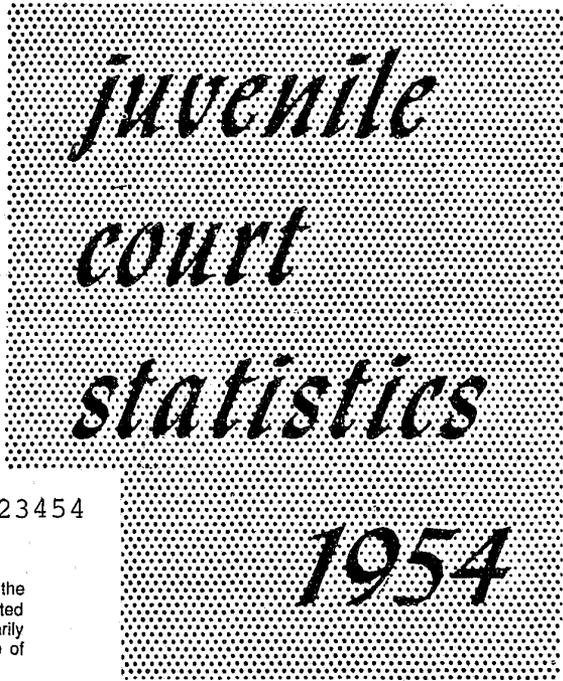


123454

CHILDREN'S BUREAU
STATISTICAL SERIES

NUMBER 31



123454

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 ~~material~~ material has been granted by
Public Domain/U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, & Welfare
to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

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

NCJRS

MAY 16 1990

ACQUISITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE • Social Security Administration • Children's Bureau

1956

JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS, 1954

HIGHLIGHTS

Delinquency cases

- Recent increases..... 8% increase in 1954 over 1953 -- the 6th consecutive year of increase; 56% overall increase since 1948; Child population increase only 13% since 1948.
- Extent..... In 1954, estimated 465,000 or 2.4% of children aged 10 through 17 involved in delinquency cases in U.S.
- Sex ratio..... Delinquency cases in court primarily a boys' problem; Boys outnumber girls 5 to 1.
- Differential rates Rates of court delinquency cases vary directly with size of area served by court; Rates for courts serving 100,000 or more population double those of courts serving under 100,000 population.
- Manner of handling... Over half of delinquency cases disposed of unofficially -- without filing petition for formal hearing.

Other cases

19% of the court cases were dependency and neglect cases; 5% were cases of adoption, custody, consent to marry and other "special proceedings."

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES

Juvenile delinquency as defined in most juvenile court statutes is the violation of a law or municipal ordinance by persons of juvenile court age, or conduct on the part of such persons so seriously antisocial as to interfere with the rights of others or menace the welfare of the delinquent himself or of the community. This broad definition of delinquency includes conduct such as ungovernable behavior and running away -- conduct labeled "delinquency" but not generally considered a violation of law when committed by an adult. Consequently, the acts which result in bringing a child before the court may range from trivial to serious misbehavior.

This report includes cases of juvenile delinquency -- alleged as well as adjudged -- handled by the courts. Not included in these statistics are the many children who presented similar conduct problems but who were either not apprehended or were dealt with by the police, social agencies, schools, or youth-serving agencies without referral to court.

Delinquency cases, 1954^{1/}

A total of 230,120 juvenile delinquency cases disposed of during 1954 were reported by 937 courts located in 34 States (see table 1). One hundred nineteen of these were large courts (serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more) and 818 were small courts (serving

^{1/} Data are collected annually on a calendar-year basis. Reports for 1955 are now being received.

areas with less than 100,000 population). These large courts disposed of 78 percent of the total delinquency cases reported to the Children's Bureau. The totals considered in this report are therefore heavily influenced by these large courts.

The number of courts for which data are transmitted to the Children's Bureau varies each year. The 937 courts on which this report is based were located in 34 States. About 43 percent of the child population of the United States was included in the courts' jurisdictions. These courts submitted "complete reports;" that is, reports that included a full count of all types of cases -- delinquency, dependency or neglect, and special proceedings -- disposed of both officially and unofficially.^{2/} An additional 205 courts reported in 1954 on official cases only. Their reports (see table 2) are considered incomplete for the purposes of this report and are not included in the analysis of the data.

Over half (56 percent) of the delinquency cases reported by the 937 courts were handled unofficially. Wide differences in the methods of handling cases were found among courts in various States and even among courts in the same State. For example, in Ohio, all reporting

^{2/} Official cases are those adjudicated by the judge or referee after the filing of a petition, complaint, or other legal paper used to initiate court action. Unofficial cases are those where no petition or legal paper is filed and where the case is adjusted by the judge, referee, probation officer or other officer of the court after conference at the point of intake or after social study and investigation.

courts, combined, disposed of 30 percent of their delinquency cases officially; in Washington, 52 percent; and in Pennsylvania, 83 percent. Within Washington, one court (Yakima County) disposed of 9 percent of its delinquency cases officially while another court (Snohomish County) disposed of 83 percent of its delinquency cases officially. There seems to be no consistent pattern regarding the methods of handling cases, either by region or by size of court. Rather, the procedure for handling cases rests heavily on individual court practices, the philosophy of the judge, and the size of staff.^{3/}

Boys' cases outnumbered girls' cases in the ratio of about 5 to 1. One reason for the greater number of boys' cases may be the greater freedom permitted to boys so that they are more likely to become involved in infractions of the law. Boys are outwardly aggressive more than girls, and this aggressiveness sometimes results in overt delinquent acts. Also, it may be that boys tend more to associate in groups, and delinquent behavior may stem from misdirected gang activities.

The data for 1954 for the courts reporting indicate that rates of delinquency court cases are higher in large urban areas than in less populated areas. The rate for courts serving areas of 100,000 or more population was more than double that of courts serving areas of less

^{3/} For a discussion of policy considerations in the unofficial disposition of cases see "Standards for Specialized Courts Dealing With Children", Children's Bureau Pub. No. 346, pages 43-45.

than 100,000 population. Table A below shows the relationship between the size of the area and the rate of delinquency cases handled.

