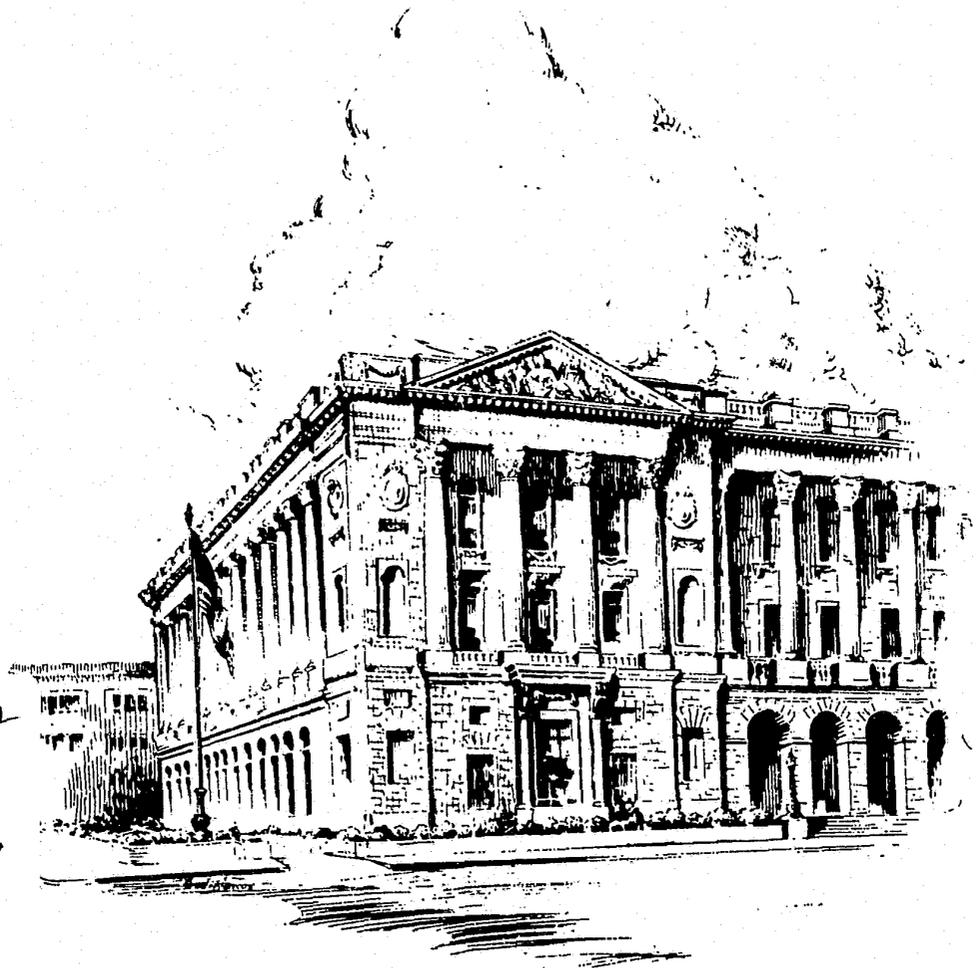


**PHILADELPHIA**  
**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**



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**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**  
**1990 ANNUAL REPORT**

# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA



## FAMILY COURT DIVISION

## SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

*Honorable Edward J. Bradley*  
*President Judge*

*Honorable Jerome A. Zaleski*  
*Administrative Judge*  
*Family Court Division*

*Matthew M. Tierney*  
*Court Administrator*  
*Family Court Division*

133981

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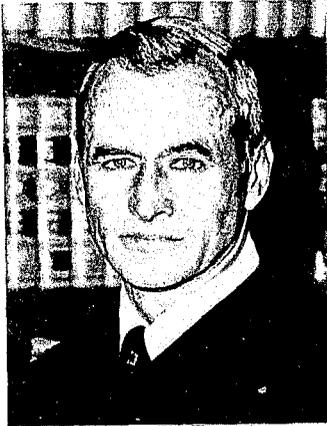
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This report was prepared by the Research and Planning Unit, Family Court Division. Pictures were provided by the Office of Public Information, Court of Common Pleas. All requests for information should be directed to: E. L. Davis, Deputy Court Administrator, Management and Staff, Family Court Division, 1801 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

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THE JUDICIARY



*Edward J. Bradley*  
*President Judge*



*Jerome A. Zaleski*  
*Administrative Judge*  
*Family Court Division*

JUDGES SITTING IN THE FAMILY COURT DIVISION DURING 1990



*John L. Braxton*



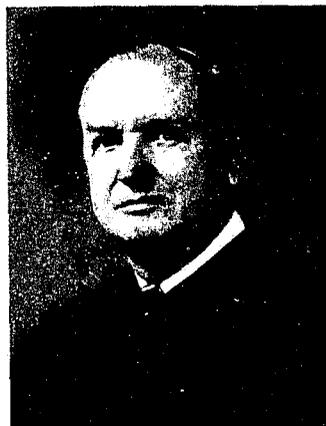
*Ida K. Chen*



*Tama Myers Clark*



*Leonard A. Ivanoski*



*Frank M. Jackson*



*Sheldon C. Jelin*

JUDGES SITTING IN THE FAMILY COURT DIVISION DURING 1990



*Nicholas Kozay, Jr.*



*Stephen E. Levin*



*Kathryn S. Lewis*



*Joseph Patrick McCabe*



*Frank X. O'Brien*



*Paul P. Panepinto*



*Abram Frank Reynolds*



*Edward R. Summers*



*Esther R. Sylvester*

JUDGES SITTING IN THE FAMILY COURT DIVISION DURING 1990



*Allan L. Tereshko*



*Petrese B. Tucker*

SENIOR JUDGES



*Vito F. Canuso*



*Nicholas A. Cipriani*



*Jerome A. O'Neill*

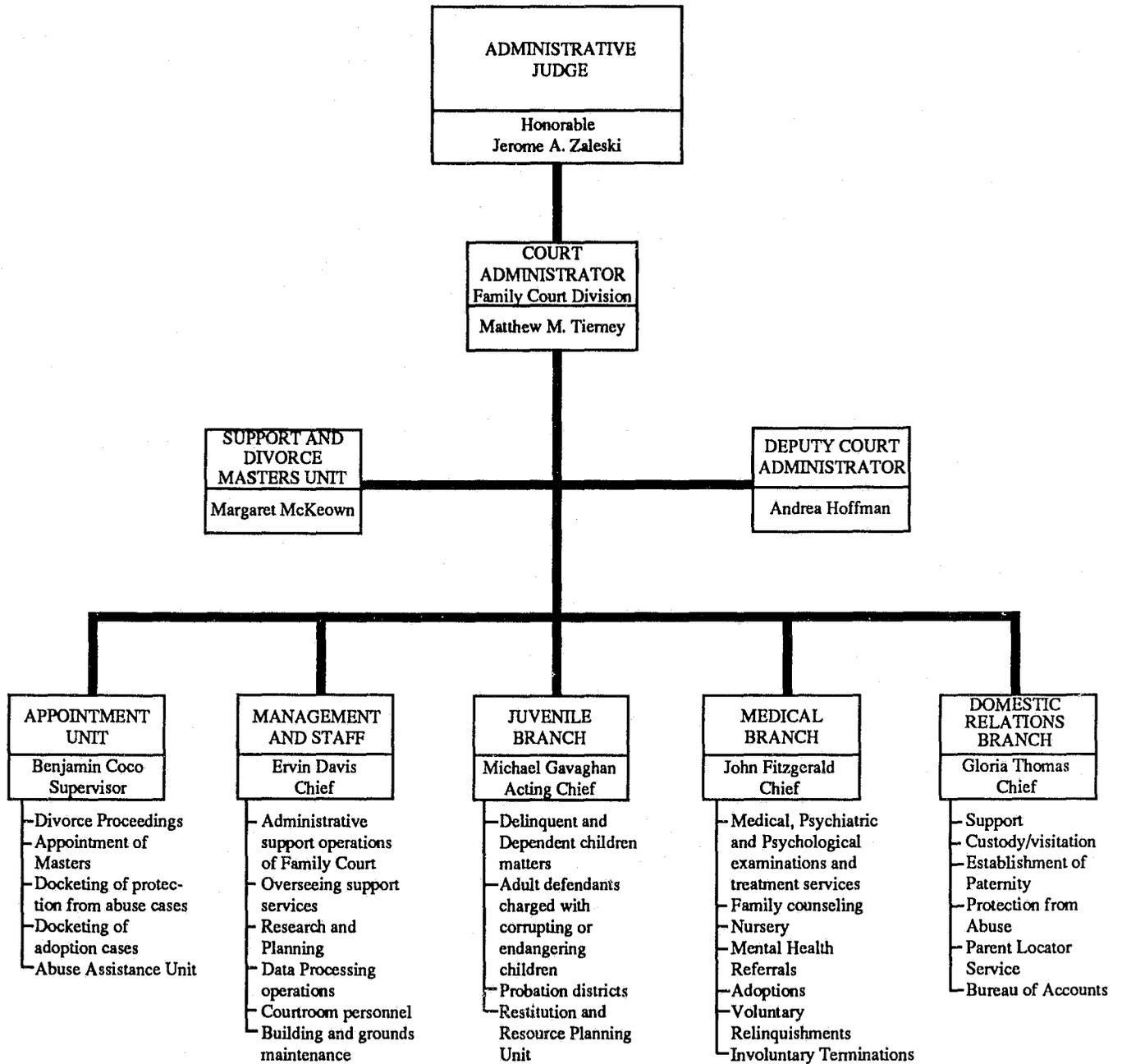


*Edward B. Rosenberg*



*Evelyn M. Trommer*

## FAMILY COURT DIVISION ORGANIZATION



## INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

*Administrative Judge Jerome A. Zaleski*

There are a number of interesting, and more importantly, positive developments to report. An Abuse Assistance Unit was established in April, 1990 in response to a legislative mandate that the Court shall "provide simplified forms and clerical assistance in English and Spanish to help with the writing and filing of a petition for a protection order for an individual not represented by counsel" (35 PS Section 10184(f)). The response to the establishment of this Unit has been overwhelming! The number of individuals who have initiated petitions with the assistance of this Unit's staff has been increasing since the first day the doors opened. It is obvious that the need for this type of service was great, and it is most rewarding to be able to provide such a service.

An Intensive Drug and Alcohol Unit was established in March, 1990, in the Family Court's Juvenile Branch. The Unit is designed to provide intensive supervision to juveniles discharged from Drug and Alcohol residential facilities and first time Drug and Alcohol offenders. This Unit is funded by Governor Robert Casey's "Pennfree Program". We are very enthusiastic and optimistic that this program will realize its goal of promoting client accountability and preventing further delinquent behavior.

While not new, the Court Masters Unit has achieved outstanding successes over the past few years which are worthy of mention. The mission of the Masters Unit is pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. Section 1910.12 and Rule 1920.31. Certain child support, spousal support cases and alimony pendente lite cases are heard by the Permanent Hearing Officers. In accordance with Rule 1920.51 Permanent Masters in Divorce hear all matters relating to the entry of an order for approval of Grounds for Divorce under Section 201 (a), 201 (b), and 201 (d) and for annulment under Sections 203 through 205 inclusive of the Divorce Code. The Divorce Masters also conduct hearings on all economic issues stemming from divorce cases, including claims for equitable distribution of property, alimony, counsel fees, costs and expenses. Support cases pending at the same time as divorce cases are consolidated for disposition before the Permanent Masters in Divorce. All Permanent Hearing Officers and Permanent Masters in Divorce are lawyers and full time employees of Family Court. The Masters Unit consists of four Permanent Hearing Officers and two Permanent Master in Divorce positions and a clerical support staff of five persons.

By its exemplary performance, the Unit has relieved the Family Court Judiciary of numerous cases thereby allowing it to address other matters. The Masters have earned the respect and admiration of the attorneys who appear before them.

The Masters Unit has initiated the use of Tape Recording Systems. All Masters Unit support hearings are electronically



*Judge Jerome A. Zaleski, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, welcomes those attending the Juvenile Court Day Ceremony.*

recorded. Transcripts are made available upon request by attorneys, clients or by the Court itself. This system has proven to be quite successful and has the strong support of the Bar Association.

An expanded Bench Warrant Unit was initiated to enforce orders issued by the Judiciary pertaining to Domestic Relations cases. The Unit has done an outstanding job of locating individuals against whom bench warrants had been issued, thereby contributing to the increased collection of Child Support arrearages.



*Judges Allan L. Tereshko (left) and Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, Jerome A. Zaleski (right) are shown with warrant officers sworn in for the newly established Bench Warrant Unit. Pictured above are: (left to right) Judge Tereshko, Officers Morris Love, Benjamin Hassell, Director, Field Operations, William McMonagle, Officer Joseph Acavino, Assistant Director, Field Operations, Joseph Cleary, Officer Nicholas Ciotto and Judge Zaleski.*



*Jesse E. Williams, Jr., Executive Director for Juvenile Justice Services (second from left) and George B. Taylor, Deputy Secretary, Office of Children and Youth (third from left), were presented awards for their work in the Juvenile Justice System at the Juvenile Court Day Ceremony. Also shown are Judge Jerome A. Zaleski, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division (left), President Judge Edward J. Bradley, (second from right) and Ronald D. Castille, District Attorney of Philadelphia (right).*



*Some of the Judges attending the annual Employee Awards ceremony are shown above. Starting at the left are Judges Paul P. Panepinto, Jerome A. Zaleski, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, Edward J. Blake, then Administrative Judge, Trial Division, and Allan L. Tereshko. Judges Panepinto and Tereshko were co-chairmen for the ceremony.*



*Lillian Fogarty (left) was presented with an Employee of the Year award for the Management and Staff Office by Judge Paul P. Panepinto.*

A terminal was installed in one of our Juvenile Courtrooms to enable dispositions to be recorded directly and promptly in the Courtroom. The value of the terminal in the Courtroom was quickly recognized and funds have been secured to obtain terminals in other Juvenile Courtrooms.

Physical facilities have been obtained for our Domestic Relations Branch and related Units which are now in several locations. The Domestic Relations Branch will be located in one facility in the near future. Intensive planning is going forward and the move is scheduled for Spring, 1991. Benefits to clients, attorneys, and our employees will be substantial. We are eagerly looking forward to the consolidation of these units.

The sum of \$94,565,667 was collected by the Domestic Relations Branch for Child Support payments. It is projected that over \$100,000,000 will be collected in 1991. In 1975, when Federal law established the Child Support program, the sum collected was \$24,600,000.

The backlog of juvenile cases has been eliminated and all cases were listed within a two week period. Without the splendid cooperation and unstinting dedication of the Family Court Bench and staff none of the listed achievements would have been a reality. This extraordinary tapestry of talent and teamwork has produced money benefits for the taxpayers of the City of Philadelphia.

### Statistics

The data appearing in this report has been collected from original documents, capturing information at the time of filing and at disposition, as well as from internal reports.

The reader is cautioned not to compare numbers of filings with numbers of cases disposed. These terms are not synonymous in that multi-petitions may be filed within a case. For example, both parents may file an individual petition for custody of a child. This would be counted as two petitions, but one case, if both petitions are disposed of at the same time.

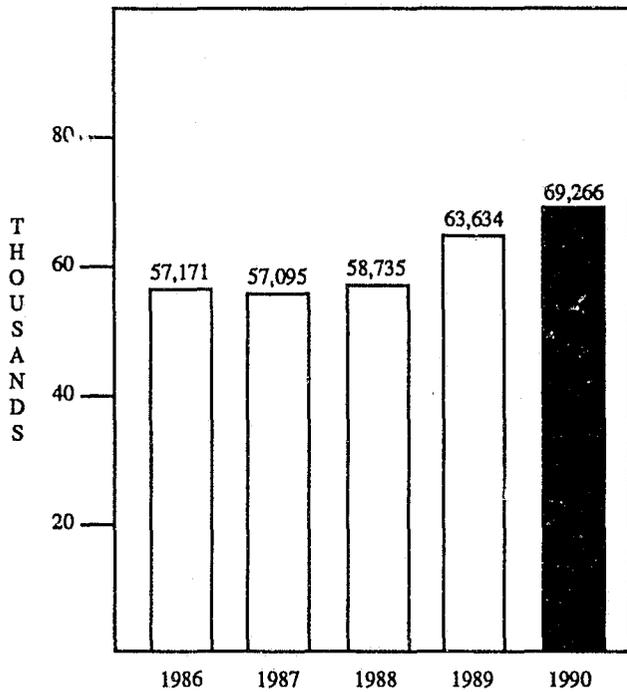
The statistical unit used in this report regarding cases is the case disposed of because it is at the final stage that we have the most complete information about the case. The statistical data immediately following this section summarizes the overall workload of the Family Court Division for the past five years. I believe the data is fairly accurate due to the development and adoption of better procedures in recent years.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 1986 TO 1990

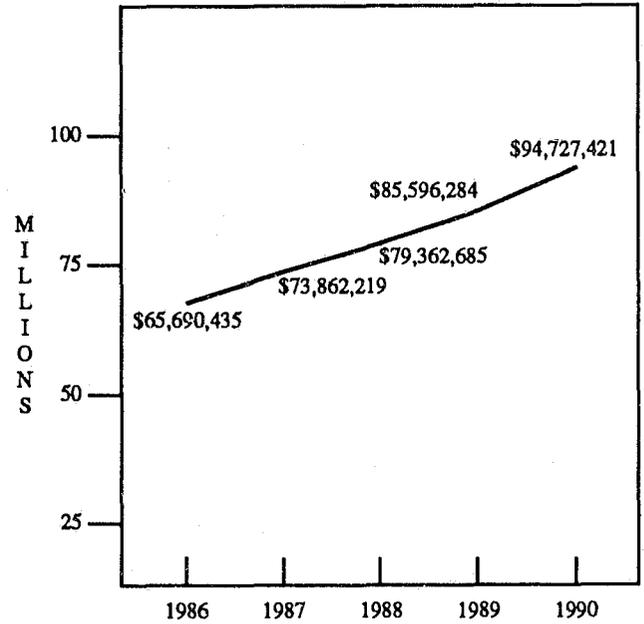
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
<b>FILINGS:</b>					
Juvenile Branch					
Petitions Filed	13,975	13,837	16,133	15,472	14,862
Adjusted at Youth Study Center	758	518	297	154	194
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,733</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>16,430</b>	<b>15,626</b>	<b>15,056</b>
Domestic Relations Branch Petitions	35,690	36,794	35,123	41,409	47,158
Medical Branch, Adoption Unit Petitions	920	997	813	866	1,021
Divorce Proceedings Initiated	5,828	4,949	6,369	5,733	6,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,171</b>	<b>57,095</b>	<b>58,735</b>	<b>63,634</b>	<b>69,266</b>
<b>CASES DISPOSED:</b>					
Juvenile Branch					
New Cases	14,699	13,095	15,817	15,636	15,027
Review Hearings	29,883	33,346	39,714	49,908	56,994
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,582</b>	<b>46,441</b>	<b>55,531</b>	<b>65,544</b>	<b>72,021</b>
Domestic Relations Branch	27,235	26,370	31,426	30,160	37,692
Medical Branch, Adoption Unit	936	1,119	887	988	1,005
Divorces Granted	4,744	4,303	4,708	4,760	4,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,497</b>	<b>78,233</b>	<b>92,552</b>	<b>101,452</b>	<b>115,439</b>
<b>SUPPORT ORDER AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED:</b>					
Support Payments	\$65,595,712	\$73,761,914	\$79,260,102	\$85,448,375	\$94,565,667
Restitution <sup>1</sup>	\$ 94,723	\$ 100,305	\$ 102,583	\$ 147,909	\$ 161,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,690,435</b>	<b>\$73,862,219</b>	<b>\$79,362,685</b>	<b>\$85,596,284</b>	<b>\$94,727,421</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes payments received through the Restitution and Community Services Program, except for 1988.

