0.1%)	4 (0.2%)	11 (0.2%)
Fine or Restitution	93 (1.9%)	38 (2.0%)	131 (1.9%)
Other	796 (16.2%)	268 (13.9%)	1064 (15.6%)
<u>LEGAL CUSTODY TRANSFER TO:</u>			
Youth Development Center	202 (4.1%)	28 (1.5%)	230 (3.4%)
Public Agency or Department	353 (7.2%)	339 (17.6%)	692 (10.1%)
Private Agency or Department	33 (0.7%)	13 (0.7%)	46 (0.7%)
Individual	16 (0.3%)	14 (0.7%)	30 (0.4%)
Other	58 (1.2%)	35 (1.8%)	93 (1.4%)
TOTAL	4,909 (100%)	1,925 (100%)	6,834 (100%)

ETHNIC GROUP

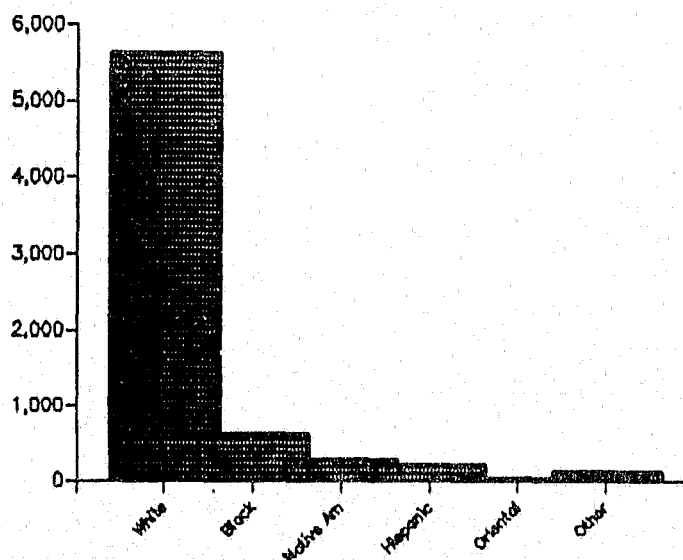
Data collected by the Commission on the ethnic group or race of young persons referred to juvenile court included the categories of White, Black, Native American, Hispanic, Oriental and Other. It should be noted that the proportion of minority group juveniles in Nebraska's population is quite small outside counties such as Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Scotts Bluff. As a result, measures of delinquency among ethnic groups in the state are difficult to estimate. The information below does suggest, however, that there is some variation among racial groups in the proportion of referrals for major, minor, and neglect/dependent reasons.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 15

REASON REFERRED BY ETHNIC GROUP

ETHNIC GROUP	REFERRAL CUSTODY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
White	3,502 (81.3%)	1,515 (88.1%)	601 (74.4%)	5,612 (82.2%)
Black	427 (9.9%)	66 (3.8%)	115 (14.2%)	608 (8.9%)
Native Am.	185 (4.3%)	31 (1.8%)	55 (6.8%)	271 (4.0%)
Hispanic	129 (3.0%)	55 (3.2%)	20 (2.5%)	204 (3.0%)
Oriental	11 (0.3%)	4 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	16 (0.2%)
Other	53 (1.2%)	48 (2.8%)	16 (2.0%)	117 (1.7%)
TOTAL	4,307 (100%)	1,719 (100%)	808 (100%)	6,834 (100%)



LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Table 16 presents information concerning the living arrangements of juveniles at the time of referral. For major and minor offenses referrals, the most common living situation was at home with both parents; over one third of the juveniles referred in these categories lived at home with both parents. The next largest category of major and minor offense referrals was juveniles living at home with the mother only. Just over 41% of the neglect/dependent cases involved a home with only the mother present.

Just over one-third (36.4%) of all referrals to juvenile courts in 1987 came from single-parent families. For neglect/dependent referrals the proportion was even higher with 46.7% of all referrals being from single-parent families. It is significant to note that for the 2,035 referrals from single-parent families, 86.6% were from single mother families, while 13.4% were from single father families.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