Table A--Rates of delinquency cases by size of area served by court: 1954

Total population served by court	Population 10 - 17 years ^{a/}	Delinquency cases	Rate per 1,000 population 10 - 17 years
100,000 and over (119 courts)	4,831,475	179,907	37.2
50,000 to 99,999 (114 courts)	912,142	23,657	25.9
20,000 to 49,999 (290 courts)	1,208,641	20,860	17.3
10,000 to 19,999 (273 courts)	558,892	4,644	8.3
5,000 to 9,999 (94 courts)	108,147	890	8.2
Under 5,000 (47 courts)	22,145	162	7.3

^{a/} Population figures based on 1950 Census.

Changes in delinquency cases, 1953-54

The total number of delinquency cases disposed of increased by 8 percent between 1953 and 1954. This comparison is based on data from 631 courts that reported on delinquency cases for both years (see table 3).

The percentage increase was approximately the same for small courts as for the large although, as was previously discussed, small courts have lower rates of delinquency cases.

For the small courts, however, the increase was more marked for cases disposed of officially than for cases disposed of unofficially. This is in contrast to what occurred in large courts, where unofficial cases increased more than the official cases.

The percentage increase in girls' cases between 1953 and 1954 was almost as large (6 percent) as for boys' (8 percent). Most of the increase in the girls' cases occurred in those handled officially in the large courts, as shown in table B below.

Table B--Percent change in delinquency cases, by sex and type of disposition: 1953 to 1954.

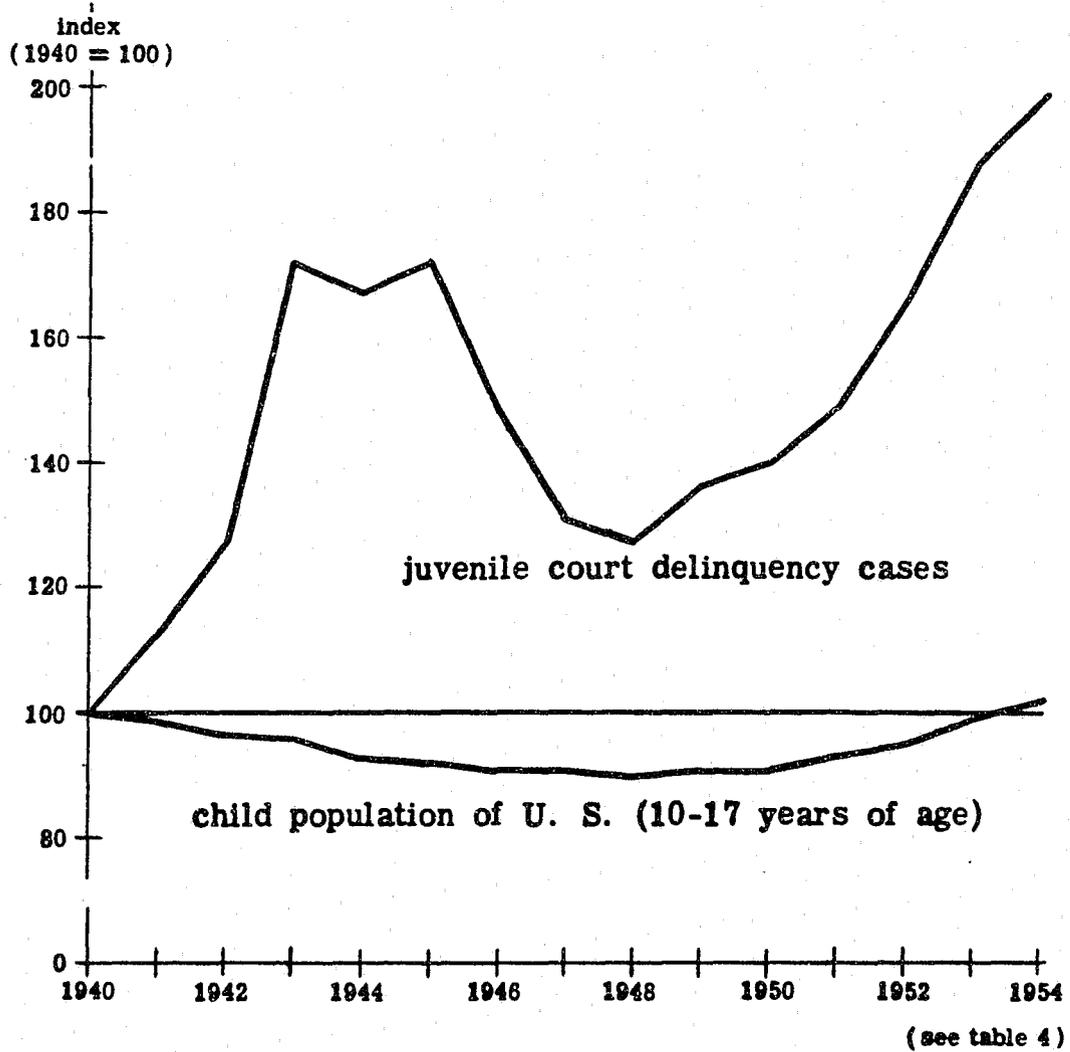
	Percent change from 1953 to 1954								
	Total			Official			Unofficial		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
All courts (631)-----	+8	+8	+6	+7	+7	+8	+9	+10	+4
96 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more-----	+8	+9	+6	+7	+7	+9	+10	+11	+4
535 courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000-----	+7	+7	+5	+8	+8	+4	+5	+6	+5

All of these changes between 1953 and 1954 represent the combined increase for a group of courts. They do not show variations between individual courts. For example, although the overall increase in delinquency cases for the group of 96 large courts was 8 percent, 34 of these courts had decreases, and 62 had increases.

Trends in delinquency cases, 1940-1954

The general trend in delinquency cases during the period 1940 to 1954 was upward during World War II to a peak in 1945, and downward in the three years after that war. Beginning in 1949, however, the downward trend was reversed and has continued upward each year through 1954. By 1954, the level was 56 percent higher than in 1948 and exceeded the previous high noted during World War II. (See chart). It is estimated

JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY CASES ARE RISING



that in 1954 approximately 465,000 children or 2.4 percent of the child population between the ages of 10 through 17 came to the attention of juvenile courts in the country because of delinquent behavior.^{4/}

The rise in delinquency cases cannot be explained in terms of population growth alone. For example, the 56 percent increase in court cases between 1948 and 1954 compares with a rise of only 13 percent during the same period in the child population 10 through 17 years of age in the country.