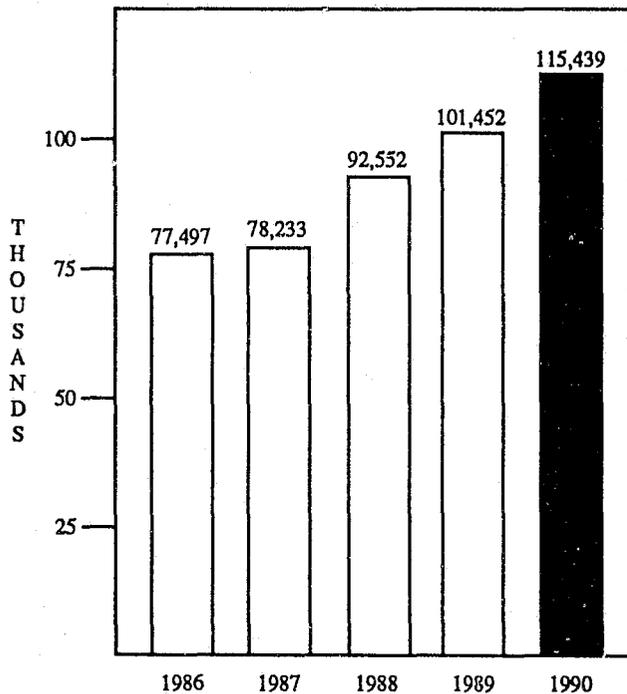
TOTAL FILINGS: 1986 TO 1990



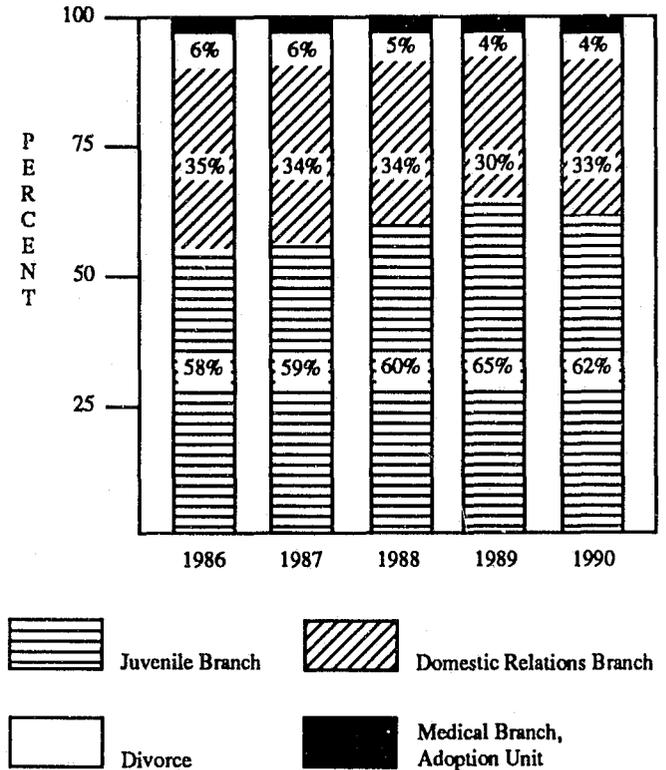
SUPPORT ORDER AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED: 1986 TO 1990



TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990



# Juvenile Branch



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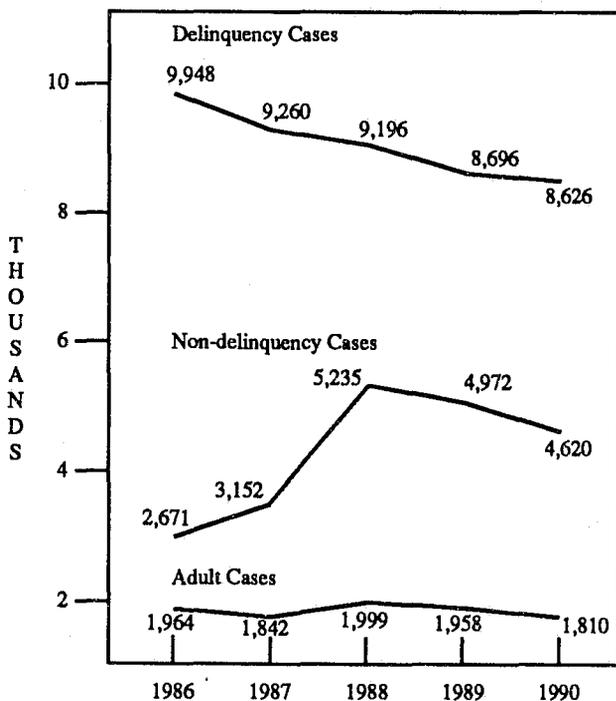
## JUVENILE BRANCH

The Juvenile Branch is responsible for processing all juvenile cases coming under the Court's jurisdiction.

This jurisdiction includes all juvenile proceedings involving delinquent and dependent children, as well as adults charged with crimes against children or endangering their welfare. In order to ensure that the best interests of the children are served and their legal rights safeguarded, specific procedures are used in disposing of juvenile cases. The flow charts on pages 21 and 34 show the major steps involved in processing delinquent and dependent (non-delinquency) cases.

As in previous years, the majority of new cases received by the Juvenile Branch in 1990 were delinquency cases. Although these cases constitute the largest part of the juvenile caseload, they have been declining in recent years (13 percent since 1986). In contrast to above, new dependent cases have continued to rise.

NEW CASES RECEIVED: 1986 TO 1990



As with new cases received, the majority of new cases disposed in 1990 were delinquency cases.

New delinquency cases disposed of decreased by 5 percent in 1990, while the number of new non-delinquency cases disposed of increased by 1 percent. New adult cases disposed of in 1990 decreased by 10 percent.

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1990

Type of Case	Number	Percent Distribution
Delinquency	8,636	57
Non-delinquency	4,739	32
Adult	1,652	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,027</b>	<b>100</b>

In addition to new cases, the Juvenile Branch processes thousands of cases involving review hearings. These are cases which must be reviewed due to a legal requirement or because new facts brought to the Court's attention require modification of a previous disposition. Review hearings in 1990 accounted for 79 percent of all cases disposed of in the Juvenile Branch. Most review hearings concerned non-delinquent matters (61 percent). However, review hearings in delinquency cases have also increased in recent years and in 1990 they accounted for 72 percent of all delinquency cases disposed.

Overall, the Juvenile Branch received and disposed of a substantial portion of the cases processed by the Family Court Division. In 1990, this branch accounted for 22 percent of all filings and 62 percent of the total cases disposed of by the Family Court Division.

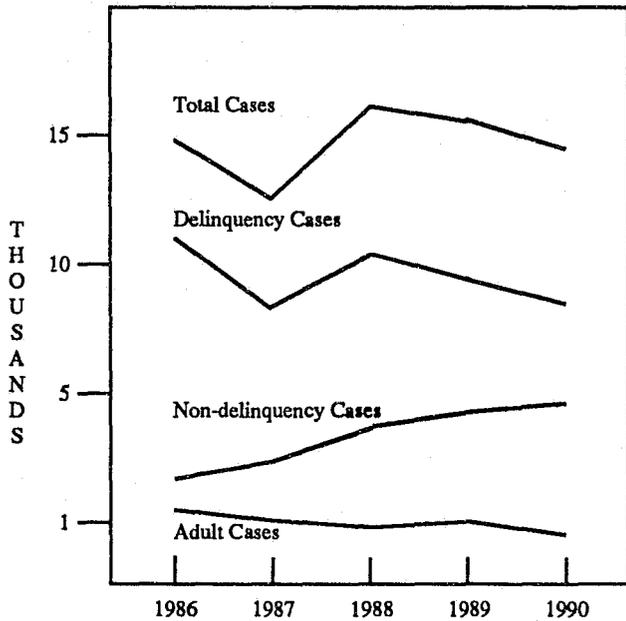
Statistical data with graphic illustrations summarizing the workload of the Juvenile Branch for the past five years can be found immediately following this section.

The Restitution and Resource Planning Unit also comes under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Branch. This unit is discussed elsewhere in this report.



Judge Abram Frank Reynolds, Chairperson, addressed attendees at Juvenile Court Day ceremony.

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990



Judge Jerome A. Zaleski, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division (left) presented an award to George B. Taylor, Deputy Secretary, Office of Children and Youth.

Throughout the year, the Juvenile Branch staff received a wide variety of training in order to improve their skills and keep abreast of current legal developments. An on-going program designed for the Court's juvenile probation staff allows the staff, through on-site visits, to examine the physical environment of juvenile facilities while learning of the specialized programs offered by these institutions or agencies.

A specialized training program was instituted for probation officers to obtain a minimum of twenty training hours. Subjects such as Substance Abuse, Behavior Modification, Stress

Management and Child Sexual Abuse were typical of the courses presented. The juvenile staff received other training through a staff development program. These sessions are held monthly and provide the staff with information about other agencies with which they will be coming in contact, as well as, discussions on varied topics of interest to the staff.

In addition to in-house training, many employees continue to upgrade their skills by attending courses at local colleges and universities on their own time.



Judge Paul P. Panepinto (left) presents an award to Leroy Smith in recognition of his twenty-five years of service to the court.



Elaine Renzi receives congratulations from Judge Panepinto upon her completion of twenty-five years of service to the court.

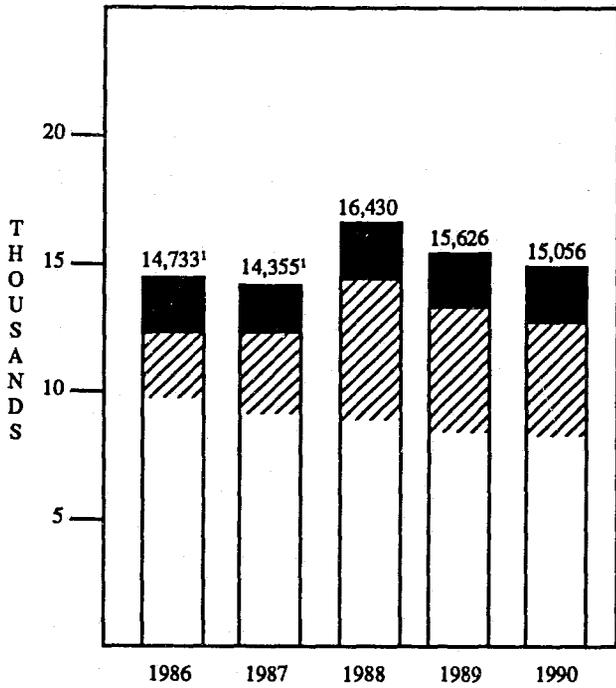
## JUVENILE BRANCH STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 1986 TO 1990

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
<b>FILINGS:</b>					
Delinquency	9,948	9,260	9,196	8,696	8,626
<i>Petitions filed</i>	9,190	8,742	8,899	8,542	8,432
<i>Adjusted at Youth Study Center</i>	758	518	297	154	194
Non-delinquency petitions	2,671	3,152	5,235	4,972	4,620
Adult petitions	1,964	1,842	1,999	1,958	1,810
Enforcement Petitions and Motions	150	101	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,733</b>	<b>14,355</b>	<b>16,430</b>	<b>15,626</b>	<b>15,056</b>
<b>CASES DISPOSED:</b>					
Delinquency	22,893	21,626	24,291	28,201	30,577
Non-delinquency	19,737	22,767	28,951	35,121	39,664
Adult	1,869	1,808	1,806	1,830	1,652
Enforcement	83	240	483	392	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,582</b>	<b>46,441</b>	<b>55,531</b>	<b>65,544</b>	<b>72,021</b>
<i>New cases</i>	14,699	13,095	15,817	15,636	15,027
<i>Review hearings</i>	29,883	33,346	39,714	49,908	56,994
<b>NEW REFERRALS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>6,157</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>6,927</b>	<b>6,011</b>
<b>JUVENILE CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION DURING YEAR</b>	<b>7,793</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>6,494</b>	<b>5,951</b>	<b>7,190</b>
<b>CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION AT END OF YEAR:</b>					
Delinquent	5,134	4,539	4,856	4,703	4,611
Non-delinquent	131	69	139	243	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,265</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>4,752</b>
<b>RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>94,723</b>	<b>100,305</b>	<b>102,583</b>	<b>147,909</b>	<b>161,754</b>
<b>COURT SESSIONS:</b>					
Delinquency	1,307	1,144	1,409	1,445	1,222
Non-delinquency	300	482	648	739	717
Adult	265	250	226	223	214
Enforcement	6	1	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>2,153</b>

<sup>1</sup>Family or individual's first time contact with Family Court.

<sup>2</sup>Includes payments received through the Restitution and Community Services Program except for 1988.

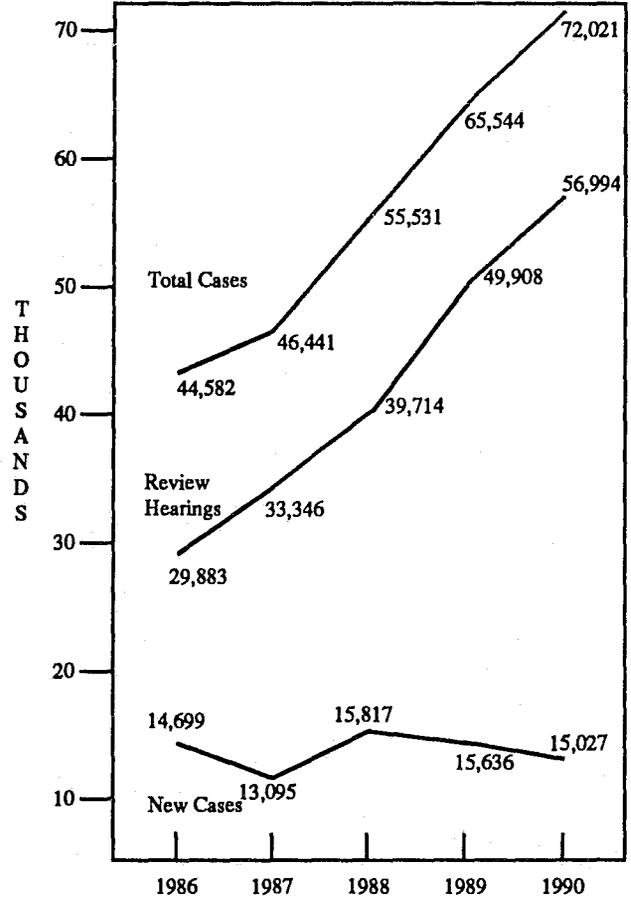
JUVENILE BRANCH FILINGS: 1986 TO 1990



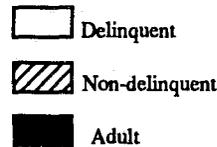
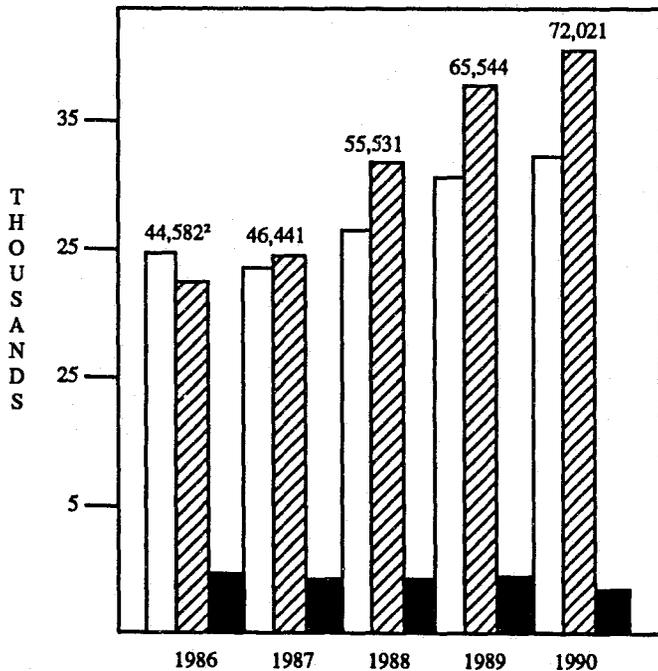
<sup>1</sup>Enforcement filings included in total but too small to depict.



JUVENILE BRANCH DISPOSED CASES: 1986 TO 1990



JUVENILE BRANCH DISPOSED CASES<sup>1,2</sup>: 1986 TO 1990



<sup>1</sup>Includes new cases and review hearings.

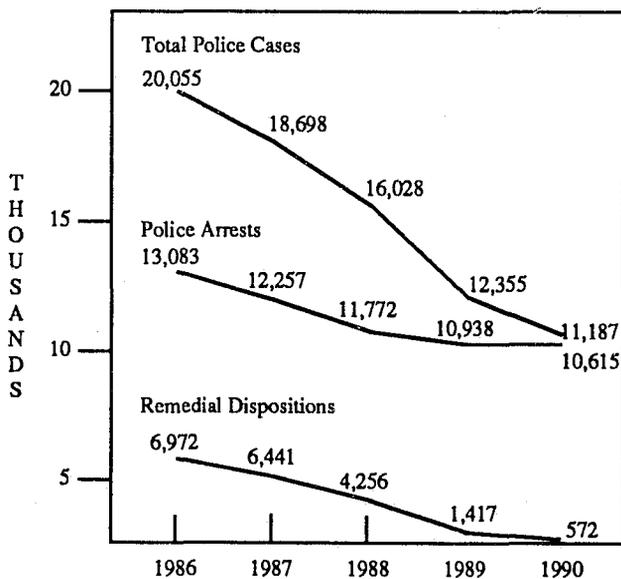
<sup>2</sup>Enforcement cases included in total but too small to depict.

## DELINQUENCY CASES<sup>1</sup>

Delinquency cases constitute the largest part of the workload in the Juvenile Branch. In 1990, these cases accounted for 57 percent of all new cases received by the Juvenile Branch. Delinquency cases involve juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 who have been charged with delinquent acts.<sup>2</sup> These cases are brought to the Court's attention primarily through police arrests<sup>3</sup> although other authorities, individuals or parents may refer cases to Court.

When a juvenile is apprehended, the Police and the District Attorney determine if the child should be charged. If charged, the child is brought or referred to the Youth Study Center for further processing of the case. If the child is not charged, the police treat the case as a remedial disposition or a non-arrest. In some cases, the District Attorney may refer a first time offender charged with a minor offense to a Youth Aid Panel. Juvenile arrests have been declining in recent years and in 1990, the number of juveniles arrested (10,615) decreased by 3 percent from 1989.

POLICE ARRESTS AND REMEDIAL DISPOSITIONS: 1986 TO 1990



<sup>1</sup>See flow chart on page 21.

<sup>2</sup>Excluding the crime of murder or summary offenses.

<sup>3</sup>Comparison of police arrests with court dispositions cannot be made due to use of different data collection procedures.

<sup>4</sup>Required by law to be heard within 72 hours. Hearings are held Monday through Friday and on holidays.

<sup>5</sup>This program is administered and monitored by Community Based Services who have contracted with the Philadelphia Youth Advocate Program and the Lower Kensington Environmental Center for supervision of youths.

All new delinquency cases are screened at the Youth Study Center Intake Unit to determine appropriate action to take regarding detention and the further processing of the petition. An Intake Interviewer conducts a hearing and either disposes of the case or refers it to the Court. Pending the court hearing, the juvenile may be released to the parent(s) or detained at the Youth Study Center or a Community Based Shelter site. When the juvenile is detained, the Judge, at the detention hearing<sup>4</sup>, may order the youth assigned to the Pre-Hearing Intensive Supervision Unit (PHIS) or to the House Arrest Unit. The Judge may also order the youth placed in a Community Based Shelter or in an In-Home Detention program<sup>5</sup>. These programs provide an alternative to detention during the time prior to or following the adjudicatory hearing.

In 1990, approximately 2 percent of new delinquency cases were adjusted at the YSC and 98 percent were referred to Court for disposition.

While the delinquency statistics presented in this report cannot define the total amount of delinquency in Philadelphia, they can indicate trends. In addition, they alert the community to the amount of serious crime attributed to youthful citizens. Actually, a small number of Philadelphia's children are involved in delinquent behavior. In 1990, approximately 5 percent of juvenile residents between the ages of 10 and 17 were charged with delinquent acts. The typical delinquent case involved a 17 year old male who was charged with a theft offense. Males as a whole were responsible for 90 percent of all new delinquent cases disposed of in 1990.

NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1990

	Total	Male	Female
Intake interview YSC	194	111	83
Court hearing	8,442	7,678	764
Total	8,636	7,789	847

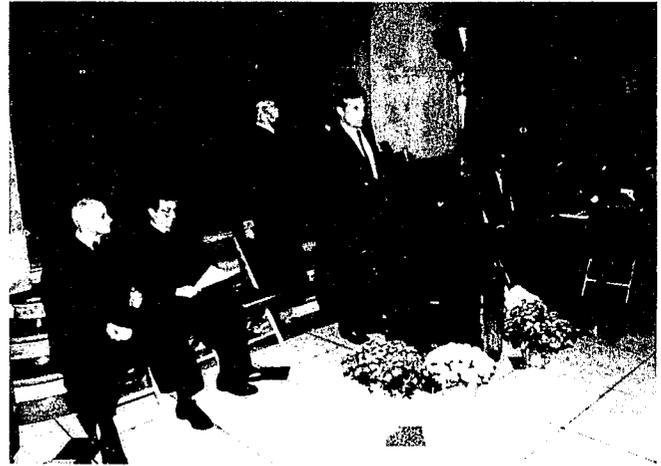
Delinquency cases involving female offenders comprised 10 percent of the total new cases disposed in 1990. Unlike male offenders, the majority of female offenders were charged with injury to person offenses. These offenses constituted a much larger percentage for female offenders (47 percent) than for male offenders (20 percent).

When disposing of a delinquent case, the facts and circumstances of the case determine the type of disposition. In 1990, 37 percent of the cases were adjusted, withdrawn or dismissed while 31 percent resulted in the offender being placed on probation.

In order to serve juveniles who are to be supervised because of detention, commitment or probation, Family Court has



Jesse E. Williams, Jr., Executive Director for Juvenile Justice Services, addressed audience at Juvenile Court Day ceremony.



Michael J. Gavaghan, Acting Chief, Juvenile Branch accepts award on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Department.

eight probation districts and eight specialized units. Most of the probationed youths are assigned to district offices. Smaller numbers of juveniles who are in need of more stringent supervision are assigned to one of the specialized units: the Pre-Hearing Intensive Supervision (PHIS), House Arrest Program (HAP), Habitual Offender Unit, the Correctional Group Counseling (CGC), Intensive Probation Services (IPS), Intensive Aftercare Unit, Community Related Institutional Probation, (CRIP) or the Intensive Drug and Alcohol Unit which was implemented in 1990.

The Correctional Group Counseling Unit provides group therapy to a prescribed number of juvenile probationers on a twice weekly basis. The probation officers conduct these sessions under the guidance of the psychologist in the unit.

NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY AGE AND SEX: 1990

Age	Total	Male	Female
10	60	54	6
11	201	166	35
12	343	299	44
13	750	641	109
14	1,191	1,052	139
15	1,583	1,424	159
16	1,993	1,837	156
17	2,419	2,258	161
Not reported	96	58	38
Total	8,636	7,789	847

OFFENSES DISPOSED: 1990

	Total	Male	Female
Injury to person	1,968	1,566	402
Theft	4,087	3,792	295
Weapon offenses	358	318	40
Sex offenses	141	139	2
Drug law violations	1,414	1,360	54
Malicious mischief	453	414	39
Runaway from institution	181	171	10
Other offenses <sup>1</sup>	34	29	5
Total	8,636	7,789	847

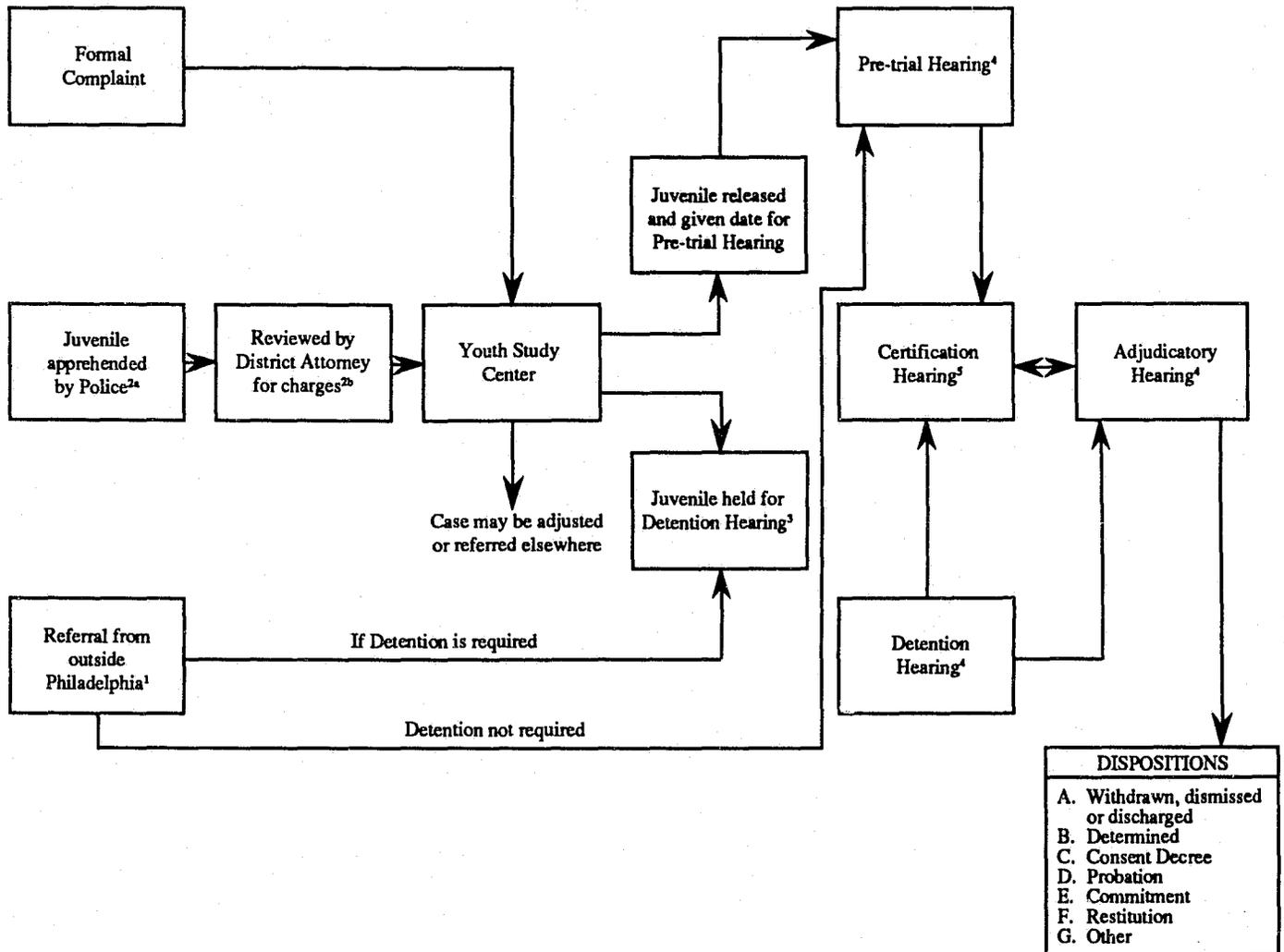
<sup>1</sup>Includes non-payment of fines, liquor law violations.

The Intensive Probation Services Unit services very small caseloads involving probationed juveniles who have committed more serious offenses and who are in need of more intensive supervision.

The Habitual Offender Unit provides intensive supervision to those juveniles who have been identified as serious habitual delinquents. These juveniles may be in residential placement or on aftercare probation. One of the objectives of this unit is to reduce recidivism among these juveniles.

An additional 27 percent of new delinquency cases resulted in the juvenile offender being committed. Most commitments were to delinquent institutions (71 percent), the balance of commitments were to community based or mental health facilities.

JUVENILE BRANCH — NEW DELINQUENCY CASES — FLOW GUIDE



<sup>1</sup>Other Court or Authority.

<sup>2a</sup> Police Officers have broad discretion in determining whether a juvenile offense is treated as an arrest or a non-arrest (remedial disposition).

<sup>2b</sup> In some cases, first offenders charged with a minor offense may be referred to a Youth Aid Panel.

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania law requires a Detention Hearing within 72 hours. Juvenile may be detained at Youth Study Center or a Community Based Service Shelter.

<sup>4a</sup> District Attorney may request certification of Juvenile at this hearing.

<sup>4b</sup> Judge may dispose of case at this hearing.

<sup>5</sup> If certification is granted, case is transferred to criminal court. If denied, case is scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

In most cases in which a commitment to an institution is ordered by the Court, the juvenile is assigned a probation officer from CRIP, who maintains contact with the juvenile and the family. This relationship helps the juvenile adjust to the commitment and allows the probation officer to develop an aftercare plan for the child's anticipated return to the community. Upon discharge from the institution, the Court may order continued supervision by the probation officer through the Court's aftercare program.

Through a renewed grant from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, the Intensive Aftercare Unit provides intensive services to serious offenders during placement at the Youth Development Center, Bensalem, Pennsylvania and after they are discharged.

A juvenile assigned to the House Arrest program may be restricted to his home by the Court, or the Court may permit the youth's participation in activities that can be monitored by a probation officer. The degree of threat to the community and the Court's discretion in the case are the deciding factors. This program is mutually beneficial to both the community and the detainee. The community is protected due to the monitoring of the juvenile and savings in housing and personal costs of the detainee are realized because the juvenile remains at home instead of being placed in a detection facility. While the youth does not have the option of leaving home, he benefits by having the familiarity and comforts of home.

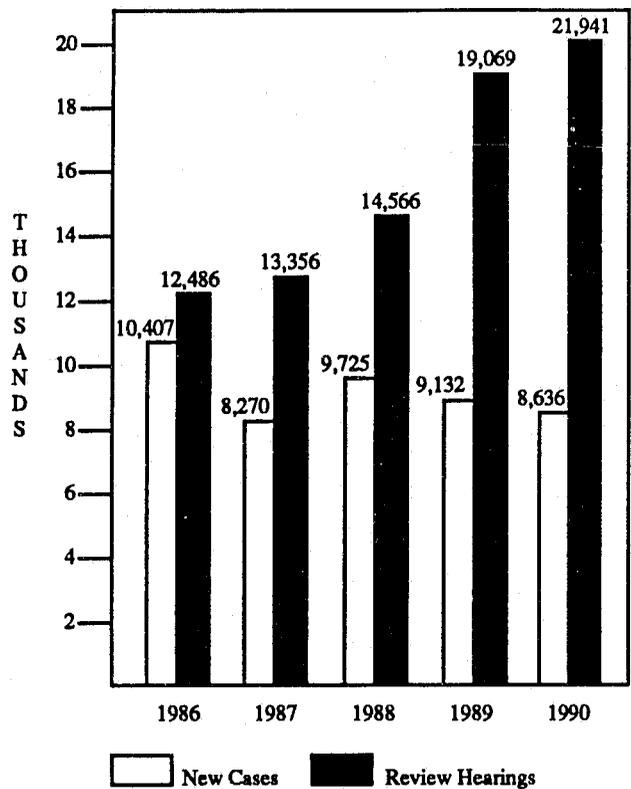
The Intensive Drug and Alcohol Unit is designed to provide intensive supervision to juveniles discharged from drug and alcohol residential facilities and first time drug and alcohol offenders. The probation staff will provide intensive contact with clients and their families, drug testing, counseling, and educational groups. Caseload sizes will be greatly reduced to facilitate maximum service.

**DISPOSITIONS IN NEW DELINQUENCY CASES: 1990**

Referred to other authorities .....	83
Dismissed/withdrawn .....	3,235
Adjusted at YSC .....	194
Withdrawn .....	1,776
Other dismissal .....	1,265
Probation <sup>1</sup> .....	2,662
Consent decree .....	445
Probation .....	2,217
Commitment .....	2,321
Certified to criminal court .....	283
Other .....	52
Restitution/fines .....	30
Other .....	22
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,636</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes cases in which restitution was ordered.

**DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990**



It is the goal of this program to keep first time offenders from becoming more seriously involved with the drug and alcohol abuse and drug sales; and to provide ongoing support to individuals released from residential drug and alcohol programs.

Probation officers are required to perform social investigations; prepare plans and reports pertaining to the probationed youths; meet periodically with the juveniles and their families and present recommendations to the Court regarding rehabilitative services for the probationers. At the end of 1990, the probation officers had completed 7,190 investigations and had 4,752 juveniles under their supervision excluding cases assigned to PHIS or HAP.

In certain delinquency cases in which the offenses are serious, the juvenile is 14 or more years of age and is found not to be amenable to rehabilitation, the Court may order the juvenile be tried as an adult in Criminal Court. In 1990, Family Court certified 283 delinquency cases to the Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

In addition to new cases, the Court also reviews cases in which new facts or changing circumstances are brought to its attention. Furthermore, the law and court policy require a court hearing every six months for those juveniles who have been committed to delinquent institutions or placed elsewhere during the year. In 1990, 21,941 review hearings were heard in Family Court.

TABLE 1

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES: 1990

New cases filed:	
Petitions .....	8,432
Adjusted at Youth Study Center .....	194
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,626</b>
New cases disposed:	
Pre-trial .....	1,250
Adjudicatory .....	7,192
Youth Study Center intake interviews .....	194
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,636</b>
Review hearings .....	21,941
<b>Total cases disposed .....</b>	<b>30,577</b>
New referrals .....	2,806
Court sessions .....	1,222

NEW CASES FILED: 1986 TO 1990

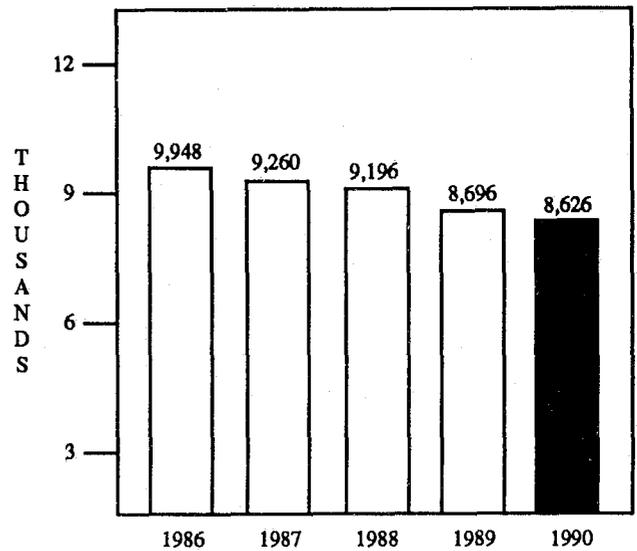


TABLE 2

CASES PROCESSED AT YOUTH STUDY CENTER: 1986 TO 1990

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Disposed of at intake interview	758	518	297	154	194
Referred to juvenile court	9,190	8,742	8,899	8,542	8,432
<i>Detained at YSC<sup>1</sup> pending court hearing</i>	<i>3,234</i>	<i>3,642</i>	<i>5,343</i>	<i>4,800</i>	<i>4,028</i>
<i>Released to parents pending court hearing</i>	<i>5,956</i>	<i>5,100</i>	<i>3,556</i>	<i>3,742</i>	<i>4,404</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,948</b>	<b>9,260</b>	<b>9,196</b>	<b>8,696</b>	<b>8,626</b>

<sup>1</sup>Youth Study Center or Community Based Shelter.

DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990

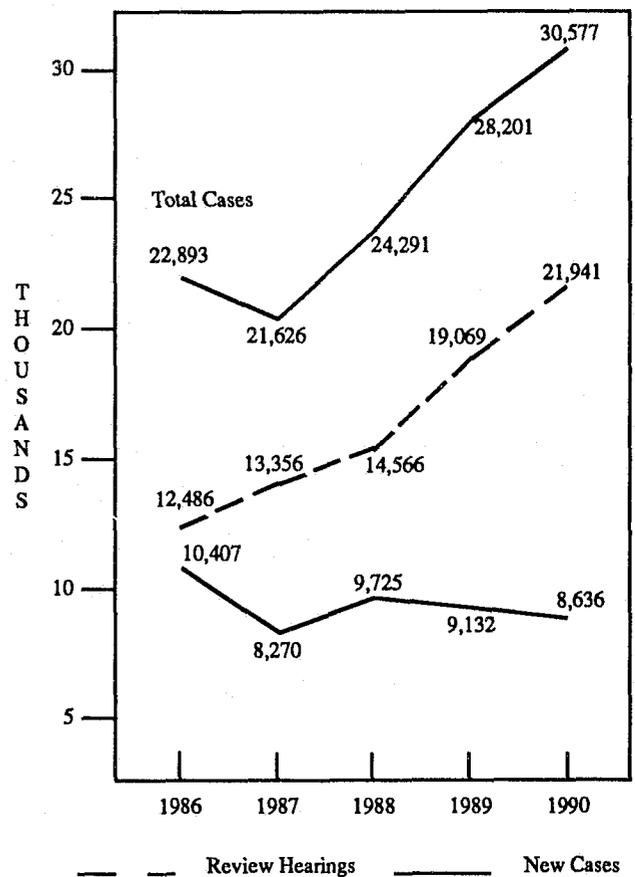


TABLE 3

SOURCE OF REFERRAL — NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1990

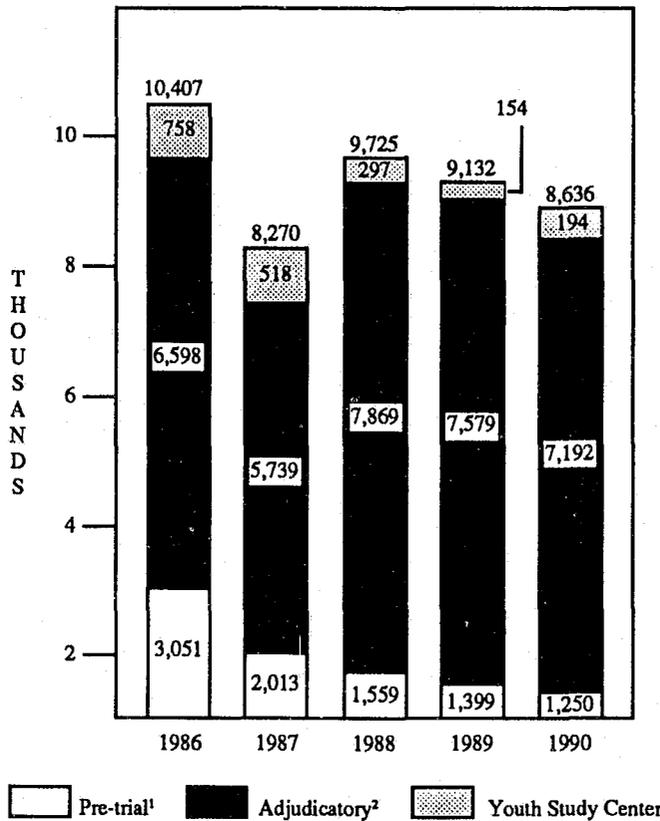
Police arrests .....	7,765
Authorities outside of Philadelphia .....	158
Individual .....	571
Parent or relative .....	131
School authorities .....	7
Other .....	4
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,636</b>

TABLE 4

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Injury to person .....	1,890	1,725	2,127	1,814	1,968
Burglary .....	1,324	767	728	409	369
Robbery .....	2,098	1,364	1,277	1,030	1,070
Larceny .....	1,123	1,035	1,476	1,461	1,359
Auto theft/Unauthorized use of auto .....	806	714	797	694	440
Other theft .....	621	450	536	741	849
Weapons offenses .....	384	311	219	375	358
Sex offenses .....	281	252	251	202	141
Drug law violations .....	724	771	1,571	1,710	1,414
Malicious mischief .....	535	456	424	465	453
Runaway from institution .....	284	229	271	182	181
Miscellaneous offenses .....	337	196	48	49	34
Total .....	10,407	8,270	9,725	9,132	8,636

NEW CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE OF HEARING: 1986 TO 1990



<sup>1</sup>Includes detention hearings.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes certification hearings.

TABLE 5

## TYPE OF OFFENSES DISPOSED: 1990

Offenses	Total	Male	Female
<b>Injury to person:</b>			
Homicide	10	6	4
Aggravated assault	848	729	119
Assault	809	609	200
Coercion/Threats	286	210	76
Other	15	12	3
	1,968	1,566	402
<b>Theft:</b>			
Burglary	369	356	13
Robbery	1,070	980	90
Larceny	1,359	1,287	72
Retail theft	128	67	61
Auto theft	49	46	3
Unauthorized use of auto	391	378	13
Receiving stolen property	683	656	27
Fraud, forgery, etc.	38	22	16
	4,087	3,792	295
<b>Weapons offenses:</b>			
Possessing instruments of crime	78	67	11
Prohibited offensive weapons	34	30	4
Violation of UFA <sup>1</sup>	246	221	25
	358	318	40
<b>Sex offenses:</b>			
Rape	70	69	1
Indecent assault	36	36	—
Prostitution	1	—	1
Deviate sexual intercourse	27	27	—
Indecent exposure	6	6	—
Incest	1	1	—
	141	139	2
<b>Drug law violations:</b>			
Possession of drugs	540	521	19
Sale of drugs	874	839	35
	1,414	1,360	54
<b>Malicious mischief:</b>			
Vandalism	75	71	4
Arson	16	10	6
Disorderly conduct	12	9	3
Trespassing	93	89	4
Conspiracy	226	210	16
Harrassment	15	12	3
Other	16	13	3
	453	414	39
<b>Runaway from institution</b>	181	171	10
<b>Miscellaneous offenses:</b>			
Failure to pay fines and costs	2	2	—
Other offenses	32	27	5
	34	29	5
<b>Total</b>	8,636	7,789	847

<sup>1</sup>Uniform Firearms Act.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENSES: 1990

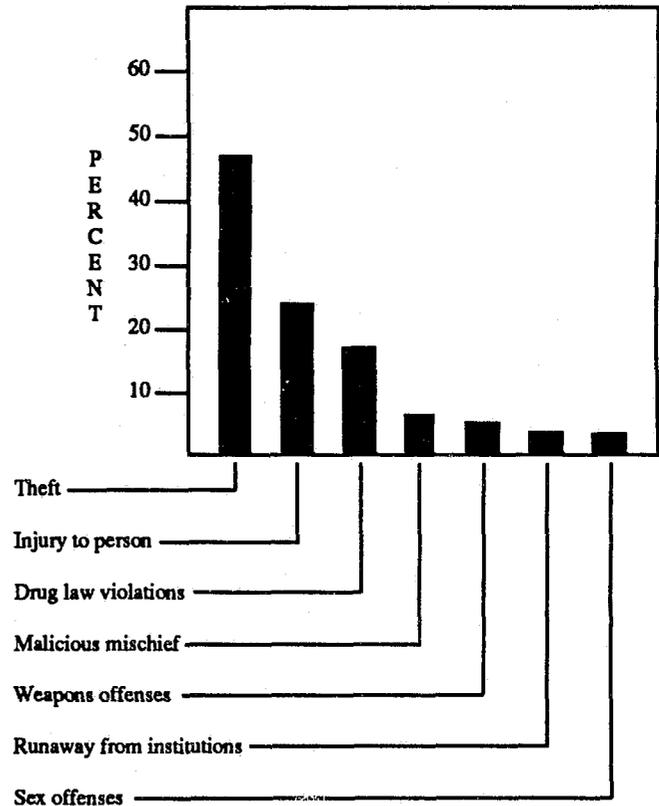


TABLE 6

## TYPE OF OFFENSES DISPOSED BY AGES: 1990

Offenses	Total	Age								
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	N/R <sup>1</sup>
Injury to person	1,968	15	91	113	220	280	327	370	484	68
Theft	4,087	31	77	151	330	595	771	1,003	1,119	10
Weapons offenses	358	2	4	16	39	53	77	78	86	3
Sex offenses	141	6	5	11	28	27	19	21	22	2
Drug law violations	1,414	2	2	7	59	122	259	414	547	2
Malicious mischief	453	4	20	37	56	68	95	64	98	11
Runaway from institution	181	—	2	7	13	42	33	36	48	—
Miscellaneous offenses	34	—	—	1	5	4	2	7	15	—
<b>Total</b>	8,636	60	201	343	750	1,191	1,583	1,993	2,419	96

<sup>1</sup>Not reported.

**TABLE 7**

**INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DELINQUENT CASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX: 1990**

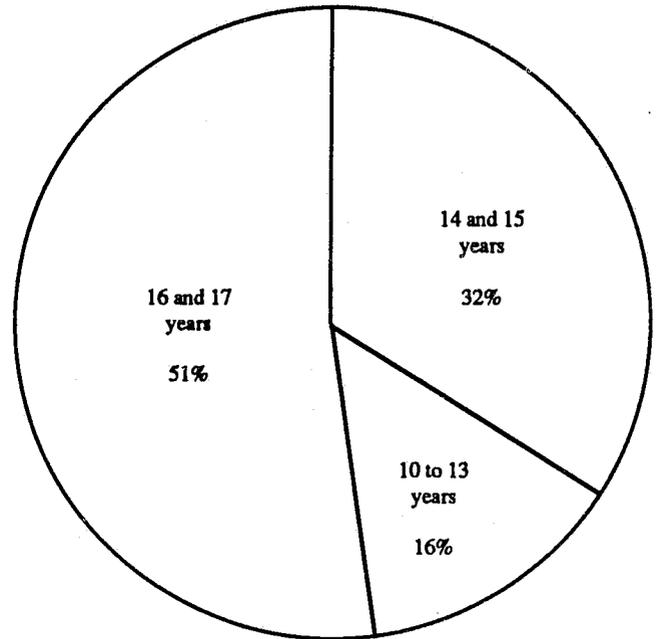
Age group and sex	Cases	Children
<b>Male</b>		
10-13	1,160	1,062
14-15	2,476	2,273
16-17	4,095	3,640
Not reported	58	55
<b>Female</b>		
10-13	194	172
14-15	298	283
16-17	317	299
Not reported	38	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,636</b>	<b>7,821</b>

**TABLE 8**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN: 1990**

<b>Age:</b>		<b>Sex:</b>	
10 years .....	55	Male .....	7,030
11 years .....	170	Female .....	791
12 years .....	318	Total .....	7,821
13 years .....	691		
14 years .....	1,104		
15 years .....	1,452		
16 years .....	1,793		
17 years .....	2,146		
Not reported .....	92		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>Residence of individual children:</b>	
<b>Race:</b>		Both parents .....	1,607
White .....	1,101	Parent and stepparent .....	231
Hispanic .....	888	Mother .....	4,322
Black .....	5,718	Father .....	379
Oriental .....	46	Other .....	1,004
Other .....	23	Not reported .....	278
Not reported .....	45		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>7,821</b>

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NEW DELINQUENCY CASES<sup>1</sup>: 1990**



<sup>1</sup>One percent of cases, age not reported.