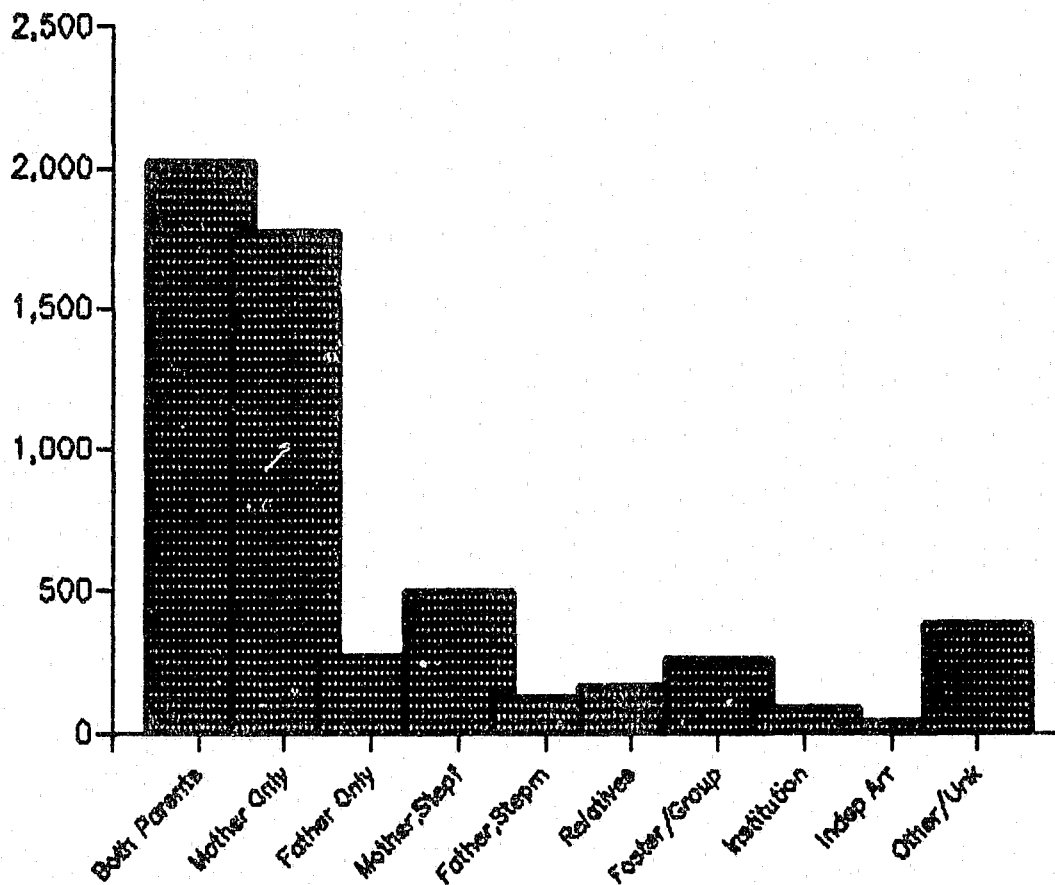
TABLE 16

REASON REFERRED BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT

LIVING ARRANGEMENT	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Both Parents	1,364 (37.4%)	490 (39.3%)	165 (23.9%)	2,019 (36.1%)
Mother Only	1,128 (30.9%)	355 (28.5%)	283 (41.1%)	1,766 (31.6%)
Father Only	173 (4.7%)	57 (4.6%)	39 (5.7%)	269 (4.8%)
Mother/Stepfather	317 (8.7%)	111 (8.9%)	67 (9.7%)	495 (8.9%)
Father/Stepmother	71 (1.9%)	34 (2.7%)	13 (1.9%)	118 (2.1%)
Relatives	99 (2.7%)	39 (3.1%)	23 (3.3%)	161 (2.9%)
Foster/Group Home	156 (4.3%)	44 (3.5%)	59 (8.6%)	259 (4.6%)
Institution	78 (2.1%)	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.4%)	83 (1.5%)
Independent	27 (0.7%)	8 (0.6%)	1 (0.1%)	36 (0.6%)
Other	16 (0.4%)	4 (0.3%)	4 (0.6%)	24 (0.4%)
Unknown	222 (6.1%)	103 (8.3%)	32 (4.6%)	357 (6.4%)
TOTAL*	3,651 (100%)	1,247 (100%)	689 (100%)	5,587 (100%)

*Does not include 1,247 cases with missing data.

REFERRAL BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT



SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS

Referrals to the separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties constituted approximately 59% of all juvenile court referrals across the state; however, these counties represent only about 45% of the state's total juvenile population. It should be noted that the information presented in Tables 17 and 18 (as well as all other data in this report) is based on counts of dispositions during 1987 rather than referrals during 1987, and therefore provides only a partial estimate of the activity of the juvenile court. It is likely that the intake activity of juvenile courts involved many more young persons during a given year than are reflected in these disposition statistics.

The procedures involved in referral to juvenile court may vary across jurisdictions and influence the number of cases reported in the Juvenile Court Reporting Program. In addition, the policies of prosecutors, juvenile service agencies, and judges may vary in different jurisdictions, influencing the nature and number of juvenile referrals reported to the Commission. As an example, the three separate juvenile courts in Nebraska have some differences in processing procedures which result in differing reporting results.

The Douglas County attorney's office acts as the court intake for all juvenile referrals in Douglas County. This means that the only juvenile cases reported to the Commission are those which are filed with petition by the county attorney's office.