The trend data are based on reports from 383 courts that have been able to supply the necessary comparable statistical data to the Children's Bureau over a period of years. These courts are not necessarily representative of all courts in the country. They include within their jurisdictions, however, a sizeable proportion of all children in the United States (21 percent). We believe the chances are fairly good that this degree of coverage will provide data that indicate the true direction although not the exact extent of change in delinquency cases in the country.

^{4/} Children in the age group 10 through 17 are used as a base for computing the percentage, although the estimate of juvenile delinquency cases includes a small number of children under 10 and over 17 years of age.

DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT CASES

Most juvenile courts by statute have jurisdiction over actions involving dependent and neglected children as well as those involving delinquent children. Such jurisdiction is based on the principle that the state has a responsibility for the protection of these children.

Unlike the delinquent child who is brought to the attention of the court because of his antisocial behavior, the dependent or neglected child is usually referred because of some form of neglect or inadequate care on the part of his parents or guardian (i.e., lack of adequate care or support resulting from the death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of the parents, abandonment or desertion, abuse or cruel treatment, improper or inadequate conditions in the home).

Dependency and neglect cases, 1954

Of the total children's cases handled by the 937 courts in 1954, a little over 59,000, or 19 percent, were dependency and neglect cases. Of these, 61 percent were handled by official action and the remainder unofficially (see table 1). The larger proportion of dependency and neglect cases handled officially as compared with delinquency cases may result from the fact that courts more frequently see these cases as requiring a change in the legal relationship between the parent and the child.

Rates of dependency and neglect cases, like rates of delinquency cases, are higher in large urban areas than in less populated ones. This difference is shown in table C.

Table C--Rates of dependency and neglect cases, by size of area served by court: 1954

Total population served by court	Population under 18 years ^{a/}	Dependency and neglect cases	Rate per 1,000 population under 18 years
100,000 and over (119 courts)	13,660,868	47,411	3.5
50,000 to 99,999 (114 courts)	2,440,492	5,444	2.2
20,000 to 49,999 (290 courts)	3,123,966	4,838	1.5
10,000 to 19,999 (273 courts)	1,397,646	1,180	0.8
5,000 to 9,999 (94 courts)	264,113	265	1.0
Under 5,000 (47 courts)	56,041	25	0.4

^{a/} Population figures based on 1950 Census.

Changes in dependency and neglect cases, 1953-1954

The total number of dependency and neglect cases disposed of by large and small courts combined increased only 1 percent between 1953 and 1954. The small courts increased their handling of dependency and neglect cases (9 percent), with a particularly high increase in those disposed of unofficially (28 percent). For the large courts, however, there was a small decrease in dependency and neglect cases.

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

In addition to delinquency and dependency or neglect, children are referred to juvenile courts for other reasons, which are generally termed "special proceedings." Special proceedings include adoption, commitment of mentally defective children, material witnesses, application for consent to marry or enlist in the armed forces, determination

of custody or guardianship of a child, and permission to hospitals for the performance of an operation on children.

Of all the children's cases reported by the 937 courts in 1954, only 15,557, or 5 percent, were special proceedings (see table 1). Special proceedings cases also increased, by 2 percent, from 1953 to 1954.

LIMITATIONS OF JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

The number of children's cases handled by juvenile courts is affected by several factors. The age of children and the types of cases over which courts have jurisdiction are established by State law and often are different for courts in different States and sometimes for courts within the same State. This affects the number of cases reported and, consequently, the comparability of the reports from the various courts. (To assist in the interpretation of the statistics, the ages under which the courts have original jurisdiction are shown in table 1).

The number of children's cases reported by different courts is greatly influenced also by variations in the organization and scope of other agency services in the different communities. Many communities have established agencies such as a juvenile division in the police department that adjust many cases or refer them to other community agencies rather than to the juvenile courts. In some communities the juvenile court is the only agency available to provide services to children. In others, there are well-established programs of social services for children; in these, the juvenile court is only one of the many

agencies dealing with children and is frequently used only when its authority as a judicial agency is needed.

Furthermore, whether a child comes to the attention of the court is influenced by community or parental attitudes toward a child's behavior, and these attitudes vary from place to place.

Because of these and other limitations, juvenile court statistics, when taken by themselves, cannot measure the full extent of either delinquency, dependency or neglect. In regard to the extent of such problems, they may be particularly misleading when used to make comparisons between one community and another. They do, however, indicate how frequently one important community resource, the juvenile court, is utilized for dealing with such cases.

IMPROVEMENT IN JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

As has been pointed out, the juvenile court data here discussed are based on reports received from courts that are able and willing to provide the requested facts. These courts are not necessarily representative of the country as a whole; consequently the reliability of estimates based upon their figures cannot be determined. The Children's Bureau is now modifying its reporting procedure and is requesting data for 1955 from a national sample of about 500 courts. The sample (designed with technical assistance from the Bureau of the Census) is representative of the country as a whole, having been selected according

to such factors as the geographical location of the areas served, their population density, economy, and racial composition. Data from the sample of courts will provide national estimates with a known and greater degree of reliability.

The sample plan may not be fully established the first year but when it is, we will have available an efficient mechanism for collecting reliable national information not only on trends in juvenile court cases but also on other phases of juvenile court work. Some of these are cost of court services, reasons for referral of children to the court, types of services rendered, and disposition of cases.