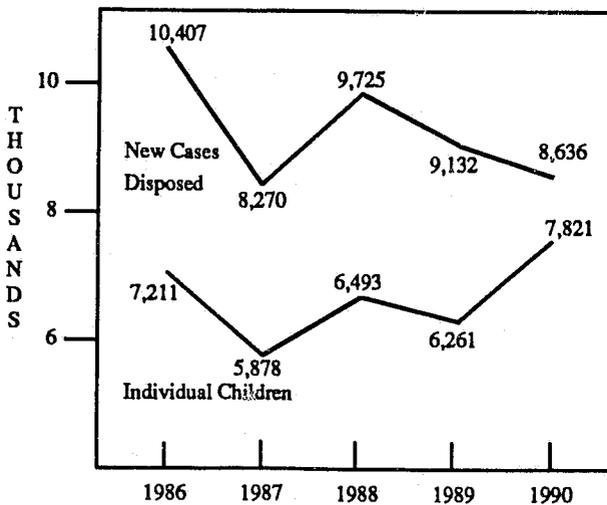
**TABLE 9**

**PERCENT OF DELINQUENT RESIDENT CHILDREN: 1990**

Age	Resident child population <sup>1</sup>	Individual children		
		Non-residents	Residents	
			Number	Percent of population
10 years	21,386	—	55	0.2
11 years	22,032	1	169	0.7
12 years	20,564	3	315	1.5
13 years	20,512	4	687	3.3
14 years	19,692	13	1,091	5.5
15 years	18,703	35	1,417	7.5
16 years	18,223	38	1,755	9.6
17 years	19,580	69	2,077	10.6
Not reported	—	—	92	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,692</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>7,658</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>80,885</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>6,878</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>79,807</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>0.9</b>
10-13	84,494	8	1,226	1.4
14-15	38,395	48	2,508	6.5
16-17	37,803	107	3,832	10.1
Not reported	—	—	92	—

<sup>1</sup>Information supplied by School District of Philadelphia

**INCIDENCE OF DELINQUENCY: 1986 TO 1990**

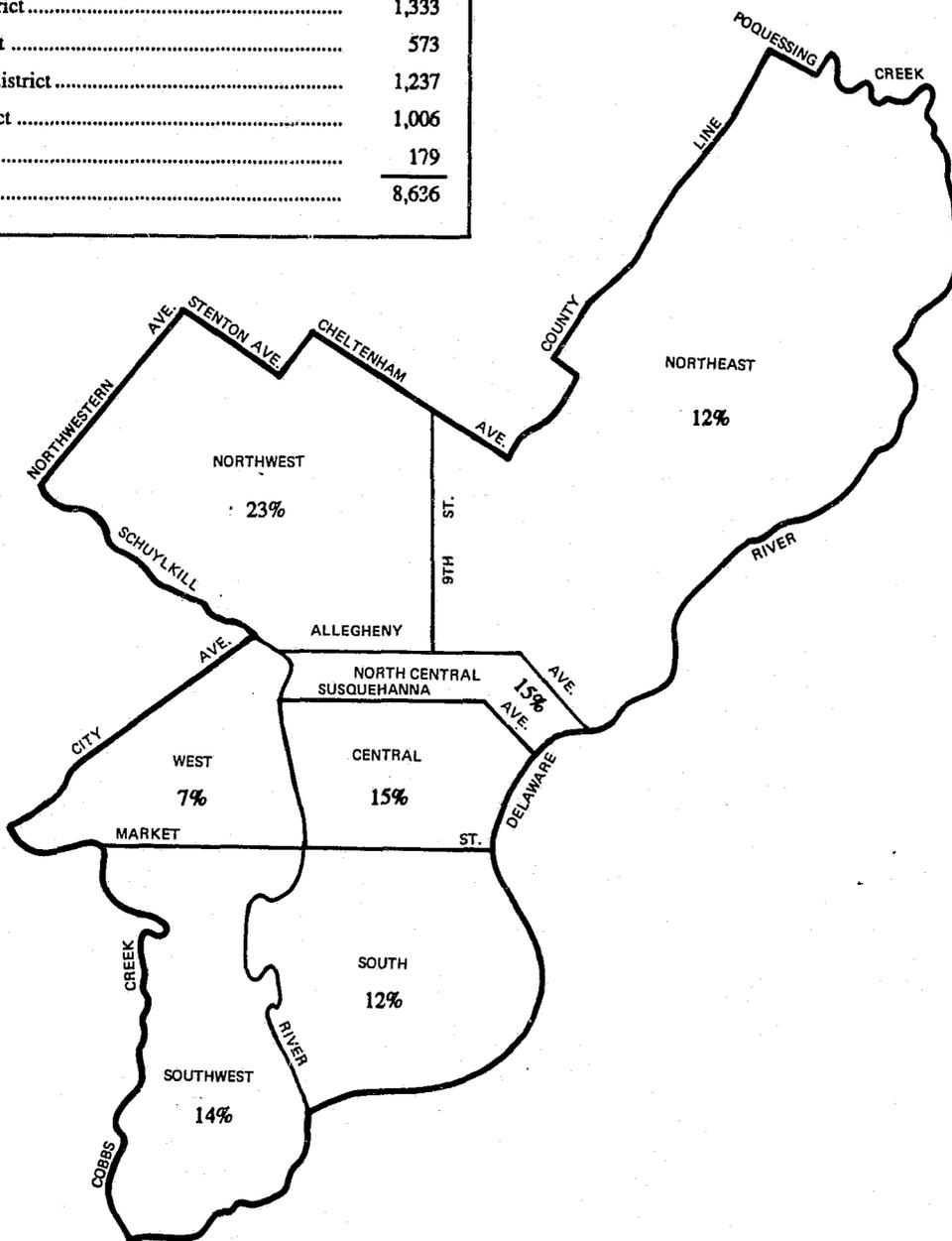


**TABLE 10**

**NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY  
RESIDENCE AREA OF  
JUVENILE OFFENDERS: 1990**

Residents of:	
Northwest district <sup>2</sup> .....	1,944
Northeast district .....	1,042
Northcentral district .....	1,322
Central district .....	1,333
West district .....	573
Southwest district .....	1,237
South district .....	1,006
Non-residents .....	179
<b>Total cases .....</b>	<b>8,636</b>

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY  
CASES BY RESIDENCE AREA OF  
JUVENILE OFFENDERS<sup>1</sup>: 1990**



<sup>1</sup>Non-Residents accounted for 2% of cases.

<sup>2</sup>Includes North district. Due to insufficient data on dispositions, breakdown by district not available.

TABLE 11

## TYPE OF OFFENSE BY AREA OF OCCURRENCE: 1990

Police District	Injury To Person	Burglary	Robbery	Larceny	Auto Theft <sup>1</sup>	Other Theft	Weapons Offenses	Sex Offenses	Drug Law Violations	Malicious Mischief	Runaway From Institution	All Other Offenses	Total
1st	46	5	33	51	11	22	9	4	34	16	7	—	238
2nd	81	18	52	66	13	44	13	—	9	16	5	3	320
3rd	25	5	22	16	7	17	8	4	32	6	2	—	144
4th	25	4	17	46	8	23	8	1	27	7	4	—	170
5th	16	8	7	8	5	12	1	5	6	1	2	—	71
6th	36	8	90	83	14	80	10	4	24	24	5	—	378
7th	14	8	3	23	12	13	5	5	2	3	2	1	91
8th	33	14	22	37	7	48	4	4	14	26	—	4	213
9th	44	8	65	106	23	43	14	4	29	30	19	—	385
12th	83	24	44	70	24	52	22	20	85	25	13	1	463
14th	69	22	59	71	28	47	22	9	88	17	3	1	436
15th	109	44	43	73	31	33	14	4	13	21	7	2	394
16th	36	7	21	41	16	13	10	4	80	11	4	—	243
17th	34	8	24	26	12	21	13	9	83	4	5	—	239
18th	84	9	63	92	32	51	16	4	103	20	6	—	480
19th	57	11	42	51	26	47	15	14	126	9	11	—	409
22nd	73	7	33	41	18	19	19	6	75	20	16	2	329
23rd	69	6	55	52	19	14	23	3	43	19	11	3	317
24th	50	24	19	22	9	18	5	1	6	13	7	1	175
25th	153	63	127	72	32	50	41	9	223	44	13	4	831
26th	61	20	40	44	10	23	19	2	111	15	8	1	354
35th	113	23	126	128	51	63	29	14	77	35	17	2	678
39th	40	8	44	36	18	26	13	4	91	7	8	—	295
Other	26	6	14	22	—	9	4	—	18	11	2	—	112
Total Police Arrests	1,377	360	1,065	1,277	426	788	337	134	1,399	400	177	25	7,765
Other Referrals	591	9	5	82	14	61	21	7	15	53	4	9	871
Total Cases	1,968	369	1,070	1,359	440	849	358	141	1,414	453	181	34	8,636

<sup>1</sup>Includes unauthorized use of auto.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY CASES BY PHILADELPHIA POLICE DISTRICTS: 1990

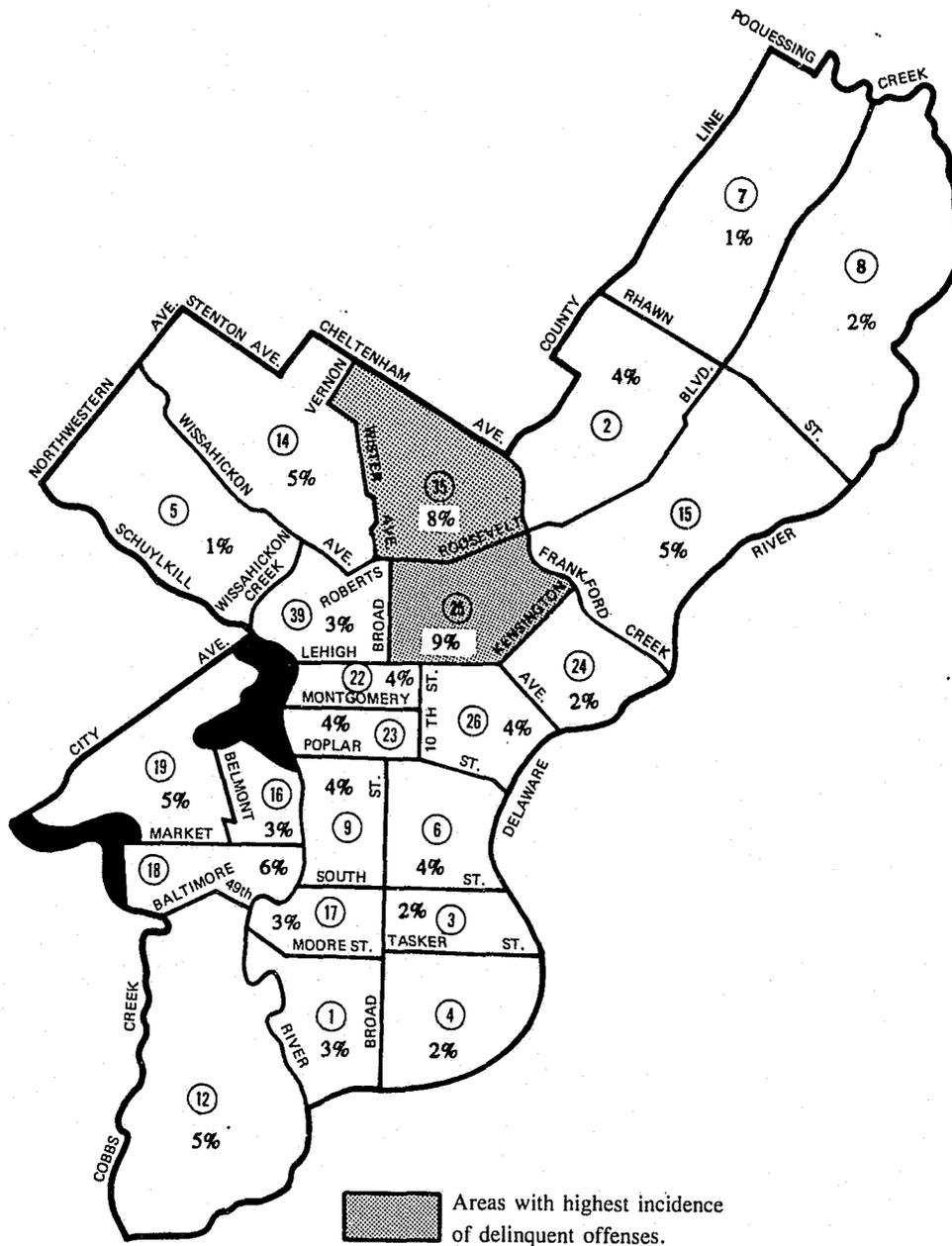


TABLE 12

## OFFENSES DISPOSED BY SEX AND TYPE OF DISPOSITION: 1990

Offenses	Total		Referred elsewhere		Withdrawn, Discharged or adjusted		Probation		Commitment		Certified to criminal court		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Assaults <sup>1</sup>	1,356	326	7	2	608	179	408	107	258	37	64	—	11	1
Coercion/threats	210	76	—	—	117	50	75	25	15	1	—	—	3	—
Burglary	356	13	3	—	192	5	42	7	96	1	23	—	—	—
Robbery	980	90	8	—	516	53	158	24	227	11	69	—	2	2
Larceny	1,287	72	8	—	496	43	341	23	390	5	46	—	6	1
Auto theft	424	16	8	—	47	4	305	12	57	—	5	—	2	—
Retail theft	67	61	—	—	37	25	22	36	7	—	—	—	1	—
Receiving stolen property	656	27	17	—	110	12	201	8	310	7	13	—	5	—
Other theft	22	16	—	—	17	8	2	6	3	2	—	—	—	—
Weapons offenses	318	40	4	1	100	9	130	28	81	2	—	—	3	—
Rape	69	1	1	—	34	—	14	1	17	—	3	—	—	—
Other sex offenses	70	1	1	—	27	1	22	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Drug law violations	1,360	54	15	2	317	22	415	24	550	4	53	1	10	1
Disorderly conduct	9	3	—	—	3	1	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Vandalism	71	4	1	—	23	2	35	2	12	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	10	6	1	—	4	3	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—
Resisting an officer	12	3	—	—	3	—	4	3	3	—	1	—	1	—
Trespassing	89	4	1	—	4	1	46	2	38	1	—	—	—	—
Other malicious mischief	223	19	1	—	54	8	102	9	60	2	5	—	1	—
Runaway from institution	171	10	1	—	73	7	5	—	90	3	—	—	2	—
Motor vehicle violations	6	2	1	—	1	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other	23	3	—	—	18	1	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
Total	7,789	847	78	5	2,801	434	2,339	323	2,242	79	282	1	47	5
	8,636		83		3,235		2,662		2,321		283		52	

<sup>1</sup>Includes ten homicides.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DISPOSITIONS: 1990

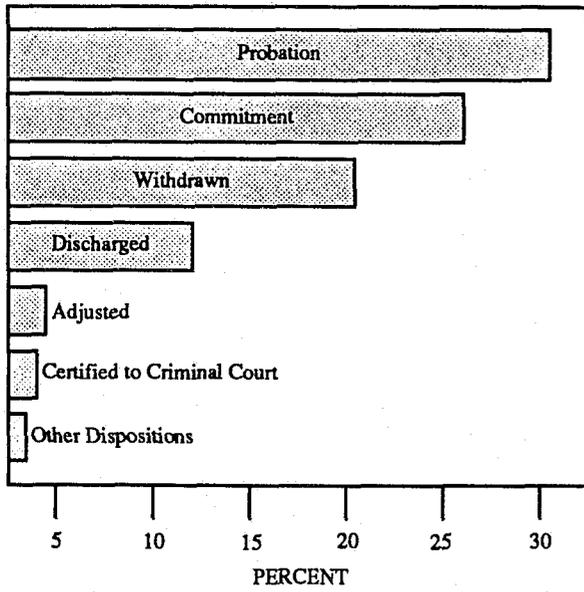


TABLE 14

DISPOSITIONS: 1986 TO 1990

Type of Disposition	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Referred elsewhere	38	46	145	95	83
Withdrawn, discharged or adjusted	4,197	3,118	3,913	3,343	3,235
Probation or supervision	4,041	3,283	3,306	3,134	2,662
Committed to: Institution for delinquents	1,634	1,307	1,793	1,763	1,644
Other Institutions or agencies	181	242	348	260	206
Remain as placed on other petition <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	204	471
Certified to criminal court	181	195	146	257	283
Restitution or fines	97	53	61	63	30
Other	38	26	13	13	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,407</b>	<b>8,270</b>	<b>9,725</b>	<b>9,132</b>	<b>8,636</b>

TABLE 13

DISPOSITION OF NEW CASES: 1990

Disposition	Total	Male	Female
Referred elsewhere	83	78	5
Withdrawn discharged or adjusted:			
Petition withdrawn	1,776	1,579	197
Adjusted at YSC	194	111	83
Discharged at court	1,149	1,015	134
Determined	17	13	4
Sentence suspended	87	71	16
Other	12	12	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,235</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>434</b>
Probation:			
Probation <sup>1</sup>	1,742	1,572	170
Intensive probation <sup>1</sup>	475	442	33
Consent decree <sup>1</sup>	445	325	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>323</b>
Commitments: <sup>1</sup>			
Institution for delinquents	1,644	1,582	62
Other institutions and agencies	206	198	8
Remain as placed on other petition <sup>2</sup>	471	462	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>79</b>
Certified to criminal court	283	282	1
Restitution and fines	30	27	3
Other	22	20	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,636</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>847</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes restitution.

<sup>2</sup>Prior to August, 1989 these cases were included in commitments to institutions or agencies.

TABLE 15

REVIEW HEARINGS: 1990

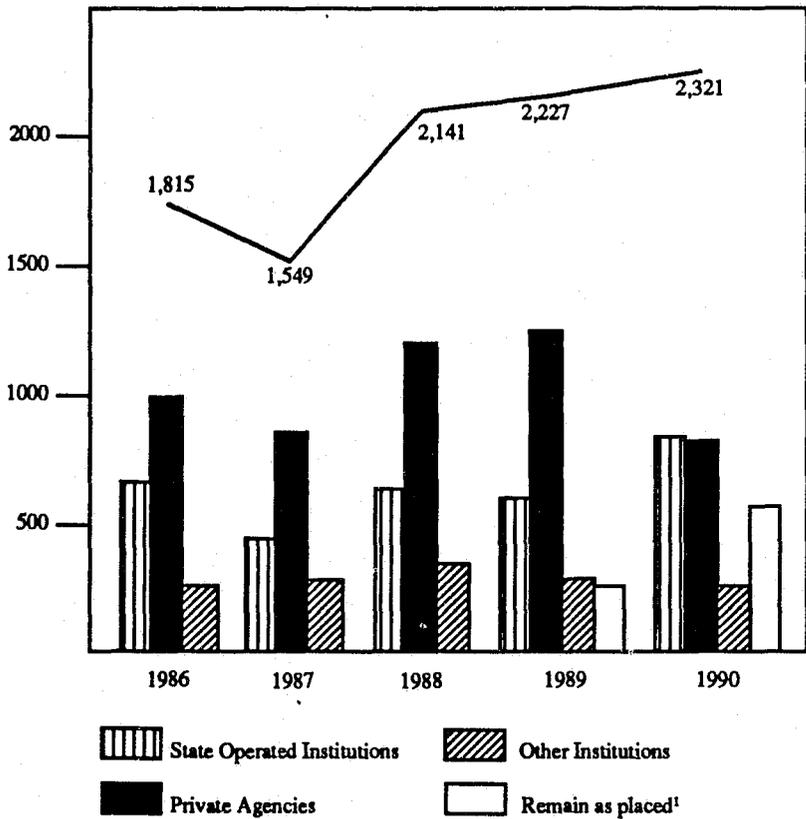
Reason for review:	
Unsatisfactory probation .....	20
Discharge from supervision .....	3,367
Consent decree relisted .....	79
Discharge from commitment .....	2,968
Case review .....	2,869
Review of placement .....	11,670
Runaway from institution or agency .....	271
Failure to pay restitution .....	218
Transfer of Custody .....	206
Other .....	273
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>21,941</b>
Disposition:	
Motions dismissed or withdrawn .....	199
Discharged from probation or aftercare .....	2,476
Discharged from commitment .....	854
Probation or aftercare .....	1,781
Committed to institutions for delinquents .....	2,214
Other commitments .....	1,176
Remain as placed .....	9,742
Discharged from consent decree .....	353
Record expunged .....	67
Previous decision to stand .....	2,994
Other .....	85
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>21,941</b>

TABLE 16

INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES TO WHICH DELINQUENT CHILDREN WERE COMMITTED — NEW CASES: 1990

INSTITUTIONS	MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES	PRIVATE AGENCIES, COMMUNITY BASED SETTINGS, DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS
<b>STATE OPERATED:</b>	<b>Eastern State School and Hospital .....</b> 20	<b>Vision Quest .....</b> 84
Youth Development Centers .....	<b>Keystone School .....</b> 3	<b>Concern Inc .....</b> 9
Forestry camps .....	<b>Other .....</b> 2	<b>St. Gabriel's De La Salle In Towne .....</b> 26
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare <sup>1</sup> .....		<b>St. Gabriel's Vocational Program .....</b> 33
<b>Total .....</b> 831		<b>Mordy Program .....</b> 8
		<b>St. Gabriel's Group Home .....</b> 5
		<b>Some Other Place .....</b> 3
		<b>Other .....</b> 13
	<b>Total .....</b> 25	<b>Total .....</b> 181
<b>OTHER INSTITUTIONS:</b>		
Abraxas .....		
George Jr. Republic .....		
Glen Mills .....		
Steighton School .....		
St. Gabriel's Hall .....		
St. Michael's School .....		
The Bridge .....		
Other .....		
<b>Total .....</b> 813		
Remain as placed on other petition <sup>1</sup> .....		