In Lancaster County, the juvenile probation office serves the court intake function. Cases that come to the attention of the juvenile probation office (regardless of the source of referral) are reported to the Commission. Cases formally disposed of by the court represent those filed with petition, while cases handled informally by the juvenile probation office represent cases handled without petition.

In Sarpy County, the county attorney's office is the beginning of processing juvenile referrals. If the county attorney's office files a petition, then the juvenile goes to juvenile court; however, if certain criteria are met, the juvenile may get the opportunity to participate in the pretrial diversion program called the Sarpy County Juvenile Intake/Program.

Differences among the three separate juvenile courts in the receipt of referrals are indicated in Table 17. The largest proportion of referrals in the three juvenile courts vary somewhat with 54.8% of Douglas County's referrals from law enforcement agencies, while 41% of Lancaster County's were from the same source. Douglas County had a larger proportion of referrals from social agencies than either of the other two courts. Sarpy County's largest number of referrals (85.6%) were from law enforcement. The county courts also had their largest proportion of referrals from the county attorney (71.5%).

The distribution of disposition categories in the three separate juvenile courts is presented in Table 18. There were several differences among the courts in the distribution of dispositions. This is most likely due to the varying types of cases referred to each court and the court's own policies and practices.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 17

SOURCES OF REFERRAL IN DOUGLAS, LANCASTER, SARPY SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS AND ALL OTHER COUNTIES*

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	DOUGLAS COUNTY ----- Number (%)	LANCASTER COUNTY ----- Number (%)	SARPY COUNTY ----- Number (%)	ALL OTHER COUNTIES ----- Number (%)
Law Enforcement	626 (54.8%)	369 (41.0%)	456 (85.6%)	601 (23.2%)
School	21 (1.8%)	33 (3.7%)	1 (0.2%)	5 (0.2%)
Social Agency	293 (25.6%)	8 (0.9%)	3 (0.6%)	18 (0.7%)
Probation Office	0 (---%)	13 (1.4%)	13 (2.4%)	0 (---%)
Parents/Relatives	116 (10.1%)	71 (7.9%)	17 (3.2%)	7 (0.3%)
Other Courts	81 (7.1%)	49 (5.4%)	0 (---%)	78 (3.0%)
County Attorney	6 (0.5%)	337 (37.4%)	35 (6.6%)	1,856 (71.5%)
Other	0 (-- %)	20 (2.2%)	8 (1.5%)	30 (1.2%)
TOTAL**	1,143 (100%)	900 (100%)	533 (100%)	2,595 (100%)

* Only cases filed with petition were figured

** Does not include 25 cases with missing data.

1987 JUVENILE COURT REPORT
TABLE 18

**DISPOSITIONS IN DOUGLAS, LANCASTER, SARPY
SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS AND ALL OTHER COUNTIES***

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	DOUGLAS COUNTY ----- Number (%)	LANCASTER COUNTY ----- Number (%)	SARPY COUNTY ----- Number (%)	ALL OTHER COUNTIES ----- Number (%)
Waived to Criminal Court	0 (--)	0 (--)	0 (---%)	0 (---%)
<u>COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED</u>				
Dismissed	220 (19.2%)	116 (12.9%)	15 (2.8%)	176 (6.8%)
<u>COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY</u>				
Dismissed; warned	54 (4.7%)	19 (2.1%)	223 (41.6%)	233 (8.9%)
Hold Open Without Further Action	0 (--)	0 (--)	4 (0.7%)	16 (0.6%)
Formal Probation	416 (36.4%)	508 (56.4%)	262 (48.9%)	1,469 (56.1%)
Referred to Another Agency/Individual	7 (0.6%)	60 (6.7%)	4 (0.7%)	114 (4.4%)
Runaway Returned	0 (--)	0 (--)	0 (--)	3 (0.1%)
Fine/Restitution	7 (0.6%)	0 (--)	0 (--)	106 (4.1%)
Other	0 (--)	2 (0.2%)	0 (--)	91 (3.5%)
<u>LEGAL CUSTODY TRANSFER TO</u>				
Youth Development Center	68 (5.9%)	42 (4.7%)	4 (0.7%)	91 (3.5%)
Public Agency or Department	338 (29.6%)	143 (15.9%)	21 (3.9%)	184 (7.0%)
Private Agency/ Department	23 (2.0%)	9 (0.1%)	1 (0.2%)	10 (0.4%)
Individual	7 (0.6%)	1 (0.1%)	0 (--)	22 (0.8%)
Other	3 (0.3%)	0 (--)	2 (0.4%)	84 (3.2%)
TOTAL	1,143 (100%)	900 (100%)	536 (100%)	2,617 (100%)

* Only cases filed with petition were figured.