Table 1--NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 937 COURTS, 1954

Area served by court	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official
Total cases.....	-	304,840	230,170	101,802	128,318	59,163	35,908	23,255	15,557	11,333	4,224
ALABAMA:											
Jefferson Co. (Birmingham)....	g/ 16, 18	2,941	1,293	796	497	1,648	747	901	-	-	-
Mobile Co. (Mobile).....	16	1,090	712	454	258	378	298	80	-	-	-
Montgomery Co. (Montgomery)....	g/ 16, 18	647	411	203	211	233	18	215	-	-	-
1 small court.....	16	124	104	37	67	20	18	2	-	-	-
ARKANSAS:											
Fulton Co. (Little Rock).....	21	1,568	982	210	372	954	166	788	32	3	29
16 small courts.....	21	787	445	344	101	277	218	159	65	17	48
CALIFORNIA:											
Alameda Co. (Oakland).....	21	8,516	6,584	2,232	5,352	2,465	440	1,025	467	7	460
Contra Costa Co. (Richmond)....	21	2,934	2,212	778	1,434	547	386	161	175	9	164
Fresno Co. (Fresno).....	21	1,259	937	611	326	175	163	32	127	13	114
Kern Co. (Bakersfield).....	21	3,526	3,169	715	2,454	114	147	47	163	18	145
Los Angeles Co. (Los Angeles)....	21	7,427	5,958	5,567	391	1,132	1,036	86	347	89	258
Monterey Co. (Monterey).....	21	1,810	1,584	267	1,317	159	78	61	67	4	63
Orange Co. (Santa Ana).....	21	4,271	3,797	444	3,353	272	73	199	202	6	196
Riverside Co. (Riverside).....	21	936	616	408	408	117	111	6	3	3	-
Sacramento Co. (Sacramento)....	21	2,038	1,741	424	1,317	196	153	43	101	11	90
San Bernardino Co. (S. Bernardino)	21	1,450	1,295	786	509	151	148	6	1	1	-
San Diego Co. (San Diego).....	21	4,560	3,161	2,111	2,020	967	420	547	432	19	413
San Francisco Co. (S. Francisco)	21	7,220	5,379	671	4,708	1,662	679	983	179	-	179
San Joaquin Co. (Stockton).....	21	697	508	296	212	107	66	41	62	3	62
San Mateo Co. (San Mateo).....	21	3,079	2,581	303	2,278	338	127	211	160	3	157
Tulare Co. (Tulare).....	21	1,119	942	309	633	124	87	37	53	2	51
Ventura Co. (Oxnard).....	21	1,530	1,302	188	1,114	128	76	52	100	2	100
23 small courts.....	21	5,712	4,650	2,031	2,619	778	526	252	284	10	274
CONNECTICUT:											
First District (Bridgeport)....	16	1,904	1,604	369	1,235	300	300	-	-	-	-
Second District (New Haven)....	16	2,066	1,691	397	1,294	375	375	-	-	-	-
Third District (Hartford).....	16	1,998	1,598	413	1,185	400	400	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA:											
Orange Co. (Orlando).....	18	1,175	730	333	397	340	148	192	105	48	57
Pinellas Co. (St. Petersburg)....	18	1,037	619	575	44	354	335	19	64	64	-
Polk Co. (Lakeland).....	18	1,350	810	481	329	525	128	397	7	3	4
1 small court.....	18	1,459	727	156	571	680	253	427	52	48	4
GEORGIA:											
Bibb Co. (Macon).....	17	474	211	181	30	263	220	43	-	-	-
Chatham Co. (Savannah).....	17	1,532	670	197	473	862	201	661	-	-	-
Fulton Co. (Atlanta).....	17	2,691	2,003	941	1,062	688	492	196	-	-	-
Richmond Co. (Augusta).....	17	943	573	409	164	370	285	85	-	-	-
1 small court.....	17	575	258	106	152	217	65	152	100	45	55
HAWAII:											
First Circuit (Honolulu).....	18	3,635	2,591	1,463	1,128	547	420	127	497	497	-
ILLINOIS:											
Cook Co. (Chicago).....	g/17, 18	8,708	5,272	4,421	851	3,441	2,553	788	95	89	6
INDIANA:											
Allen Co. (Fort Wayne).....	18	503	503	226	277	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Co. (Gary).....	18	1,708	1,660	353	1,307	31	14	17	17	8	9
Madison Co. (Anderson).....	18	248	248	55	193	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marion Co. (Indianapolis).....	18	2,387	1,309	1,293	16	571	563	8	507	404	23
St. Joseph Co. (South Bend)....	18	82	82	45	37	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vanderburgh Co. (Evansville)....	18	383	383	195	188	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vigo Co. (Terre Haute).....	18	194	192	33	159	1	1	-	1	1	-
36 small courts.....	18	3,147	2,972	909	2,063	161	108	53	14	8	6
IOWA:											
Black Hawk Co. (Waterloo).....	18	132	52	52	-	80	80	-	-	-	-
Linn Co. (Cedar Rapids).....	18	424	389	74	315	35	7	28	-	-	-
Polk Co. (Des Moines).....	18	1,127	856	242	614	271	136	135	-	-	-
Scott Co. (Davenport).....	18	653	476	60	416	177	49	128	-	-	-
Woodbury Co. (Sioux City).....	18	805	393	189	204	412	202	210	-	-	-
93 small courts.....	18	2,171	1,505	855	650	666	547	119	-	-	-
KANSAS:											
Wyandotte Co. (Kansas City)....	16	523	467	106	161	256	127	129	-	-	-
LOUISIANA:											
First Jud. Dist. (Shreveport)....	17	748	465	183	282	197	183	14	86	81	5
Fourth Jud. Dist. (Monroe)....	17	499	265	36	229	204	30	174	30	11	19
Eleventh Jud. Dist. (Baton R.)..	17	305	244	165	138	57	35	22	4	3	1
Orleans Parish (New Orleans)....	17	954	625	479	146	327	280	47	8	2	-
2 small courts.....	17	580	469	75	394	94	70	24	17	4	13

Table 1--NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DEPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 937 COURTS, 1954 a/ --Continued