TOTAL COMMITMENTS — NEW CASES: 1986 TO 1990



TOTAL NEW COMMITMENTS: ..... 2,321

Mental Health Cases too small to depict.

<sup>1</sup>Prior to August, 1989, these cases were included in other commitments.

## NON-DELINQUENCY CASES

Non-delinquency (dependent) cases concern children who were found to be dependent due to neglect, abuse or inadequate care. The Non-Delinquent Unit was established in December of 1989 to consolidate all non-delinquent functions of the Juvenile Branch and to improve services previously performed by the eight geographical probation districts.

Petitions from the Department of Human Services, the School District, the Court and other agencies are processed by the Supervisor and are given immediate court dates.

Referrals from private parties such as parents, grandparents, guardians and other interested individuals are processed by the Assistant Supervisor, the majority being custody requests and incorrigibility complaints. A social worker or probation officer investigates the allegations and submits his/her findings to the Assistant Supervisor for assessment. Subsequently, the Assistant Supervisor makes a determination as to whether the referral should be closed or a petition should be filed. If a petition is filed, it is immediately listed for Court.

Once the petitions are heard by the Court, any of the following dispositions can be made: dismissed or discharged, commitment to shelter care, custody to legal guardian, Department of Human Services supervision or protective supervision. If a child is placed under protective supervision, a Non-Delinquent Unit probation officer is assigned to evaluate, plan, refer and monitor the family for a specified period of time.

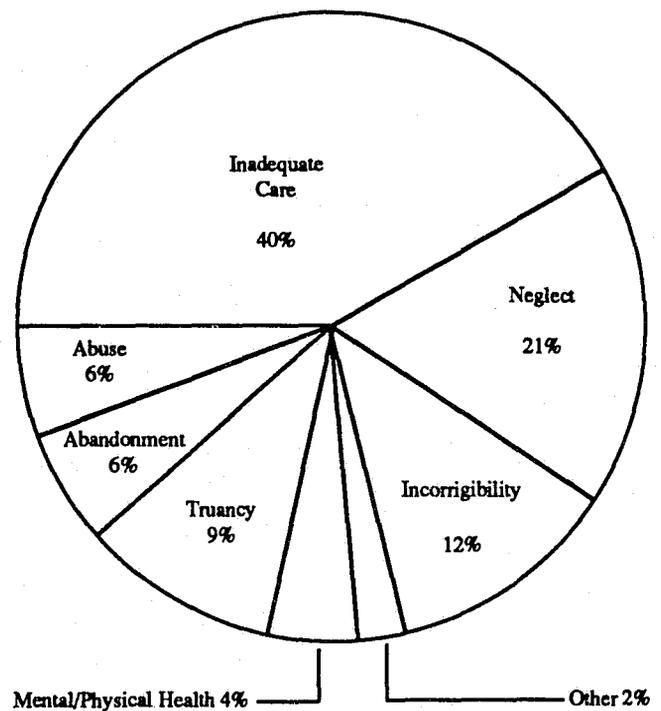
In 1990, a total of 39,664 cases consisting of 4,739 new cases and 34,925 review hearings were disposed of by Family Court. In addition, 883 hearings were held regarding emergency protective custody or treatment in cases involving mental health or suspected child abuse. These hearings are not included in the statistics because they occurred before the filing of a non-delinquency petition.

Most new cases come to the attention of the Court through the Department of Human Services. This agency referred 72 percent of the new cases disposed of in 1990. Eleven percent of the cases were referred by parents. Almost all of these cases involved incorrigibility. The Court referred 2 percent while 10 percent of the cases were referred by school authorities.

In general, the most frequent reason given for referral in non-delinquency cases was "inadequate care". These cases accounted for 40 percent of the new cases disposed of in 1990, as compared to 48 percent in 1989.

The children involved in non-delinquency cases were evenly divided between the sexes, 2,438 males and 2,301 females.

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — REASON FOR REFERRAL: 1990



While both sexes were referred to Court primarily due to neglect or inadequate care, females more often than males were referred because of abuse or incorrigibility. However since 1988, more males than females have been referred for incorrigibility.

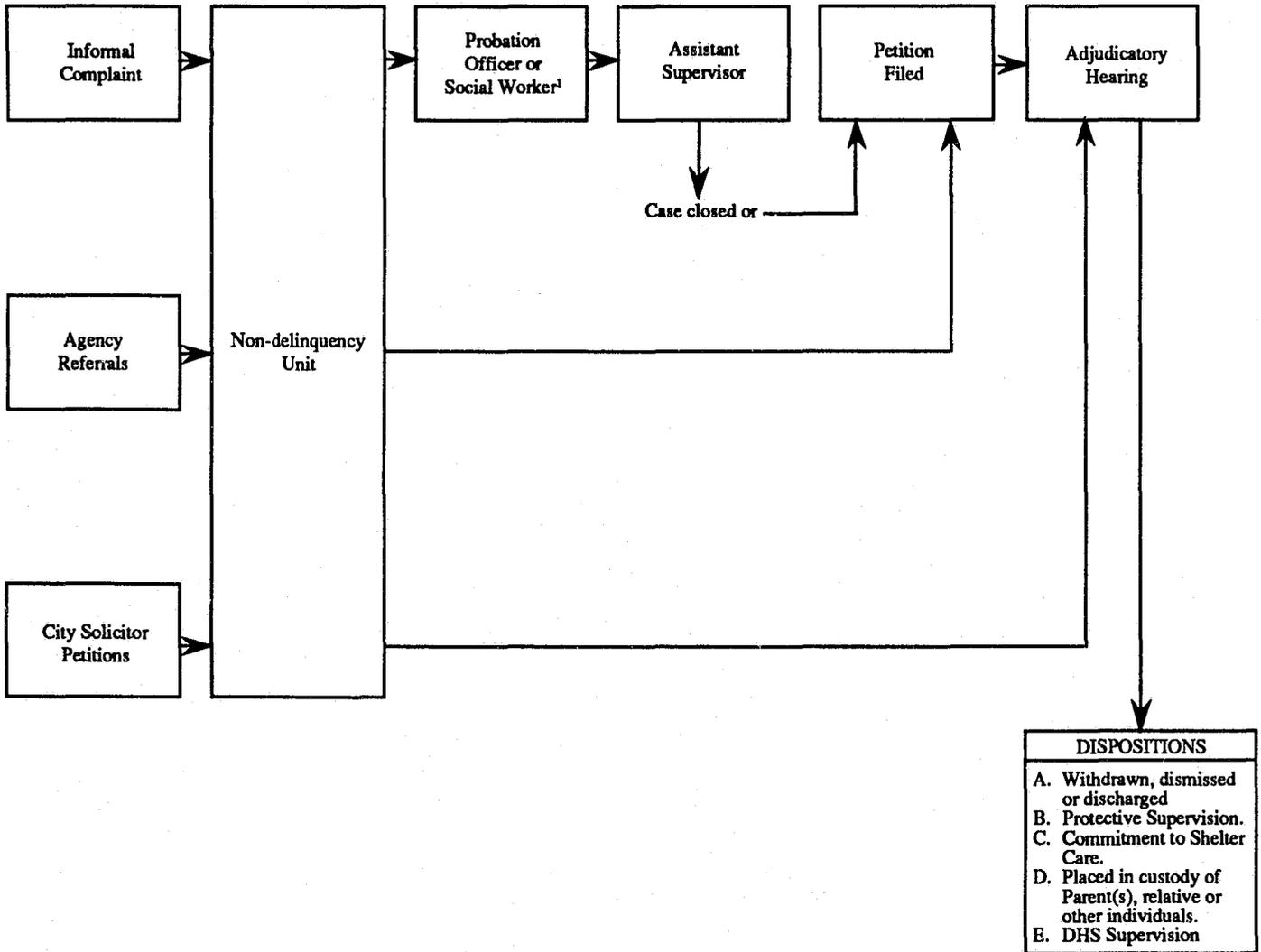
For the last few years, there has been a small but steady increase in the number of abuse cases and a significant increase in the number of truancy cases.

The ages of children in non-delinquency cases ranged from a few months to over 17 years. In 1990, children in the 12-15 age group accounted for the largest number of new cases disposed followed by children in the 1-5 age group.

Considering the economic hardships often found in single parent families, it is not surprising to find a large number of dependent children lived with one parent (45 percent). An additional 34 percent resided in agencies, foster homes or institutions.

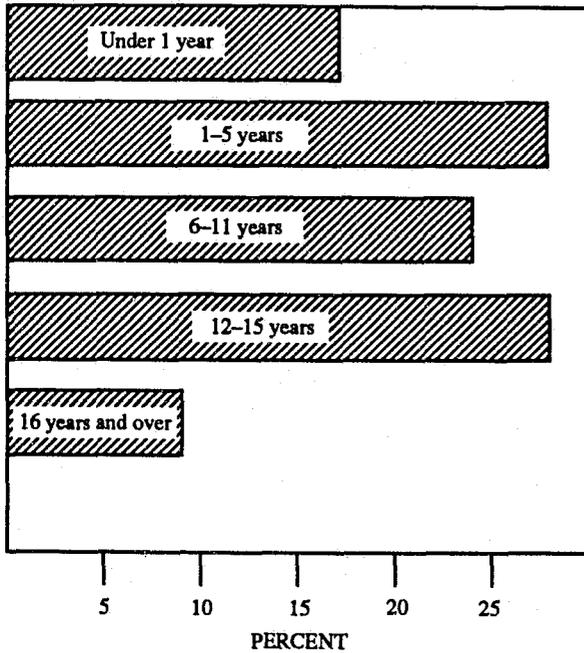
In 36 percent of new non-delinquency cases disposed of in 1990, the child was committed to the Department of Human Services. An additional 29 percent of the dispositions allowed the child to remain at home but under the protective supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court. Twenty-six percent of the cases were dismissed or withdrawn.

JUVENILE BRANCH — NEW NON-DELINQUENCY CASES — FLOW GUIDE



<sup>1</sup>For investigation.

AGE DISTRIBUTION: 1990

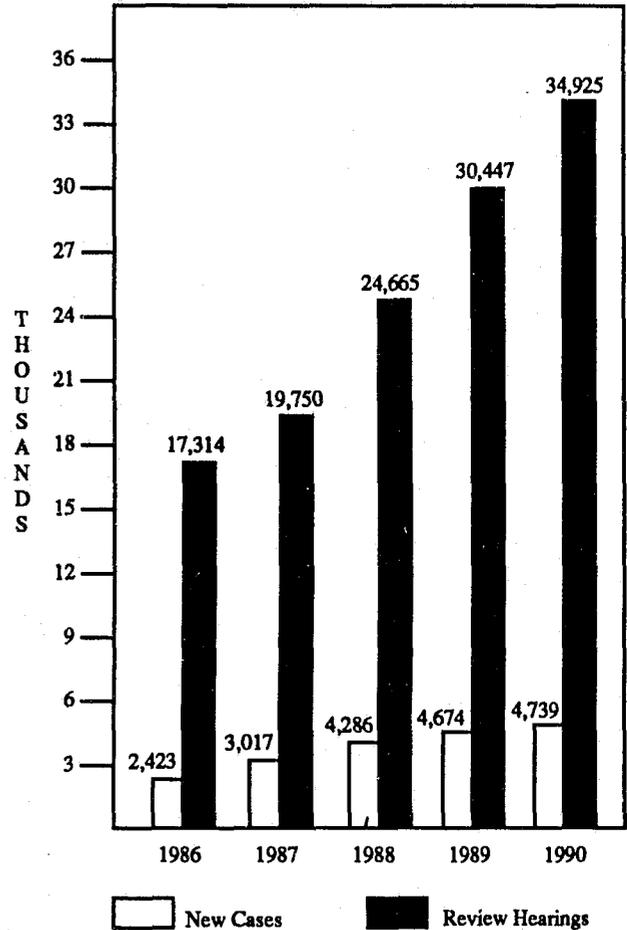


In 1990, there was a 7 percent decrease in petitions filed and a 1 percent increase in new cases disposed.

Review hearings continued to rise and in 1990 comprised 88 percent of the non-delinquency workload.

Review hearings concern cases previously disposed of but for varied reasons are brought to the Court's attention for modification of the previous dispositions. Dispositions involving commitments to child placing agencies usually are made for indefinite periods. By law, as well as court policy, cases involving commitment are reviewed every six months as long as the child remains in placement. In 1990, 34,925 review hearings were heard by Family Court, double the number heard in 1986. Masters, appointed by the Court, review the cases of dependent children placed in shelter care or other out of home facilities, as well as those children placed under the supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court.

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990



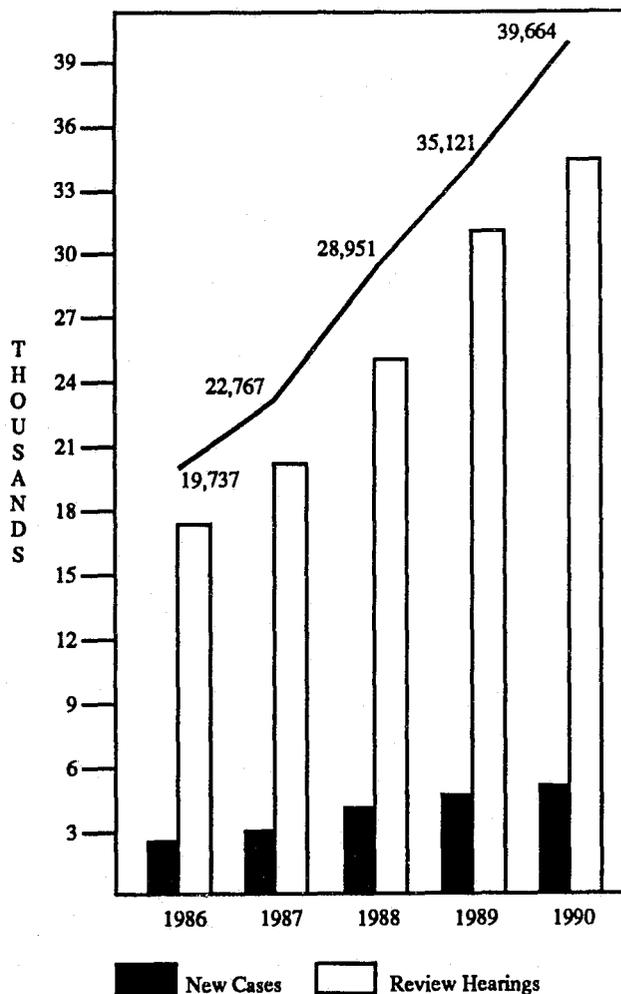
Sixty percent of review hearings resulted in the children remaining in placement, 5 percent were discharged from commitment or supervision, 1 percent were committed to a child placement or mental health facility, while 3 percent remained at home under protective supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court. In 28 percent of the review hearings, the Court allowed the previous decision to stand.

**TABLE 1**

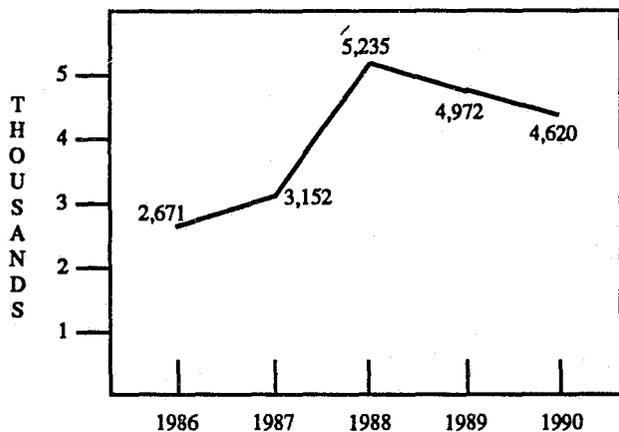
**JUVENILE NON-DELINQUENCY CASES: 1990**

Petitions filed .....	4,620
<b>Cases disposed:</b>	
New cases .....	4,739
Review hearings .....	<u>34,925</u>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>39,664</b>
New referrals .....	1,955
Court sessions .....	717

**NON-DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990**



**PETITIONS FILED: 1986 TO 1990**



**TABLE 2**

**REASON FOR REFERRAL BY SEX: 1990**

	Total	Male	Female	Families Involved
Inadequate care	1,874	975	899	1,272
Neglect	1,011	531	480	519
Abuse	307	150	157	216
Mental/physical health	210	113	97	188
Truancy	411	221	190	304
Incorrigibility	557	269	288	518
Abandonment	284	133	151	194
Other	85	46	39	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>3,272</b>

**TABLE 3**

**REASON FOR REFERRAL: 1986 TO 1990**

New Cases	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Inadequate care	1,115	1,609	2,780	2,232	1,874
Neglect	383	492	706	873	1,011
Abuse	240	216	255	276	307
Mental/physical health	72	100	113	139	210
Truancy	74	43	142	325	411
Incorrigibility	416	417	199	675	557
Abandonment	13	15	12	87	284
Other	110	125	79	67	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,423</b>	<b>3,017</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>4,739</b>

**TABLE 4**

**SOURCE OF REFERRAL: 1986 TO 1990**

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Parent	425	448	267	663	512
Relative	88	96	129	159	193
Other individual	10	23	7	16	29
School authorities	141	82	189	394	461
Dept. of Human Services	1,609	2,244	3,534	3,307	3,430
Court	150	124	160	135	114
Other	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,423</b>	<b>3,017</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>4,739</b>

**TABLE 5**

**NEW CASES DISPOSED BY AGE GROUP: 1990**

	Total	Under 1 year	1-5 years	6-11 years	12-15 years	16 and over	Not reported
Inadequate care	1,874	419	573	421	338	105	18
Neglect	1,011	164	397	315	109	18	8
Abuse	307	35	95	106	57	12	2
Mental/physical health	210	34	28	37	69	41	1
Truancy	411	—	—	104	241	66	—
Incorrigibility	557	—	—	25	391	141	—
Abandonment	284	96	109	48	23	7	1
Other	85	5	14	19	24	13	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>40</b>

**TABLE 6**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN IN NON-DELINQUENCY CASES: 1990**

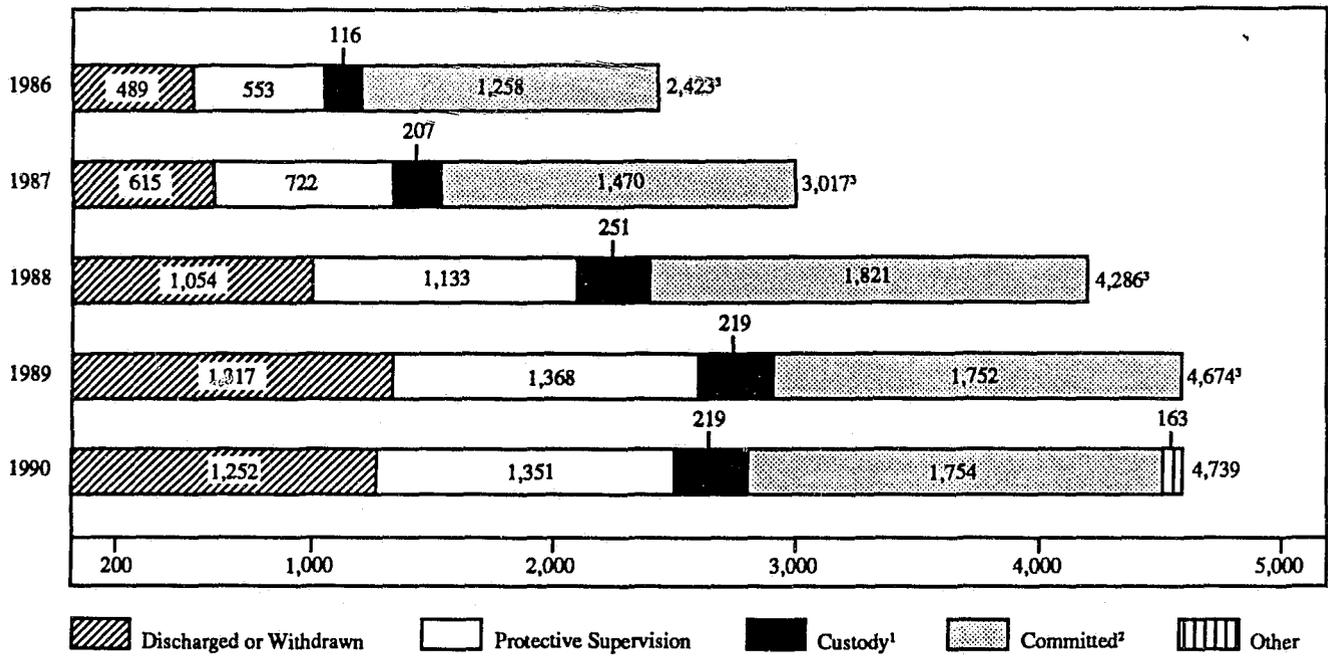
<b>Age:</b>		<b>Sex:</b>	
Under 1 year.....	753	Male .....	2,438
1-5 years .....	1,216	Female .....	2,301
6-11 years .....	1,075		
12-15 years .....	1,252	<b>Residence of child:</b>	
16 years and over	403	Both parents .....	326
Not reported .....	40	Parent and stepparent .....	23
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,739</b>	Mother .....	2,046
		Father .....	110
<b>Race:</b>		Other family home .....	556
White .....	701	Foster home .....	7
Hispanic .....	374	Institution .....	1,626
Oriental .....	12	Not reported .....	45
Black .....	3,408		
Other/not reported .....	244		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,739</b>

**TABLE 7**

**DISPOSITIONS -- NEW CASES: 1990**

Dismissed or discharged .....	479
Petition withdrawn .....	773
Supervision .....	1,351
<b>Placed in custody of:</b>	
Parent .....	14
Relative .....	190
Other individual .....	15
<b>Committed to:</b>	
Department of Human Services .....	1,696
Mental Health Facility .....	58
Other .....	163
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,739</b>

DISPOSITIONS — NEW CASES: 1986 TO 1990



<sup>1</sup>Parent, relative or other individual.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Human Services, Mental Health Facility.