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official
MAINE:											
1 small court.....	17	310	237	79	158	81	81	-	-	-	-
MARYLAND:											
Baltimore (City).....	16	5,080	3,552	2,952	600	1,528	1,528	-	-	-	-
MICHIGAN:											
Berrien Co. (Benton Harbor).....	17	443	139	137	802	104	83	-	-	-	-
Calhoun Co. (Bettle Creek).....	17	506	309	86	213	177	80	-	-	-	-
Genesee Co. (Flint).....	17	796	390	389	1	406	404	2	-	-	-
Ingham Co. (Lansing).....	17	354	161	159	2	193	193	-	-	-	-
Jackson Co. (Jackson).....	17	397	322	303	219	75	43	32	-	-	-
Kalamazoo Co. (Kalamazoo).....	17	366	208	72	136	158	86	72	-	-	-
Leont Co. (Grand Rapids).....	17	736	367	363	4	369	369	-	-	-	-
Macomb Co. (East Detroit).....	17	758	594	404	190	164	164	-	-	-	-
Washtenaw Co. (Washtenaw).....	17	492	464	93	371	28	23	5	-	-	-
Oakland Co. (Pontiac).....	17	1,390	946	432	514	444	264	180	-	-	-
Saginaw Co. (Saginaw).....	17	402	223	145	78	179	106	73	-	-	-
Washtenaw Co. (Ann Arbor).....	17	398	255	93	162	143	116	27	-	-	-
Wayne Co. (Detroit).....	17	4,767	3,429	2,570	859	1,308	1,315	23	-	-	-
70 small courts.....	17	3,661	2,325	1,448	877	1,336	832	504	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI:											
Hinds Co. (Jackson).....	18	122	108	108	-	14	14	-	-	-	-
69 small courts.....	18	2,120	1,355	532	823	765	463	302	-	-	-
MISSOURI:											
Greene Co. (Springfield).....	17	436	326	63	263	53	52	1	59	58	1
Jackson Co. (Kansas City).....	17	2,903	1,911	571	1,340	482	104	378	510	507	3
St. Louis (City).....	17	3,877	2,241	687	1,554	829	384	445	807	794	13
St. Louis Co. (University City).....	17	1,260	639	235	404	261	73	288	260	257	3
111 small courts.....	17	2,752	1,439	1,022	417	607	532	75	706	705	1
MONTANA:											
2 small courts.....	18	2,135	2,135	68	2,067	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW MEXICO:											
Bernalillo Co. (Albuquerque).....	18	3,394	3,394	767	2,627	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 small courts.....	18	3,054	3,054	763	2,291	-	-	-	-	-	-
NORTH DAKOTA:											
First Jud. Dist. (Fargo).....	18	786	552	383	169	221	150	71	13	10	3
Second Jud. Dist. (Draughton).....	18	497	455	59	396	42	18	24	-	-	-
1 small court.....	18	133	121	27	94	7	1	6	5	2	3
OHIO:											
Butler Co. (Hamilton).....	18	1,332	1,174	573	601	99	28	1	59	52	7
Clark Co. (Springfield).....	18	767	660	93	567	92	91	1	15	15	-
Cuyahoga Co. (Cleveland).....	18	5,996	5,300	1,665	3,635	501	501	-	195	195	-
Franklin Co. (Columbus).....	18	1,193	673	255	418	391	301	90	129	107	22
Hamilton Co. (Cincinnati).....	18	7,272	6,622	241	6,381	408	407	1	242	98	144
Lorain Co. (Lorain).....	18	690	690	183	507	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lucas Co. (Toledo).....	18	2,724	1,962	507	1,455	180	130	50	582	471	111
Wabash Co. (Youngstown).....	18	1,909	1,724	154	1,570	158	97	61	27	23	4
Montgomery Co. (Dayton).....	18	2,767	2,283	391	1,892	337	324	13	147	144	3
Stark Co. (Canton).....	18	242	60	60	-	135	135	-	47	47	-
Summit Co. (Akron).....	18	2,209	1,960	26	1,934	205	195	10	44	44	-
Trumbull Co. (Warren).....	18	949	805	380	425	132	117	15	12	12	-
58 small courts.....	18	10,714	8,960	5,224	3,736	1,214	1,119	95	540	482	58
OKLAHOMA:											
Tulsa Co. (Tulsa).....	18	1,397	931	197	734	463	179	284	3	2	1
3 small courts.....	g/ 16, 18	243	122	68	54	121	89	32	-	-	-
OREGON:											
Lane Co. (Eugene).....	18	1,283	739	74	665	430	124	306	114	31	83
Marion Co. (Salem).....	18	668	385	183	202	196	75	121	87	43	44
Multnomah Co. (Portland).....	18	4,227	2,476	1,189	1,287	1,690	798	892	61	61	-
12 small courts.....	18	4,194	3,199	1,055	2,144	868	347	521	127	37	90
PENNSYLVANIA:											
Allegheny Co. (Pittsburgh).....	18	7,222	4,494	3,188	1,306	2,451	1,194	1,257	77	77	-
Berks Co. (Reading).....	18	896	685	145	540	211	89	122	-	-	-
Lehigh Co. (Allentown).....	18	329	203	164	39	119	89	30	7	7	-
Montgomery Co. (Morristown).....	18	906	598	96	502	129	4	125	179	-	179
Philadelphia (City and Co.).....	18	11,645	9,632	9,535	97	1,782	1,500	282	231	201	30
1 small court.....	18	153	134	75	59	19	-	-	-	-	-
RHODE ISLAND:											
State (Providence).....	18	1,829	1,293	1,061	208	115	115	-	421	421	-
SOUTH CAROLINA:											
Greenville Co. (Greenville).....	18	1,486	787	494	293	582	341	241	117	84	33
Spartanburg Co. (Spartanburg).....	18	307	204	154	50	-	-	-	103	62	41

Table 1--NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DEPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 837 COURTS, 1954 ^{a/} --Continued

Area served by court ^{b/}	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official
SOUTH DAKOTA: 35 small courts.....	16	1,778	1,588	630	958	133	101	32	57	49	8
TEXAS:											
Bexar Co. (San Antonio).....	17, 18	2,177	2,177	585	1,592	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameron Co. (Brownsville)...	17, 18	257	267	29	238	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dallas Co. (Dallas).....	17, 18	5,694	3,219	243	2,976	1,396	666	730	1,079	1,079	-
El Paso Co. (El Paso).....	17, 18	1,862	1,862	65	1,797	-	-	-	-	-	-
Galveston Co. (Galveston)...	17, 18	41	41	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris Co. (Houston).....	17, 18	4,541	2,446	406	2,040	2,024	558	1,466	71	71	-
McAllen Co. (McAllen).....	17, 18	209	209	19	190	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lubbock Co. (Lubbock).....	17, 18	349	349	47	302	-	-	-	-	-	-
McLennan Co. (Waco).....	17, 18	694	645	45	600	29	2	27	20	20	-
Tarrant Co. (Fort Worth)....	17, 18	2,030	1,327	128	1,199	679	97	582	24	24	-
Travis Co. (Austin).....	17, 18	1,107	566	269	297	408	161	247	135	135	-
116 small courts.....	17, 18	4,354	3,373	840	2,533	506	243	263	475	475	-
UTAH:											
First District (Ogden).....	18	2,535	2,394	1,551	843	141	105	36	-	-	-
Second District (Salt Lake City)	18	4,548	4,405	3,551	854	143	119	24	-	-	-
Third District (Provo).....	18	2,057	1,932	1,300	632	125	80	45	-	-	-
3 small courts.....	18	1,353	1,172	921	251	161	80	101	-	-	-
VERMONT: 16 small courts.....	16	377	149	149	-	228	228	-	-	-	-
VIRGIN ISLANDS: 2 small courts.....	16	231	205	96	109	26	21	5	-	-	-
WASHINGTON:											
King Co. (Seattle).....	18	5,875	4,513	2,988	1,525	676	333	343	686	658	28
Pierce Co. (Tacoma).....	18	1,264	852	345	507	204	67	137	208	196	12
Snohomish Co. (Everett).....	18	911	694	575	119	180	151	29	37	31	6
Spokane Co. (Spokane).....	18	2,554	2,174	1,346	828	263	113	150	117	111	6
Yakima Co. (Yakima).....	18	1,733	1,538	138	1,400	127	57	70	68	65	3
20 small courts.....	18	6,255	5,238	2,476	2,762	750	374	376	267	235	32
WEST VIRGINIA:											
Cabell Co. (Huntington).....	18	509	416	234	182	11	11	-	82	82	-
Kanawha Co. (Charleston)....	18	1,000	707	359	348	36	36	-	257	266	171
53 small courts.....	18	3,825	2,224	1,431	793	1,220	617	603	361	368	13
WISCONSIN:											
Dane Co. (Madison).....	18	1,283	980	21	959	274	13	261	29	18	11
Milwaukee Co. (Milwaukee)...	18	7,673	6,657	2,615	4,042	617	354	263	579	579	20
Racine Co. (Racine).....	18	56	56	28	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
47 small courts.....	18	3,251	2,053	1,585	468	797	640	157	401	398	13

^{a/} **NOTE WELL:** The data in this table should not be used to make comparisons between communities regarding the extent of delinquency. Questions concerning changes in an individual court's data from one year to another should be directed to that individual court.

^{b/} Courts serving areas with population of 100,000 or more are listed separately, showing the chief city located in each area. Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population are combined for each State and are presented as "small courts."

^{c/} The age under which court has original jurisdiction is different for boys and girls. The age for boys appears first.

Table 2--NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DEPOSED OF OFFICIALLY ONLY BY 305 COURTS, 1954. a/

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Official cases only			
		Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect	Special proceedings
ALABAMA: 63 small courts.....	16	1,808	867	841	-
GEORGIA: Muscogee Co. (Columbus).....	17	1,119	792	237	-
NEBRASKA: Douglas Co. (Omaha)..... Lancaster Co. (Lincoln)..... 8 small courts.....	18 18 18	547 336 4	124 215 3	214 109 1	9 11 -
NEW JERSEY: c/ Atlantic Co. (Atlantic City)..... Bergen Co. (Hackensack)..... Burlington Co. (Burlington)..... Camden Co. (Camden)..... Essex Co. (Newark)..... Hudson Co. (Jersey City)..... Mercer Co. (Trenton)..... Middlesex Co. (Perth Amboy)..... Monmouth Co. (Long Branch)..... Morris Co. (Morristown)..... Passaic Co. (Paterson)..... Union Co. (Elizabeth)..... 9 small courts.....	18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	214 245 83 433 2,710 684 205 284 261 124 440 485 766	214 245 83 433 2,710 684 205 284 261 124 440 485 766	1214 109 1 9 11 - - - - - - - -	9 11 - - - - - - - - - - -
NORTH CAROLINA: Brunswick Co. (Asheville)..... Durham Co. (Durham)..... Forsyth Co. (Winston Salem)..... Gaston Co. (Gastonia)..... Mecklenburg Co. (Charlotte)..... Wake Co. (Raleigh)..... 100 small courts.....	16 16 16 16 16 16 16	264 58 368 216 332 201 3,143	213 24 186 82 174 136 2,189	99 20 189 118 71 2 708	72 14 21 13 87 252 248
PUERTO RICO: Mayaguez District (Mayaguez)..... Ponce District (Ponce)..... San Juan District (San Juan)..... 8 small courts.....	16 16 16 16	206 170 933 412	1214 109 1 9 11 - -	1214 109 1 9 11 - -	1214 109 1 9 11 - -

a/ The courts included here are those that reported their official cases only. For the purpose of this report these data are considered incomplete and are not used elsewhere in this report.

b/ Courts serving areas with population of 100,000 or more are listed separately, showing the chief city located in each area. Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population are combined for each State and are presented as "small courts."

c/ Data for New Jersey are for period September 1, 1953 through August 31, 1954.

d/ No report on dependency, neglect or special proceedings.

e/ Breakdown by type of case not available.

Table 3--CHILDREN'S CASES DEPOSED OF BY 631 COURTS IN 1954 AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1953 a/