<sup>3</sup>Other dispositions too small to depict.

TABLE 8

REVIEW HEARINGS: 1986 TO 1990

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
<b>Reason for review:</b>					
Discharge from supervision .....	979	1,321	1,383	1,739	1,872
Discharge from commitment .....	1,580	1,626	1,748	1,574	1,709
Case review .....	3,210	4,682	6,290	9,253	10,260
Report/Placement review .....	11,518	12,104	15,228	17,865	21,054
Other .....	27	17	16	16	30
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>17,314</b>	<b>19,750</b>	<b>24,665</b>	<b>30,447</b>	<b>34,925</b>
<b>Disposition:</b>					
Discharged from supervision .....	725	956	1,118	1,324	1,083
Discharged from commitment .....	960	868	912	718	513
Remain as placed .....	11,426	12,051	15,197	17,805	20,915
Supervision .....	614	734	781	815	1,144
<b>Committed:</b>					
Department of Human Services .....	264	334	259	340	375
Mental health facility .....	17	10	9	10	33
<b>Placed in custody of:</b>					
Parent .....	30	48	37	17	34
Relative .....	45	80	64	82	159
Individual .....	14	27	24	13	31
Dismissed or withdrawn .....	41	83	76	132	695
Decision to stand .....	3,176	4,557	6,184	9,186	9,935
Other .....	2	2	4	5	8
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>17,314</b>	<b>19,750</b>	<b>24,665</b>	<b>30,447</b>	<b>34,925</b>

## ADULT CASES

The Adult Unit of the Juvenile Branch processes cases involving adults charged with crimes against children and exercises authority in the following types of cases:

1. Any adult charged with corrupting, or tending to corrupt the morals of any child under the age of 18 years, or who aids or encourages any such child in the commission of any crime, or in violating any order of the Court.
2. Any parent, guardian, or other person supervising the welfare of a child under 18 years who is charged with knowingly endangering the welfare of the child by violating a duty of care, protection or support.
3. Any adult charged with a crime against a child under 18 years such as simple or aggravated assault, indecent assault, rape etc.

In adult cases, the Judge sits as a Municipal Court Judge. In this capacity, he may make final disposition of any case concerning a crime for which the maximum sentence is five years or less. In cases concerning crimes having a maximum sentence of more than 5 years, he presides over a preliminary hearing and determines whether or not the evidence warrants holding the accused for trial. If it does, the accused is referred for action and subsequent trial in the Criminal Court.

## Summary

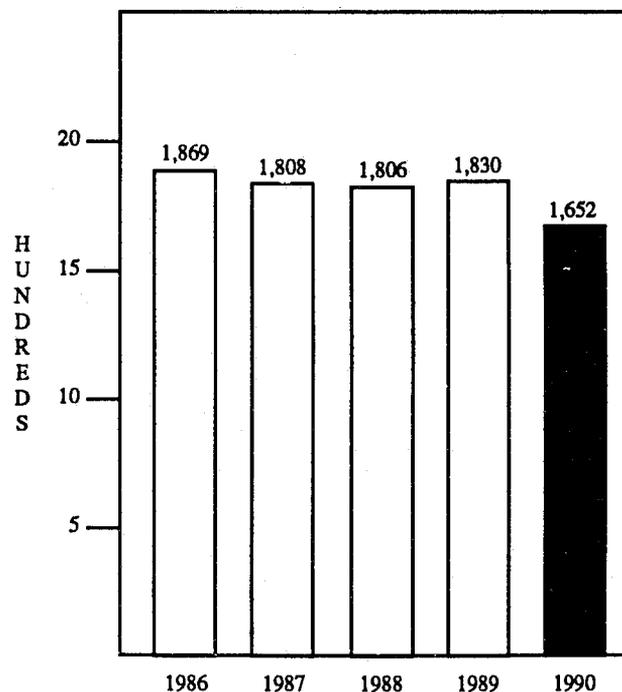
In 1990, 1,810 cases were received by the Adult Unit for disposition. A total of 1,652 cases consisting of 1,326 new cases and 326 truancy cases were disposed of in 1990.

Adult cases (excluding truancy cases) disposed of involved 135 female and 1,191 male offenders. Sex offenses accounted for 25 percent of the new charges disposed. An analysis of the new cases disposed showed 5 percent of women and 27 percent of male offenders were charged with a sex offense. Aggravated Assault was the most frequently committed offense (37 percent), followed by robbery offenses (28 percent). Eleven percent of the offenses concerned rape and 11 percent involved charges of indecent assault.

The age groups of adult offenders were as follows: 53 percent were under age 25; 44 percent were between the ages of 25-50; 3 percent were over 50 years of age.

In the majority of new cases disposed of in 1990 (excluding truancy cases), the adult offenders were held for trial (51 percent). The remaining cases were disposed of as follows: 30 percent were dismissed or discharged; in 11 percent of the cases, the offenders were placed on some form of probation; 6 percent were imprisoned and the balance were disposed of by other actions.

CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990



ADULT PETITIONS FILED: 1986 TO 1990

TABLE 1

ADULT CASES INVOLVING JUVENILES: 1990

Petitions filed .....	1,810
New cases disposed:	
Sex offenses .....	330
Non-sex offenses .....	996
Truancy .....	326
Total .....	1,652
New referrals .....	1,250
Court sessions .....	214

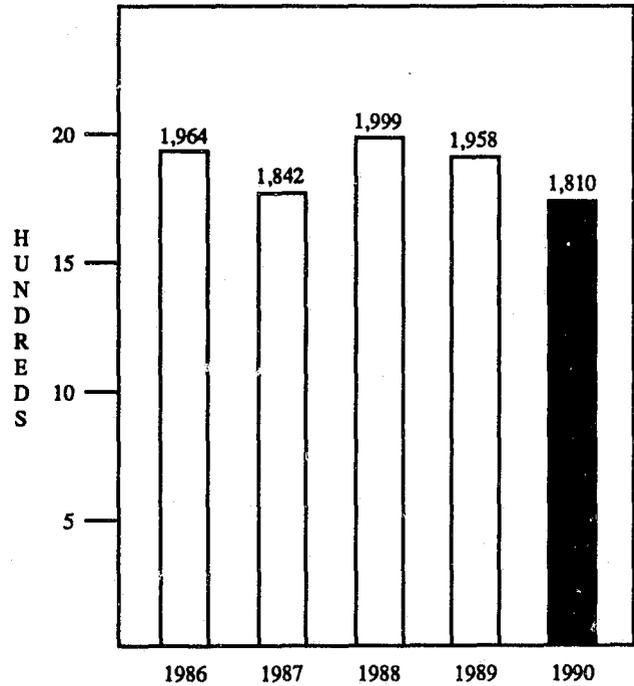


TABLE 2

NEW CASES<sup>1</sup> DISPOSED BY AGE GROUP: 1990

	Total	Under 25 years	25-50 years	Over 50 years
<b>Sex offenses:</b>				
Rape .....	147	49	88	10
Assault and attempted rape .....	12	1	10	1
Indecent assault .....	142	41	95	6
Commercialized vice .....	4	1	3	—
Other .....	25	5	19	1
<b>Non-sex offenses:</b>				
Aggravated assault .....	498	265	212	21
Assault .....	33	8	25	—
Robbery .....	367	286	80	1
Other thefts .....	38	21	17	—
Cruelty or neglect of child .....	2	1	1	—
Corrupting morals of child .....	33	11	20	2
Other <sup>2</sup> .....	25	10	15	—
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>42</b>

<sup>1</sup>Truancy cases not included.

<sup>2</sup>Includes (3) Murder cases.

ADULT CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990

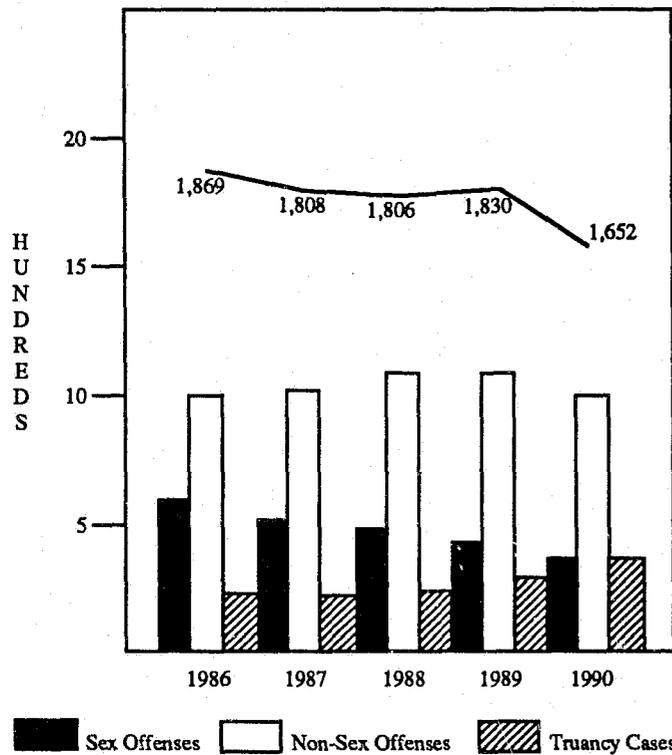


TABLE 3  
CHARACTERISTICS OF ADULT OFFENDERS: 1990

Age:	
Under 25 years .....	699
25-50 years .....	585
Over 50 years .....	42
Sex:	
Male .....	1,191
Female .....	135

Does not include adults involved in truancy cases.

TABLE 4

DISPOSITIONS IN ADULT CASES: 1986 TO 1990

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Dismissed, discharged or withdrawn .....	682	643	538	622	728
Held for trial .....	767	822	845	904	676
Pre-indictment probation .....	33	58	76	60	50
Probation .....	229	176	175	143	98
Committed .....	76	75	94	82	75
Fines and costs .....	66	23	29	1	—
Suspended sentence .....	5	2	4	—	5
Other .....	11	9	45	18	20
Total .....	1,869	1,808	1,806	1,830	1,652

## RESTITUTION AND RESOURCE PLANNING UNIT

The Restitution and Resource Planning Unit was created by the merger of three smaller units — the Restitution and Community Services Program, Juvenile Enforcement and the Special Services Office. The merger has allowed staff to pool resources and share their expertise in serving court involved youth.

In 1990, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission presented its annual statewide award to this Unit in recognition of its effective and innovative services for juveniles.

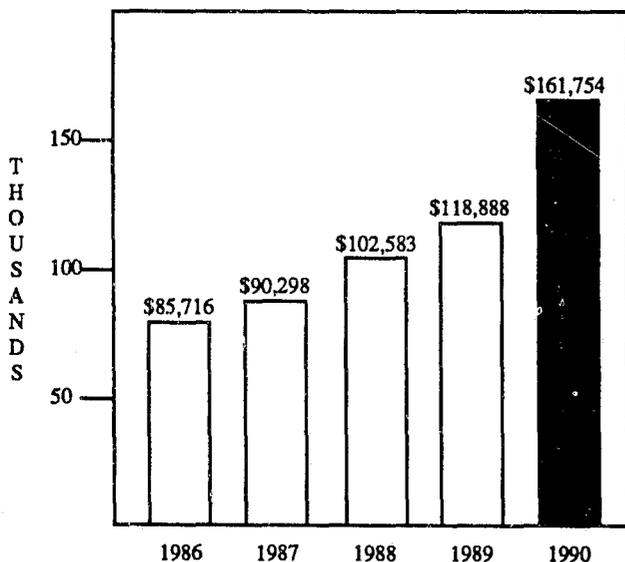
### *Restitution*

The unit offers several services to juveniles who are required to pay fines, restitution to victims or who are required to perform community service hours.

One primary function is the collection and disbursement of restitution payments or fines. In 1990, restitution and fines totaling \$161,754 dollars were collected. The unit is also an important contact for juvenile probation officers and other authorized agencies requesting information. In 1990, this unit responded to more than 4,000 requests. This unit also processed 128 Blanket Petitions for remitted restitution and unclaimed funds during 1990.

In addition to providing the above services, several juveniles ordered to pay restitution, fines or who are required to perform community service hours, receive more intensive case management.

RESTITUTION PAYMENTS: 1986 TO 1990



In reference to these juveniles, program staff are responsible for interviewing family members and screening the juvenile to ascertain his individual needs. Juveniles who do not possess employment experience are required to participate in comprehensive job readiness courses offered by the Court or by local agencies. When a juvenile has successfully completed job training, he is in a position to either be encouraged to secure employment on his own, or if he needs assistance, program staff will assist him in securing employment.

The unit employs a job developer whose primary responsibility is to locate employment in the public and private sector. Program staff then screen juveniles participating in the program and assign them to positions designed to provide a positive work experience while enabling them to earn enough money to compensate their victims. In cases in which a juvenile is assessed community service hours, the juvenile is assigned to one of several non-profit agencies which have agreed to supervise the juvenile and provide a challenging volunteer experience.

Program staff work closely with the juvenile's probation officer in monitoring the juvenile's progress and identifying areas of concern. It is firmly believed that an integral part of the rehabilitation process involves emphasizing the importance of compensating victims for the harm caused, or repaying a debt by performing a service. It should be noted that recent studies indicate that the rate of recidivism for juveniles successfully completing restitution and community service requirements is substantially lower than juveniles not required to participate in this kind of program.

### *Employment Assistance*

The unit provides employment assistance for all juveniles on probation. Two staff members assume responsibility for operating the Youth Employment Project.

While the primary goal of this project is to assist youthful offenders in securing employment, job training is offered as a component for those who have not previously been employed. Juveniles are taught basic skills such as reading employment sections of newspapers, filling out applications and successful preparation for interviews. Staff members screen the juveniles and match them with appropriate positions in the private sector.

The project also offers 95 summer employment positions through a special cooperative effort with the PIC<sup>1</sup> funded School District program, and several others by placing juveniles with various non profit programs offering summer employment. Younger juveniles are involved in a program which provides remedial education and various trips to cultural institutions. The unit also offers a summer camp program for juveniles on

<sup>1</sup>Private Industry Council

probation, a project operated in conjunction with Teen Haven. Older juveniles, not attending school, are offered GED programs and full-time employment opportunities.

### ***Student Intern Program***

The unit operates a special intern program, the focus of which is to recruit area college students to perform field placements within the court system. The students receive training from the Director of Training, after which they are placed in various probation districts, medical units, or within the Restitution and Resource Planning Unit. This system allows students first hand experience with clients and the court system, while utilizing a volunteer model to enhance client services.

### ***Contributors***

The unit works closely with several agencies to secure employment opportunities, community service placements, GED programs and a variety of other opportunity for the clients it serves.

Below is a list of agencies with which the unit coordinated over the past year.

ABC Learning Center  
 Abington High School  
 Academy of Natural Science  
 Acme Market  
 Afro American Museum  
 American Legion Playground  
 Anti Graffiti Network  
 Aubury Recreation Center  
 Barrett Education Center  
 Barrett Recreation Center  
 Belfield Recreation Center  
 Benjamin Franklin High School  
 BOK Technical High School  
 Board of Education  
 Boone High School  
 Cabrini College  
 Capitola Playground  
 Cecil B. Moore Recreation Center  
 Chalfont Playground  
 Clara Baldwin Home  
 Columbia Branch YMCA  
 CORPP  
 Crisconi PAL  
 Department of Recreation  
 Eagles Football Team  
 Edison High School  
 Episcopal Hospital  
 Fishtown Civic Association  
 Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital  
 Fitzsimmons Opportunity Program  
 Free Library of Philadelphia  
 Germantown Settlement House  
 Germantown YMCA  
 Gillespie Jr. High School  
 Gratz High School  
 Henry Houston School  
 Hirsh Recreation Center

Holmesburg Boys Club  
 Hunting Park Nag  
 Interac Impact Services  
 James Finnegan Playground  
 Mantua Community Planner  
 Marion Anderson Recreation Center  
 Martin Luther King High School  
 Methodist Hospital  
 Myers Recreation Center  
 New Hope Center  
 New Inspirational Baptist Church  
 Northeast Boys Club  
 Olney Eagles Football Team  
 Olney High School  
 Opportunity Towers  
 Overbrook Community Council  
 Park Pleasant Nursing Home  
 Philadelphia Tribune Charities  
 Philadelphia Urban Coalition  
 Philadelphia Youth Services Corps  
 Police Athletic League  
 Rehobeth United Methodist Church  
 Rescue Mission  
 R.W. Brown Center  
 Salvation Army  
 Shepard Recreation Center  
 Simpson Playground  
 Southwark House  
 Southwest Community Development Center  
 Sperring White Corporation  
 St. Barnabas Catholic Church  
 St. Boniface Church  
 St. Francis of Assisi  
 St. William's Catholic Rectory  
 Tasker Tenant Improvement Council  
 Tioga Athletic Association  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 Urban Coalition  
 Wanamaker High School  
 Waterview Recreation Center  
 West Mill Creek Playground  
 Wharton Center  
 Wissahickon Boys & Girls Club  
 YMCA  
 YWCA  
 Zion Baptist Church

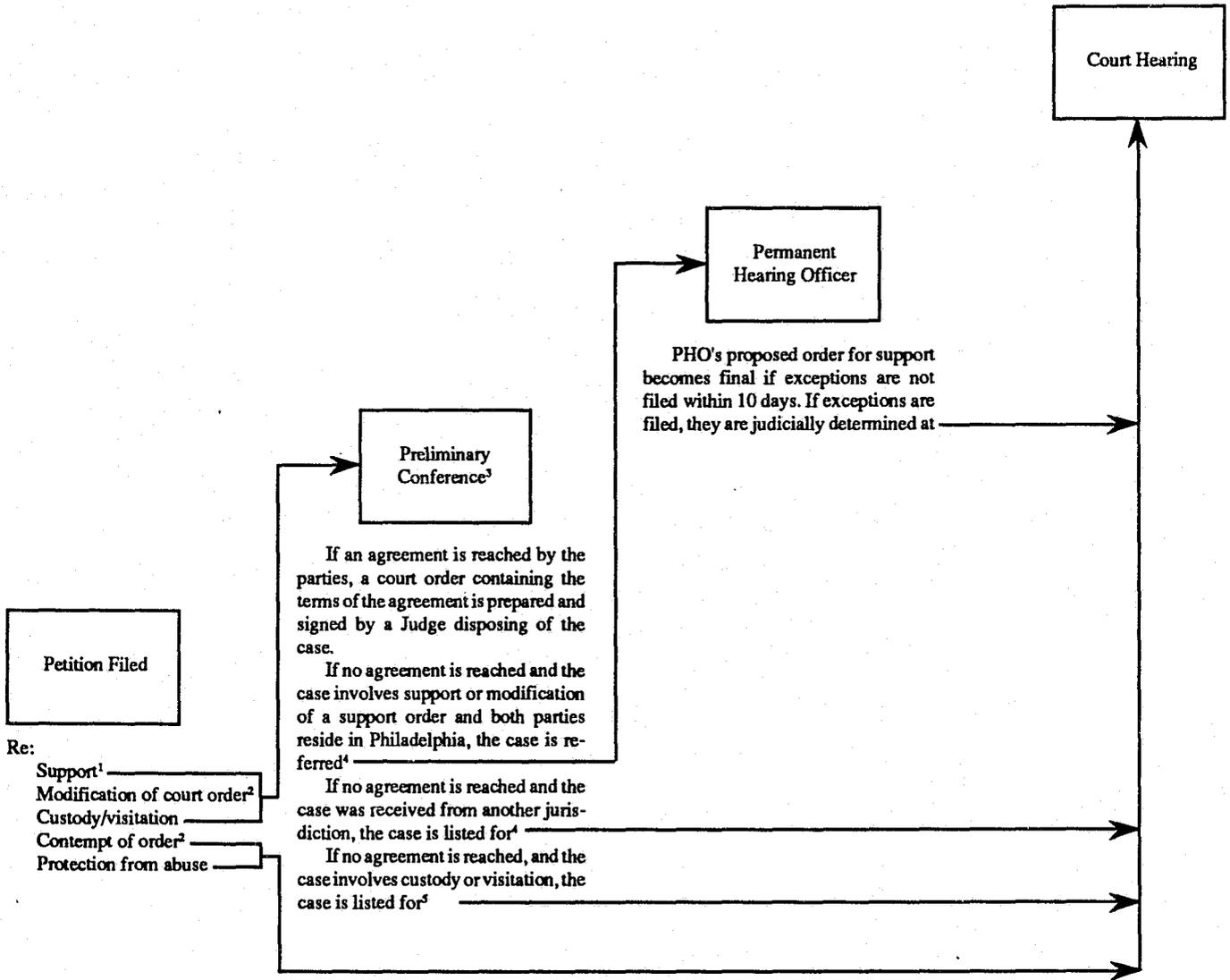
### **Schools participating in Student Intern Program**

Beaver College  
 Bryn Mawr College  
 Chestnut Hill College  
 Community College of Philadelphia  
 Dickinson College  
 East Stroudsburg State College  
 Eastern College  
 Elizabethtown College  
 Haverford College  
 Indiana State University of PA  
 John W. Hallahan High School  
 Lincoln University  
 La Salle University  
 Mansfield State College  
 Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) — Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Rosemont College  
 St. Joseph's University  
 Temple University  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 West Chester State College

# Domestic Relations Branch



DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH FLOW GUIDE



<sup>1</sup>Local cases and petitions received from outside Philadelphia have a preliminary conference; petitions filed in Philadelphia involving a party living outside of Philadelphia are forwarded to the other jurisdiction for disposition.

<sup>2</sup>Includes cases involving support, custody, partial custody or visitation

<sup>3</sup>Where Philadelphia is the respondent in cases received from other jurisdictions only the defendant is present.

<sup>4</sup>A temporary child support order may be obtained pending hearing before PHO or the Court.