Area served by court b/	Cases disposed of in 1954				Percent change from 1953 to 1954			
	Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect	Special proceedings	Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect	Special proceedings
Total cases.....	254,901	192,704	49,144	13,053	+6	+8	+1	+2
ALABAMA:								
Jefferson Co. (Birmingham).....	2,941	1,293	1,648	-	+16	-1	+33	-
Mobile Co. (Mobile).....	1,090	712	378	-	+12	+2	+36	-
Montgomery Co. (Montgomery).....	647	411	233	-	+4	+16	-13	-
ARKANSAS:								
Pulaski Co. (Little Rock).....	1,568	582	954	32	-20	-24	-17	+68
13 small courts.....	719	396	261	62	+38	-4	+175	+2
CALIFORNIA:								
Alameda Co. (Oakland).....	8,516	6,584	1,665	467	-2	+5	-21	+18
Contra Costa Co. (Richmond).....	2,934	2,212	547	175	+3	+5	-2	+4
Fresno Co. (Fresno).....	1,259	937	195	127	+2	+11	-35	+11
Kern Co. (Bakersfield).....	3,526	3,169	194	163	+29	+35	-15	+9
Los Angeles Co. (Los Angeles).....	7,427	5,958	1,122	347	-5	+2	-20	+33
Orange Co. (Santa Ana).....	4,271	3,797	272	202	+17	+52	-3	+55
Riverside Co. (Riverside).....	936	816	117	3	-29	-29	-29	+10
Sacramento Co. (Sacramento).....	2,038	1,741	196	101	+1	+4	-27	+10
San Bernardino Co. (S. Bernardino).....	1,450	1,295	154	1	-1	+16	+1	+10
San Diego Co. (San Diego).....	4,560	3,161	987	432	+9	+9	+6	+10
San Francisco Co. (S. Francisco).....	7,220	5,379	1,662	179	+9	+9	+6	+10
San Joaquin Co. (Stockton).....	697	508	107	82	+38	+30	+5	+10
San Mateo Co. (San Mateo).....	3,079	2,541	338	160	+28	+25	+31	+10
Tulare Co. (Tulare).....	1,119	942	124	53	+12	+7	+34	+21
Ventura Co. (Oxnard).....	1,530	1,302	128	100	+14	+14	+20	+15
18 small courts.....	5,129	4,190	688	251	+4	+5	-9	+31
CONNECTICUT:								
First District (Bridgeport).....	1,904	1,604	300	-	-8	-2	-33	-
Second District (New Haven).....	2,066	1,691	375	-	-7	-6	-25	-
Third District (Hartford).....	1,998	1,598	400	-	-6	+6	-35	-
FLORIDA:								
Orange Co. (Orlando).....	1,175	730	340	105	+5	+7	-6	+57
Pinellas Co. (St. Petersburg).....	1,037	619	354	64	+2	+9	-7	+10
Polk Co. (Lakeland).....	1,350	818	525	7	+6	-2	+21	+10
1 small court.....	1,459	727	680	52	-10	+12	-37	+10
GEORGIA:								
Chatham Co. (Savannah).....	1,532	670	862	-	+16	-10	+52	-
Fulton Co. (Atlanta).....	2,691	2,003	688	-	-4	+2	+3	-
Richmond Co. (Augusta).....	943	573	370	-	+9	+4	+16	-
HAWAII:								
First Circuit (Honolulu).....	3,635	2,591	547	497	+33	+6	+24	+2
ILLINOIS:								
Cook Co. (Chicago).....	6,708	5,272	3,341	95	+6	+12	-3	+2
INDIANA:								
Allen Co. (Fort Wayne).....	503	503	-	-	-21	+21	-	-
Lake Co. (Gary).....	1,708	1,660	31	17	+13	+11	+10	+10
Madison Co. (Anderson).....	248	248	-	-	+98	+98	-	-
Marion Co. (Indianapolis).....	2,387	1,309	571	507	-7	+12	+12	+10
St. Joseph Co. (South Bend).....	82	82	-	-	+12	+12	-	-
Vanderburgh Co. (Evansville).....	383	383	-	-	+23	+23	-	-
Vigo Co. (Terre Haute).....	194	192	1	1	-16	-15	-	-
34 small courts.....	2,663	2,489	160	14	+2	+2	+2	+10
IOWA:								
Linn Co. (Cedar Rapids).....	424	389	35	-	+9	+18	+10	-
Polk Co. (Des Moines).....	1,127	656	271	-	-6	+10	+10	-
Scott Co. (Davenport).....	653	476	177	-	+35	+10	+10	-
Woodbury Co. (Sioux City).....	805	393	412	-	+2	+4	+10	-
5 small courts.....	361	229	132	-	+2	+2	+10	-
LOUISIANA:								
First Jud. Dist. (Shreveport).....	748	465	197	86	+10	+11	+11	+10
Fourth Jud. Dist. (Monroe).....	499	265	204	30	-25	+25	+25	+10
Nineteenth Jud. Dist. (Baton R.).....	305	244	57	4	-7	+4	+4	+10
2 small courts.....	580	469	94	17	+9	+9	+9	+10
MAINE:								
1 small court.....	318	237	81	-	-	+2	+2	-
MICHIGAN:								
Barrien Co. (Benton Harbor).....	443	339	104	-	+7	+11	+16	-
Calhoun Co. (Battle Creek).....	506	309	197	-	+7	+7	+16	-
Genesee Co. (Flint).....	796	390	406	-	+7	+7	+16	-
Ingham Co. (Lansing).....	354	161	193	-	+20	+21	+16	-
Jackson Co. (Jackson).....	397	322	75	-	+2	+2	+16	-
Kalamazoo Co. (Kalamazoo).....	366	208	158	-	+4	+4	+16	-
Kent Co. (Grand Rapids).....	736	367	369	-	+7	+7	+16	-
Macomb Co. (East Detroit).....	758	594	164	-	+4	+4	+16	-
Washtenaw Co. (Washtenaw).....	492	461	88	-	+17	+17	+16	-
Oakland Co. (Pontiac).....	1,390	946	444	-	+13	+13	+16	-
Saginaw Co. (Saginaw).....	402	223	179	-	+29	+29	+16	-
Washtenaw Co. (Ann Arbor).....	398	255	143	-	+26	+26	+16	-
Wayne Co. (Detroit).....	4,767	3,429	2,328	-	+25	+25	+16	-
70 small courts.....	3,661	2,325	2,326	-	+27	+27	+16	-

Table 3--CHILDREN'S CASES DISPOSED OF BY 831 COURTS IN 1954 AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1953 a/--Continued