<sup>5</sup>Home investigations and neuropsychiatric evaluations may be scheduled and temporary custody/visitation orders may be obtained pending the court hearing.

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH

The Domestic Relations Branch operates at two locations, in the Family Court Building at 1801 Vine Street and at ten floors of office space at 1600 Walnut Street. The more than 300 employees in the branch receive and process most matters involving family conflicts excluding the granting of divorces. The workload of this branch is a varied one and includes such cases as: the establishment of paternity, financial support of children and spouses, custody and visitation matters and protection from abuse within the family. The bulk of domestic relations cases, however, involves obtaining support for children from legally responsible parents.

The collection of support by the Domestic Relations Branch is a process which yields important social benefits. The program provides the legal mechanism for ensuring that families receive adequate financial support which reduces the need for these families to receive public assistance. For families which do receive public assistance, the program collects support which is used to reimburse the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for monies expended for these families. This helps to reduce the cost of public assistance to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth.

In 1975, Federal legislation established Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, which created the Federal Child Support Enforcement Program. This program has provided funding which has permitted a great expansion of child support activities at the local, county level. This has led to a substantial enhancement of the activities and workload of the Domestic Relations Branch. Since 1975, new support cases have tripled. In 1990 a total of 47,158 petitions were filed in the Domestic Relations Branch.

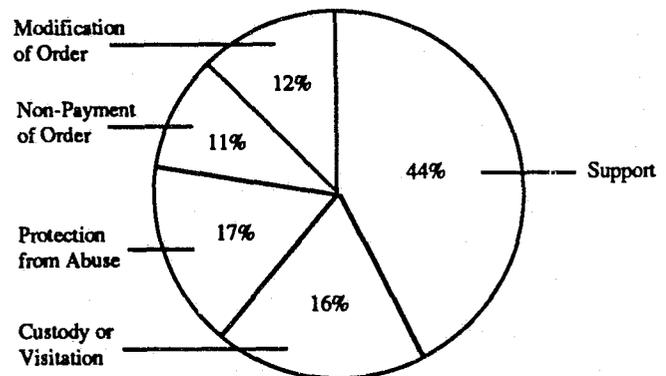
Additional Federal and State legislation has authorized interception of income tax refunds to satisfy past due support obligations; recent legislation has mandated the immediate attachment of income in support cases.

However, the enhanced Federal role in the support area has meant an ever-increasing number of complex Federal regulations. Compliance with these regulations presents challenges to the Domestic Relations Branch.

### *Establishment of Support Orders*

Because of the volume of cases coming into the Domestic Relations Branch each year, it is imperative that good management practices be effected so that cases may be disposed promptly and efficiently. The Domestic Relations Branch through its use of preliminary conferences and Permanent Hearing Officers, was able to negotiate 20,419 agreements and orders thereby disposing of 54 percent of the 1990 workload without court hearings. These procedures, known as expedited processes, enabled the judiciary to concentrate on

PETITIONS FILED: 1989



the more complex protracted cases, contempt matters, issues involving other jurisdictions, and exceptions to proposed orders in support and paternity cases. (A guide showing the flow of domestic relations cases is shown on page 46).

A typical pre-trial conference involves discussion and negotiation of the issues of the case by both parties, who may be represented by counsel, before a Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer reviews the income and expenses of the parties, and any other issues pertinent to the payment of support. Through the application of support guidelines and other applicable laws and regulations, the Hearing Officer recommends an amount of support to the parties. If the parties agree to this recommendation, they sign an agreement which is reviewed by a Judge. After judicial signing, this agreement becomes a fully enforceable Court order (please see the flow guide on page 46 for a description of the process in the event the parties do not agree).

### *Paternity Matters*

Many petitions for support concern children of unmarried parents. Before a support order may be entered, paternity must be determined. This may be accomplished through a voluntary acknowledgement of the father. If the putative father denies paternity, an order for blood tests is issued. Blood samples are taken from the putative father, the child and the mother, on the premises at 1600 Walnut Street. The studies performed on these samples are very sophisticated and are highly accurate in determining the probability of paternity. After test results are received and sent to the defendants, a number of defendants acknowledge paternity. Those who do not, have their cases listed for Court, where the issue of paternity is finally decided. After paternity has been established, the case is then processed as any other support case. In 1990, paternity was established in 5,618 cases. Of this number, 81 percent were established through voluntary acknowledgement of the father.

### *Enforcement of Support Orders*

As soon as a support order is entered, the process of enforcement of that order begins.

Although the immediate attachment of wages or other income for support orders was only recently mandated by law, Domestic Relations has been involved in the attachment of income for many years.

Approximately 63 percent of all support collections in 1990 were received as a result of income attachment orders.

Processing of these income attachments is a combined effort of Enforcement Hearing Officers, Wage Attachment Clerks, personnel in the Bureau of Accounts and Data Processing staff.

In 1990, more than 46,000 income attachment documents were processed, including more than 23,000 new income attachments and thousands of modified income attachments.

Additionally, delinquent payors are scheduled by computer for interviews with Enforcement Hearing Officers. More than 20,000 of such interviews were scheduled in 1990.

Another important enforcement tool is the interception of Federal Income Tax Refunds. Collections through this method totalled more than \$6.3 million in 1990.

**Custody**

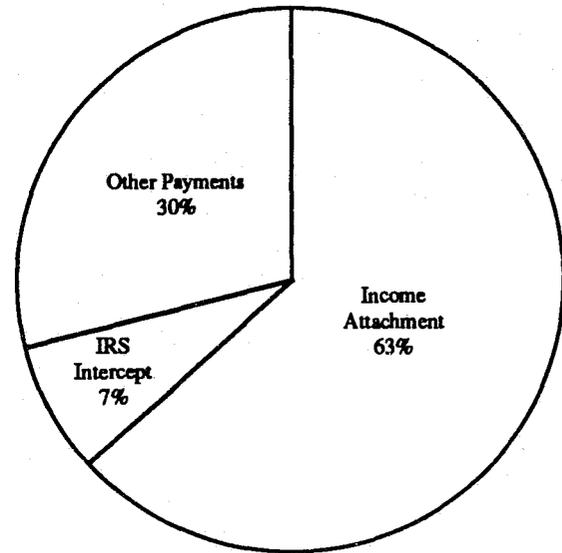
Petitions filed concerning custody, partial custody or visitation of children have increased in recent years. In 1990, 7,822 such petitions were filed as compared to 7,796 filed in 1989. In order to process these cases expeditiously, six social workers serve as Custody Officers and conduct pre-trial conferences which are mandatory in all cases. The unit also has two workers who perform all home investigations, which assist the Judges in their determination of the best interest of the children.

In 1990, a Custody Mediation pilot program was begun. Volunteers were trained to serve as mediators in this progressive approach to the settlement of custody disputes without the involvement of court staff or Judges. This pilot project came about due to the combined efforts of Judge Edward B. Rosenberg and Administrative Judge Jerome A. Zaleski. Recognizing the close relationships between satisfactory custody arrangements and the payment of support, the Branch will study the effect of this pilot program on support paid in these cases as well as its speed and efficiency in dealing with custody issues.

**Specialized Units**

The Domestic Relations Branch has several specialized units which provide support services for the branch. For example, the Writ Servers Unit personally serves parties with orders to appear at conferences or court hearings; the Parent Locator Unit processes requests for assistance in locating absent parents in child support and custody cases; and the Legal Unit provides general legal services for the branch. A unit of the District Attorney's office provides attorneys for

METHOD USED — SUPPORT ORDER COLLECTIONS: 1986 TO 1990



AFDC cases to assist in the establishment and enforcement of support orders.

**Program Performance**

Overall, the Domestic Relations Branch disposed of 37,692 cases in 1990. Of this number:

1. 16,790 or 45% involved new cases of support or modifications of a current support order.
2. 6,012 or 16% concerned non-payment of a support order.
3. 6,861 or 18% pertained to custody or visitation matters.
4. 8,029 or 21% involved protection from abuse cases.

The reader is cautioned not to compare numbers of filings with numbers of cases disposed. These terms are not synonymous in that multi-petitions may be filed within a case. For example, both parents may file an individual petition for custody of a child. This would be counted as two petitions but one case, if both petitions are disposed at same time.

**Support Collections**

In 1990, the Domestic Relations Branch collected a total of \$94,565,667 in support payments. This represented an 11 percent increase over 1989 collections.

It should be noted that between 1975 and 1990, support collections increased from \$24.6 million to \$94.6 million, an increase of 284 percent.

During that same time period however, the share of Domestic Relations total operating expenses paid by the General Fund of the City of Philadelphia remained frozen at the 1975 figure of \$3.3 million.

Of the 1990 collection total, \$24.4 million was collected and returned to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare in cases where support was paid for individuals receiving public assistance. Since 1986, almost \$113 million has been collected in this effort and has been reimbursed to the Department of Public Welfare. These funds represent a significant savings to the taxpayers of this Commonwealth.

The Bureau of Accounts in the Domestic Relations Branch is responsible for all payment processing as well as statistical reporting and accounting for the Branch.

In 1990, the Bureau of Accounts received and processed more than 580,000 support checks. The Bureau also processed almost 40,000 changes to support accounts ranging from a complete change in the court order, to a change of address of one of the parties.

In addition to processing of support payments in 1990, the Bureau of Accounts receives a large volume of account inquiries from clients. More than 130,000 telephone calls were answered by Bureau staff in 1990.

To improve service to clients and avoid having to employ additional client service representatives, accounts and order information is available through the Philadelphia Support Line, a 24 hour automated voice information system. This system handled almost 600,000 telephone calls in 1990.

### *Noteworthy for 1990*

In addition to the Custody Mediation pilot program mentioned previously, other noteworthy developments occurred in 1990.

A highlight of the year was the annual observance of Child Support Awareness Day. This ceremony which took place on October 25, 1990, honored Allie Page Matthews, Deputy Director, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Health and Human Services.



*Katherine Grasela (left) was presented with an Employee of the Year Award for the Domestic Relations Branch by Judge Allan L. Tereshko.*

In addition to the ceremony at which a plaque was presented to Allie Page Matthews, a reception was held and publicity promoting the Child Support Program was received through the display of public service messages displayed on the large billboard at Veterans' Stadium and the "crown lights" atop the Philadelphia Electric Company building.

Another noteworthy development was the automation of scheduling in the Pre-Trial Units. New programs were developed wherein personal computers were used to schedule new support cases at 1600 Walnut Street and to generate all paperwork associated with these conferences. This program has improved the speed and efficiency of scheduling and has allowed typists to shift their work efforts to other areas.

Enforcement efforts were enhanced by the matching of the names of delinquent support obligors by computer tape with the payroll records of major Philadelphia employers such as the City, School District and SEPTA. Hundreds of new income attachments resulted from these matches which allowed Domestic Relations to identify delinquent obligors who failed to report employment with these large employers.

A project for the service of Bench Warrants was also begun in 1990. Former law enforcement officers were engaged on an individual contractual basis to apprehend individuals against whom Bench Warrants were issued. Payment to these officers was made only for actual arrests. Initial results of this project have been encouraging.

Finally, a great deal of effort was spent by the Domestic Relations Branch in 1990 in the planning of its anticipated move to new space at 34 South 11th Stret. After this move, which is scheduled for Spring, 1991, Domestic Relations operations currently housed at 1600 Walnut Street and 1801 Vine Street facilities will be consolidated at the new location which is being remodeled and refurbished to accommodate the Domestic Relations operation.



*Judge Allan L. Tereshko (left) congratulates Pauline McAnulla upon being selected as one of the Employees of the Year for the Domestic Relations Branch.*

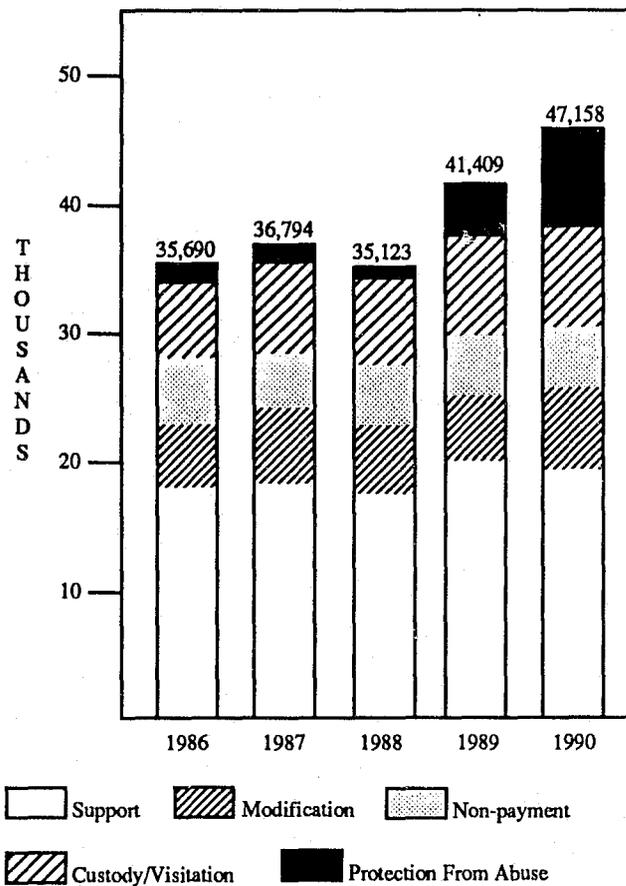
**TABLE 1**

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES: 1990**

Petitions filed <sup>1</sup> .....	47,158
<b>Cases disposed<sup>1</sup>:</b>	
Through court hearing .....	17,273
Without court hearing .....	20,419
Pre-trial units .....	11,084
Custody unit .....	3,709
Master's unit .....	3,021
Enforcement units .....	2,605
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>37,692</b>
<b>Other activities:</b>	
Paternity blood studies completed .....	1,433
Wage attachments processed .....	46,426
Interviews and pretrial conferences .....	45,074
Cases completed by the Parent Locator Unit .....	4,905
Court sessions .....	1,547

<sup>1</sup>See page 10 statistics.

**TYPE OF PETITION FILED: 1986 TO 1990**



**TABLE 2**

**TYPE OF PETITION FILED: 1990**

Support .....	20,681 <sup>2</sup>
Non paternity cases .....	6,915
Paternity cases .....	13,766
Modification of support orders .....	5,620
Non-payment of support orders .....	5,195
Child custody, partial custody, visitation rights .....	7,822
Protection from abuse .....	7,840
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>47,158</b>

<sup>2</sup>Of this number, 17,475 were local petitions while 3,206 were petitions to/from other States or other Pennsylvania counties. Of the latter group, Philadelphia was the initiator in 1,152 petitions.

**TABLE 3**

**CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE OF HEARING: 1990**

	Total	Court hearing	Without Court hearing
Support/Modifications	16,790	2,685	14,105
Non-payment of order	6,012	3,407	2,605
Child custody or visitation	6,861	3,152	3,709
Protection from abuse	8,029	8,029	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,692</b>	<b>17,273</b>	<b>20,419</b>

CASES DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990

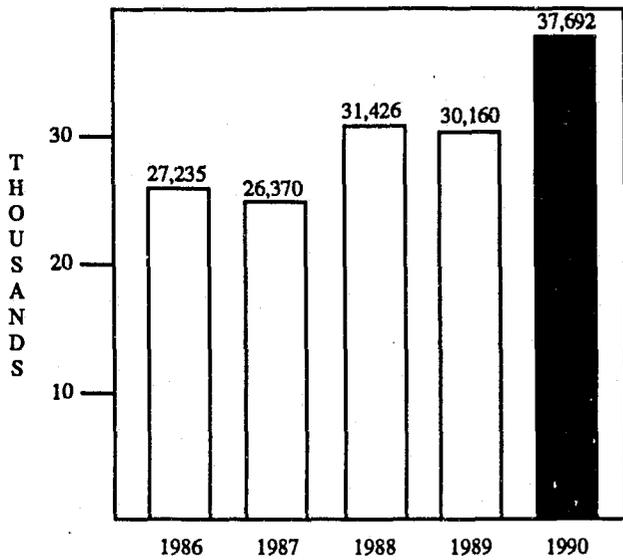


TABLE 4

PATERNITY ESTABLISHED: 1990

Pretrial conference .....	4,548
Court hearing .....	1,070
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>5,618</b>

TABLE 5

SUPPORT ORDERS: 1990

New orders made .....	6,881
Orders vacated .....	15,784
Orders changed .....	9,175

PATERNITIES ESTABLISHED: 1986 TO 1990

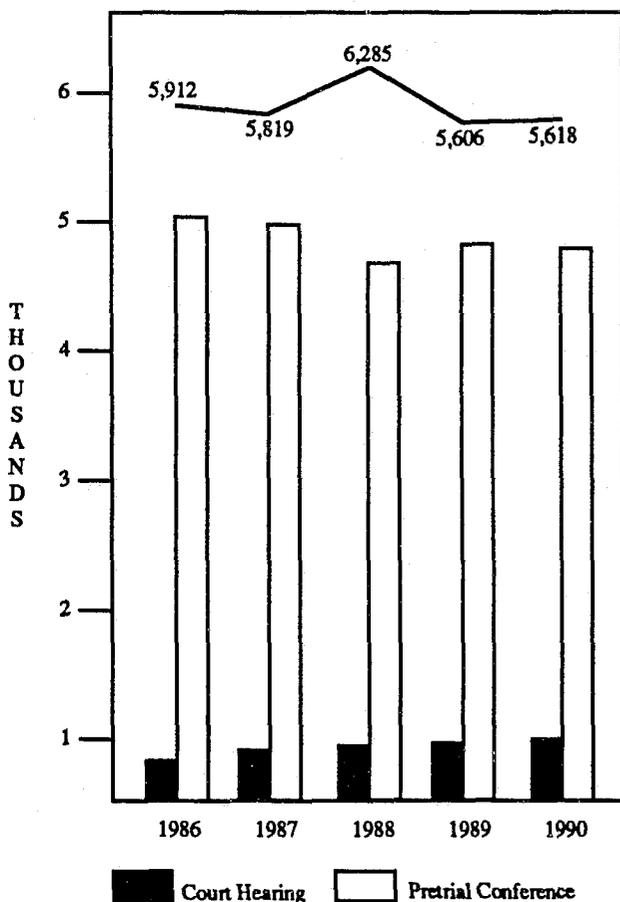


TABLE 6

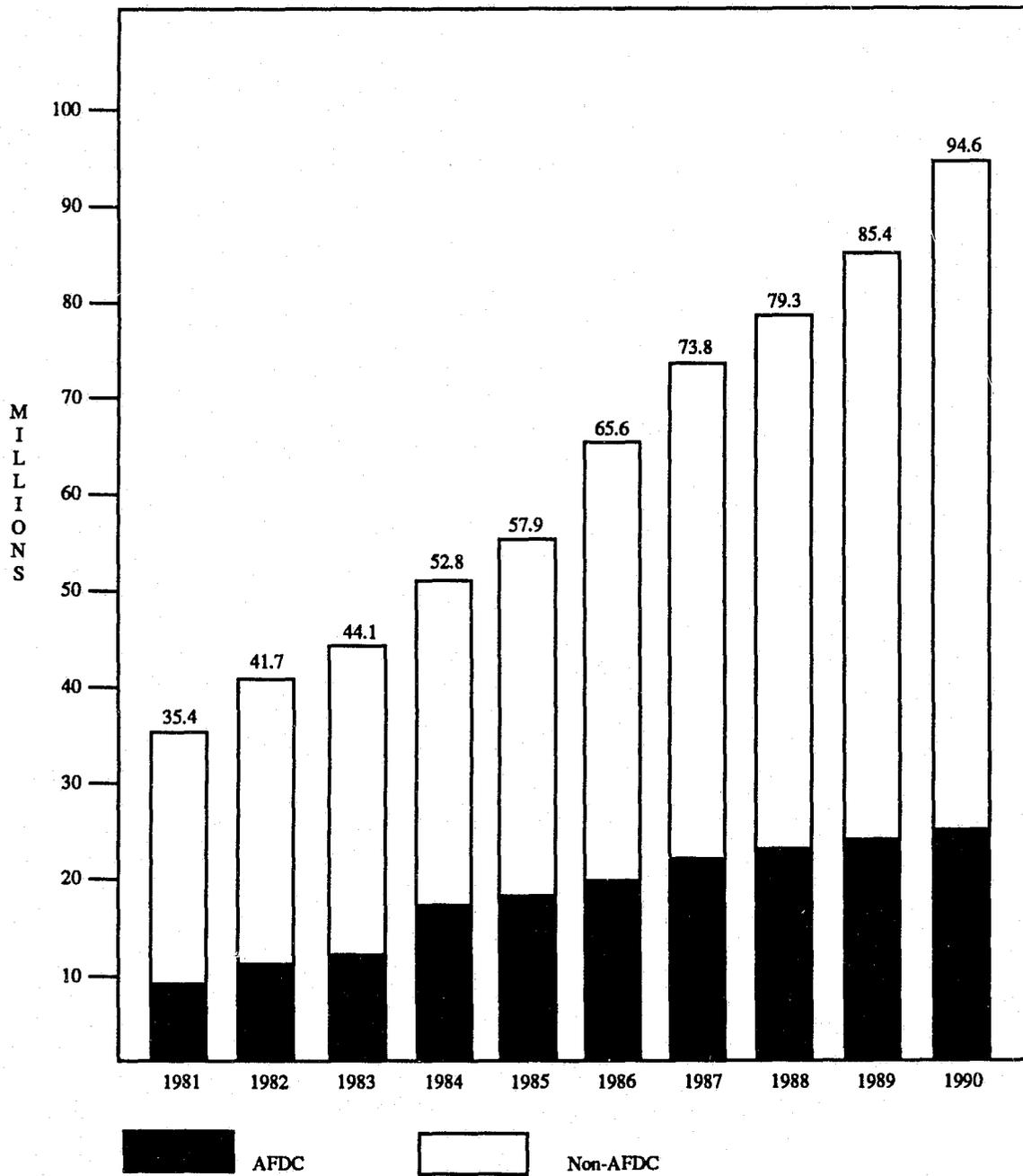
PAYMENTS RECEIVED ON SUPPORT ORDERS: 1986 TO 1990

	Total <sup>2</sup>	AFDC <sup>1</sup>	Non-AFDC
1986	\$65,595,712	20,046,064	45,549,648
1987	\$73,761,914	21,982,964	51,778,950
1988	\$79,260,102	22,620,179	56,639,923
1989	\$85,448,375	23,765,911	61,682,464
1990	\$94,565,667	24,445,720	70,119,947

<sup>1</sup>Aid for Dependent Children.