Area served by court b/	Cases disposed of in 1954				Percent change from 1953 to 1954			
	Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect	Special proceedings	Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect	Special proceedings
MISSISSIPPI:								
Miss Co. (Jackson).....	122	108	14	-	-2	-5	0	-
65 small courts.....	2,098	1,337	761	-	257	20	111	-
MISSOURI:								
Greene Co. (Springfield).....	438	326	53	59	43	47	-24	4
Jackson Co. (Kansas City).....	2,903	1,911	482	510	47	46	-24	-10
St. Louis (City).....	3,877	2,241	829	807	22	49	49	-11
St. Louis Co. (University City)	1,260	639	361	260	28	25	173	18
111 small courts.....	2,752	1,439	607	706	10	49	25	1
MONTANA:								
1 small court.....	1,283	1,283	-	-	-11	-11	-	-
NORTH DAKOTA:								
First Jud. Dist. (Fargo).....	786	552	221	13	49	47	158	-79
1 small court.....	133	121	7	5	4	32	0	0
OHIO:								
Butler Co. (Hamilton).....	1,332	1,174	99	59	48	41	2	-23
Clark Co. (Springfield).....	767	660	92	15	43	-3	0	0
Cuyahoga Co. (Cleveland).....	5,996	5,300	501	195	-5	-3	100	0
Franklin Co. (Columbus).....	1,193	673	391	129	-15	-21	-12	13
Hamilton Co. (Cincinnati).....	7,272	6,622	408	242	21	22	76	16
Lorain Co. (Lorain).....	690	690	-	-	-6	-6	-	-
Lucas Co. (Toledo).....	2,724	1,962	180	582	27	36	15	56
Mahoning Co. (Youngstown).....	1,909	1,724	158	27	-4	-2	0	0
Montgomery Co. (Dayton).....	2,767	2,283	337	147	4	4	20	10
Stark Co. (Canton).....	242	60	135	47	-17	-10	10	0
Summit Co. (Akron).....	2,209	1,960	205	44	10	10	10	0
Trumbull Co. (Warren).....	949	805	132	12	19	25	10	0
57 small courts.....	10,672	8,916	1,214	540	43	4	8	76
OKLAHOMA:								
Tulsa Co. (Tulsa).....	1,397	931	463	3	4	-1	24	0
3 small courts.....	243	122	121	-	4	5	76	0
OREGON:								
Lane Co. (Eugene).....	1,283	739	430	111	44	38	436	10
Marion Co. (Salem).....	668	385	196	87	28	21	198	0
Multnomah Co. (Portland).....	4,227	2,476	1,690	61	17	16	133	0
9 small courts.....	3,480	2,598	780	202	10	5	13	0
PENNSYLVANIA:								
Allegheny Co. (Pittsburgh).....	7,222	4,694	2,451	77	-5	-2	-9	15
Berks Co. (Reading).....	896	685	211	-	-13	-12	-14	0
Montgomery Co. (Harrisburg).....	906	598	129	179	15	11	15	-38
Philadelphia (City and Co.).....	11,645	9,632	1,782	231	14	14	130	11
RHODE ISLAND:								
State (Providence).....	1,029	1,293	115	121	46	22	-27	0
SOUTH DAKOTA:								
28 small courts.....	1,131	975	111	45	0	-5	21	0
UTAH:								
First District (Ogden).....	2,535	2,394	141	-	-4	-5	11	-
Second District (Salt Lake City)	4,548	4,405	143	-	46	47	17	-
Third District (Provo).....	2,057	1,932	125	-	15	13	28	-
3 small courts.....	1,353	1,172	181	-	12	11	10	-
VERMONT:								
16 small courts.....	377	149	228	-	-6	14	16	-
VIRGIN ISLANDS:								
2 small courts.....	231	205	26	-	-	2	0	-
WASHINGTON:								
King Co. (Seattle).....	5,875	4,513	676	686	26	21	24	15
Pierce Co. (Tacoma).....	1,264	852	204	208	17	17	17	15
Snohomish Co. (Everett).....	911	694	180	37	18	15	15	15
Spokane Co. (Spokane).....	2,554	2,174	263	117	15	12	15	11
Yakima Co. (Yakima).....	1,733	1,538	127	68	18	19	17	11
20 small courts.....	6,255	5,238	750	267	13	16	14	11
WEST VIRGINIA:								
Cabell Co. (Huntington).....	509	416	11	82	-4	-10	0	0
Kanawha Co. (Charleston).....	1,000	707	36	257	13	10	15	15
44 small courts.....	3,081	1,763	1,075	243	12	11	12	16
WISCONSIN:								
Milwaukee Co. (Milwaukee).....	7,873	6,657	617	599	-3	-5	-8	11
Racine Co. (Racine).....	56	56	-	-	12	12	-	-
31 small courts.....	2,580	1,637	606	337	0	17	1	24

a/ **NOTE WELL:** The data in this table should not be used to make comparisons between communities regarding the extent of delinquency. Questions concerning changes in an individual court's data from one year to another should be directed to that individual court. This table includes only courts for which data are available for both 1953 and 1954.

b/ Courts serving areas with population of 100,000 or more are listed separately, showing the chief city located in each area. Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population are combined for each State and are presented as "small courts."

c/ Percent change not computed. Base figure for 1953 less than 50.

d/ Percent change less than 0.5.

Table 4--TREND IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES AND IN NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 10-17 IN THE UNITED STATES: 1940-1954

Year	Index (1940 = 100)	
	Juvenile delinquency cases ^{a/}	Child population of U.S. (10-17 years of age) ^{b/}
1940.....	100	100
1941.....	112	99
1942.....	125	97
1943.....	172	96
1944.....	165	93
1945.....	172	92
1946.....	148	91
1947.....	121	91
1948.....	127	90
1949.....	136	91
1950.....	140	91
1951.....	140	93
1952.....	168	95
1953.....	187	99
1954.....	198	102

^{a/} Data for 1951-54 based on cases disposed of by 283 courts serving about 21 percent of the child population of the United States; trend for previous years for these courts estimated by the Children's Bureau.

^{b/} Trend based on data from Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce (Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 98 and 121.).

Table 5--TREND IN DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT CASES AND IN NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE IN THE UNITED STATES: 1946-1954

Year	Index (1946 = 100)	
	Dependency and neglect cases ^{a/}	Child population of U.S. (Under 18 years of age) ^{b/}
1946.....	100	100
1947.....	103	104
1948.....	102	107
1949.....	97	110
1950.....	92	113
1951.....	96	116
1952.....	97	120
1953.....	102	125
1954.....	102	129

^{a/} Data for 1951-54 based on cases disposed of by 292 courts serving about 20 percent of the child population of the United States; trend for previous years for these courts estimated by the Children's Bureau.

^{b/} Trend based on data from Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce (Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 98 and 121.).