<sup>2</sup>Over 5 million of this amount was collected through the Federal Income Tax Refund Intercept Program for years 1986-1989. In 1990, more than 6 million was collected through this program.

PHILADELPHIA SUPPORT COLLECTIONS: 1981 TO 1990



# Divorce Proceedings



## DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

Family Court has jurisdiction in all matters relating to divorce and annulment. Procedures in divorce and annulment actions are governed by the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 1920.1 to 1920.92 inclusive. These Statewide rules have been implemented by local rules thereby providing the bench and bar with an integrated source for rules governing divorce and annulment.

The Appointment Unit receives and processes all matters pertaining to divorce and or annulment proceedings. The unit is also responsible for the appointment of Masters when required. In addition, it has the responsibility for docketing adoption and protection from abuse cases. In March, 1990, the Abuse Assistance Unit was established. This unit provides assistance to individuals, not represented by counsel, who need help in preparing and filing a petition asking the Court for a protective order.

Until the enactment of the Divorce Code in July, 1980 (the first major reform in over 50 years), divorce proceedings required a plaintiff to bring a specific charge against the spouse, i.e., indignities, desertion, etc. In addition, other issues dealing with support, custody, etc. were usually considered as separate actions requiring additional input of time by the Court and the parties involved in the divorce action. This system was complicated and expensive for the parties adding additional pressures to an already tense situation.

The Divorce Code of 1980 addressed some of these problems. It added no fault grounds, and allowed for alimony and the equitable distribution of marital property.

While the Divorce Code still permits the filing of a specific charge in a divorce action, it also allows the parties in a divorce action (under Section 201c and 201d)<sup>1</sup> to proceed to finality without the intervention of a Master when both parties agree the marriage is irretrievably broken. In addition, local court rules allow for a written agreement between the parties addressing matters related to the divorce to be incorporated into the final decree.

Amendments to the Pennsylvania Divorce Code in 1988 resulted in significant changes such as a more liberal basis for alimony, a reduction from three to two years to obtain a non-

<sup>1</sup>Section:

201c — A divorce may be granted when each of the parties in the divorce give consent, and ninety days have elapsed from the filing of the complaint alleging irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

201d — In a non-consensual divorce action, a divorce may be granted after the parties in the divorce have been separated for a period of two years and the marriage is irretrievably broken.

## DIVORCES STARTED AND GRANTED: 1986 TO 1990

Year	Started	Granted
1986	5,828	4,744
1987	4,949	4,303
1988	6,369	4,708
1989	5,733	4,760
1990	6,031	4,721

consensual, no-fault divorce (provided that the final separation began after February 12, 1988) and the inclusion of gifts between spouses in property subject to equitable distribution.

The second major development in local practice occurred in 1988, when a new system for disposing of economic issues in divorce cases was implemented. Prior to that time, when such issues as equitable distribution, alimony and counsel fees were raised in a case, the entire matter was referred to a Master upon special appointment by one of the Family Court Judges. Any attorney admitted to practice in Philadelphia could serve as a Master, and he or she was paid for his/her services on an hourly basis by the parties to the action. In complex divorce cases involving lengthy hearings, the fees for the Master's services could be substantial.

Under the new system, governed by Administrative Regulation 88-4, economic issues are referred to Permanent Masters, who are full-time court employees with established expertise in divorce law. Aside from a one-time certification fee of \$200.00, no charges are imposed for the Master's service regardless of the duration of the case.

To avoid the delays that often attended the old Master's system, no case can be certified for a hearing before the Permanent Master until grounds for the divorce have been established, and all discovery has been completed.

After a case is certified, a hearing will be held in approximately thirty days. Any party who is displeased by the recommendations of the Permanent Master can request a trial before a Judge, in which case the matter is heard on a de novo basis. Thus far, the great majority of cases listed before the Permanent Masters have resulted in settlements and the immediate entry of Decrees in Divorce. Cases that do not involve contested economic issues are handled in basically the same way as in past years; i.e., upon the filing of a Praecipe to Transmit Record and the expiration of ten days for filing

objections thereto, the file is referred to a Judge for review of the documents in the file. If all papers are in order, including for example, proof of service and all required affidavits, a final decree is entered.

Where interim relief of any kind is sought in a divorce case, the petition or motion at issue is listed before the Family Court Motion Judge. Typical matters that come before the Motion Court are petitions for alimony pendente lite, injunctions against the sale or transfer of marital assets, petitions for interim counsel fees and requests for exclusive possession of the marital home.

### *Summary*

In 1990, 6,031 divorce proceedings were initiated in Family Court. In addition, 2,884 motions and rules were filed requesting a court order or direction on a specific matter relating to the divorce action. Exceptions to the Master's report were filed in 10 cases. These actions signify disagreement with the Master's findings by one or both parties in a divorce action. The total number of divorces granted in 1990 was 4,721.

Ninety-nine percent of the divorce cases in 1990 cited irretrievable breakdown as the reason for the divorce. As in

previous years, the wife is most often the plaintiff (58 percent) in divorce actions.

The average marriage had lasted 13.5 years at the time the divorce was granted. More than half of the couples obtaining a divorce in 1990 (56 percent) were married for 10 years or more. Twenty-three percent of the marriages lasted 20 years or more. In 10 cases the marriage lasted one year or less while in 101 cases the couples had been married for more than 39 years.

Twice the number of wives (30 percent) as husbands (15 percent) were married before age 21. The median age of husbands divorced in 1990 was 38.1, for wives, 36.2. Sixteen percent of wives and husbands had previous marriages. During 1990, the highest number of divorces occurred in the 30-34 age group for wives and 35-39 age group for husbands.

There were no children in 38 percent of the divorces in 1990 but a total of 5,721 children were involved in the balance of the divorces granted. Of the total number of divorcing couples with children, 41 percent had 1 child; 35 percent, 2 children; 16 percent, 3 children; and 8 percent had 4 or more children. The majority of children (4,142) were under 18 years of age at the time the divorce was granted. Twenty-six percent of this latter group were in the "only child" category, while 12 percent came from families with 4 or more children.

**TABLE 1**

**DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS<sup>1</sup>: 1990**

Divorce proceedings started .....	6,031
Divorces granted .....	4,721
Motions and rules filed .....	2,884
Motions and rules disposed .....	2,121
Exceptions to master's report filed .....	10
Exceptions to master's report disposed .....	6
Court sessions .....	156

<sup>1</sup>Includes annulments.

**TABLE 2**

**DIVORCES GRANTED BY LEGAL GROUNDS: 1990**

Legal grounds for decree	Divorces granted	Plaintiff	
		Husband	Wife
Irretrievable breakdown	4,693	1,974	2,719
201c <sup>1</sup> .....	3,032	1,212	1,820
201d <sup>1</sup> .....	1,661	773	888
Indignities	28	1	27
Total	4,721	1,975	2,746

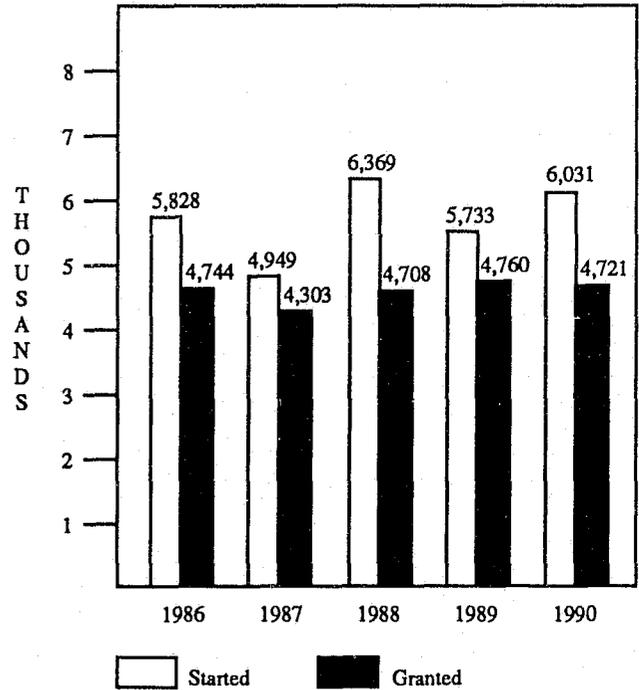
<sup>1</sup>See foot note 1, page 55.

**TABLE 3**

**CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCES GRANTED: 1990**

Divorces granted	Number of children in family	All children	Children under 18
1,788	0	—	—
1,203	1	1,203	1,082
1,035	2	2,070	1,621
470	3	1,410	943
148	4	592	341
77	5	446	155
4,721	or more	5,721	4,142

**DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS STARTED AND GRANTED: 1986 TO 1990**



**CUSTODY OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS: 1990**

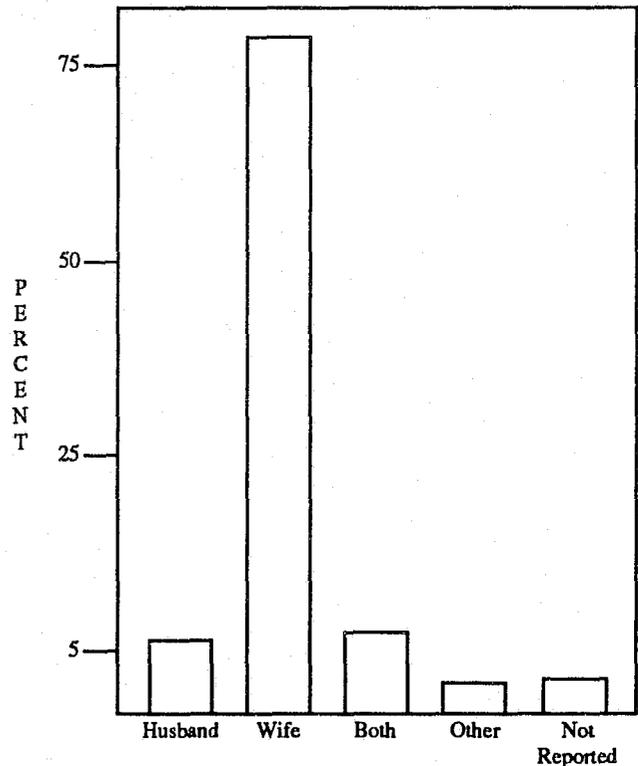
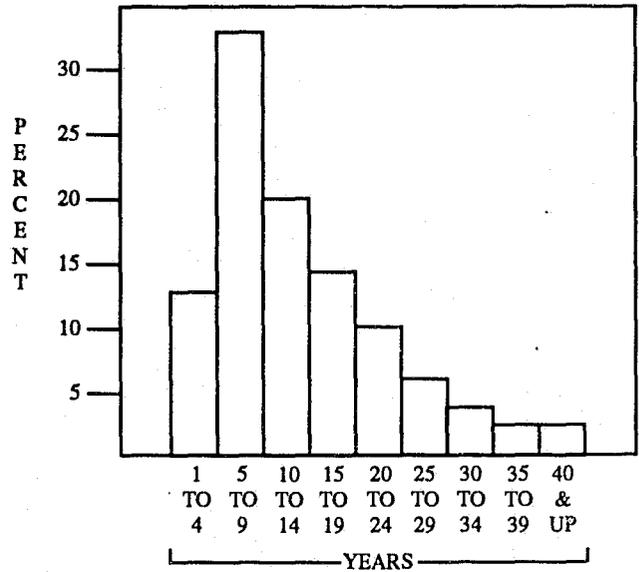


TABLE 4

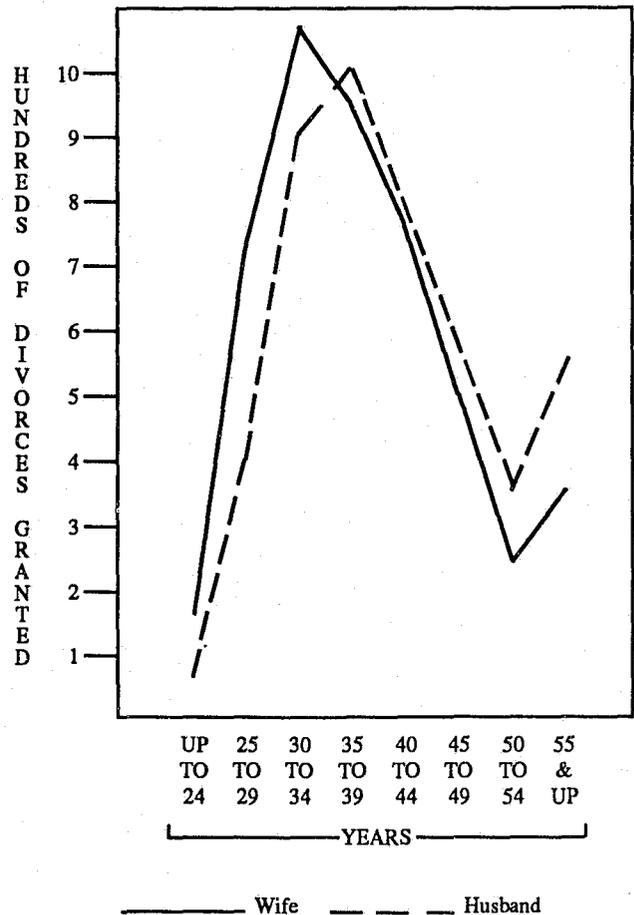
DIVORCES GRANTED BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE: 1990

Duration of marriage	Divorces granted
1 year .....	10
2 years .....	85
3 years .....	171
4 years .....	252
5 years .....	350
6 years .....	328
7 years .....	305
8 years .....	302
9 years .....	260
10 years .....	218
11 years .....	227
12 years .....	185
13 years .....	157
14 years .....	162
15 years .....	122
16 years .....	135
17 years .....	132
18 years .....	114
19 years .....	105
20 - 24 years .....	474
25 - 29 years .....	277
30 - 34 years .....	142
35 - 39 years .....	95
Over 39 years .....	101
Not reported .....	12
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,721</b>

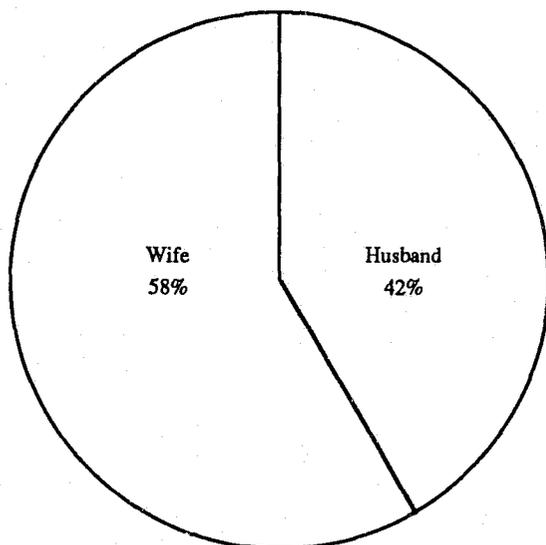
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — DURATION OF MARRIAGE: 1990



AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DIVORCE: 1990



PLAINTIFF IN DIVORCES GRANTED: 1990



# Medical Branch



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## MEDICAL BRANCH

The Medical Branch is an integral part of Family Court and has been in the forefront of activities since the Court's establishment in 1913.

Contributing more than seventy-five years of service, this branch has experienced tremendous changes as a result of medical advances and the growing awareness of good mental and physical health. Together with the increased availability of medical facilities, such as clinics and mental health centers in the community, as well as changes in court functions, laws and social mores, the types of cases referred to this branch and the services provided have varied over the years.

While there have been changes in the work of the branch throughout the years, the basic functions have remained the same. These functions are to examine, diagnose and recommend treatment for clients referred by other branches of the Court, or ordered by the judiciary.

The Medical Branch has a highly professional staff of physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, mental health workers and registered nurses to perform these services.

Among the duties performed are: physical examinations; psychiatric and psychological evaluations and studies; counseling of individuals and families; processing of involuntary mental health commitments of juveniles for evaluation and treatment; emergency treatment of clients and employees; and notifying clients of medical problems requiring treatment or care. In addition, the branch makes referrals to hospitals, clinics and mental health facilities and maintains follow-up on the client's progress.

The importance of diagnosing and assuring treatment of physical, mental or emotional deficiencies of clients referred to the Medical Branch cannot be stressed enough. The professional findings are an important aid to the judiciary in making decisions on cases before them.

For years, the Court has provided a unique service for its clients—a facility for infants and children while their parents appear in court. Family Court has two such facilities—one at 1801 Vine Street and a second at 1600 Walnut Street to service parents who must appear there. In addition, the facility at 1801 Vine Street is open on Sunday for court ordered visitations.

A member of the supervisory staff is on hand to oversee the visits and to handle complaints and/or suggestions from clients utilizing this service.



*Judge Allan L. Tereshko (left) presented an Employee of the Year Award for the Medical Branch to Dr. Elena P. Bruno.*

The Medical Branch has indeed been an essential part of the Court. It has contributed much in the past and will continue in the future to provide a vital service to the Court.

On November 1, 1989, the Adoption Branch was merged into the Medical Branch. Data pertaining to the Adoption Unit is shown following the Medical Branch Section.

### Summary

In 1990, 6,810 examinations were performed by the Medical Branch staff. These included: 1,621 physical, 1,254 psychiatric and 3,935 psychological examinations.

The two child care facilities cared for more than 14,000 children while their parents transacted business in the Court. In addition, nearly 5,000 children were brought to 1801 Vine Street for Sunday visitation.

In the Clinical Services Unit, 556 cases were processed through interviews or treatments while 30 cases were referred to outside agencies.

The Medical Branch staff was called upon to handle over 800 emergency matters pertaining to clients and employees.

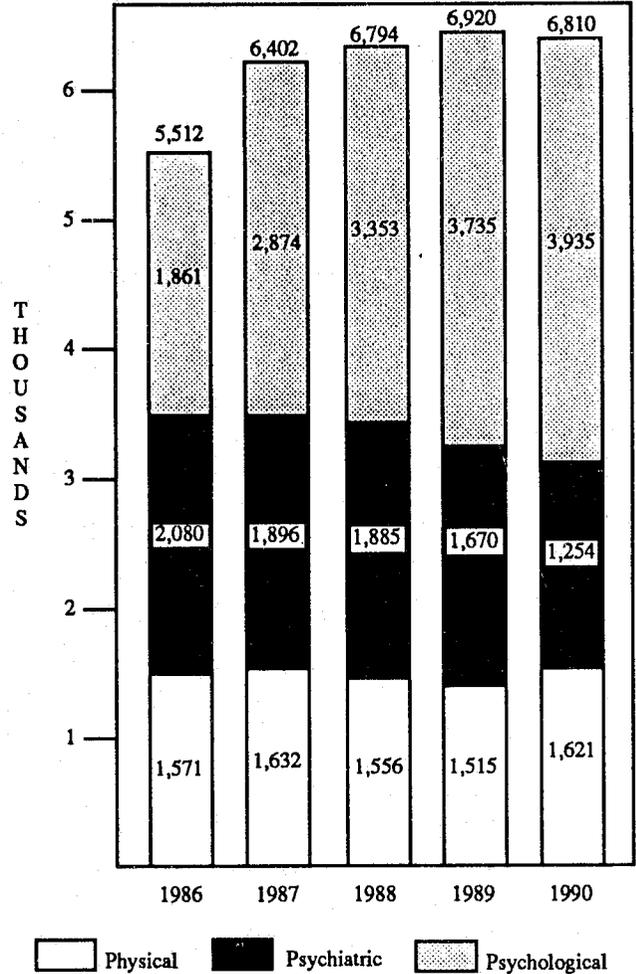
There were 236 mental health commitments for evaluation or long term treatment, as well as 1,037 pre-commitment investigations and/or follow-ups dealing with requests for commitments or review of commitments.

EXAMINATIONS COMPLETED: 1986 TO 1990

TABLE 1

TOTAL ACTIVITY: 1990

Physical examinations .....	1,621
Psychiatric examinations .....	1,254
Psychological examinations .....	3,935
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>6,810</b>
Pre-commitment investigations .....	1,037
Commitments under Mental Health Act .....	236
New cases received:	
Physical .....	164
Clinical services .....	559
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>723</b>
Children cared for in nursery .....	14,678

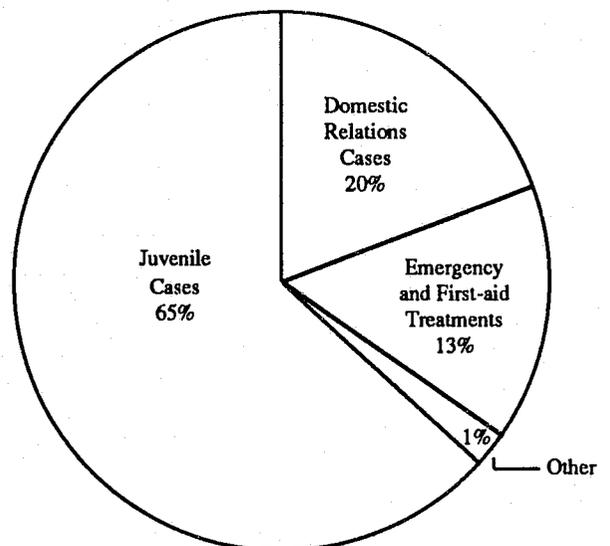


PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL EXAMINATIONS BY SOURCE OF REFERRAL: 1990

TABLE 2

TYPE OF EXAMINATION BY BRANCH: 1990

	Total	Psychiatric	Psychological	Physical
Juvenile branch	4,446	1,063	3,162	221
Domestic relations branch	1,388	191	773	424
Employees	97	—	—	97
Emergency and first aid treatments	879	—	—	879
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>3,935</b>	<b>1,621</b>



**TABLE 3**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS: 1990**

Diagnoses	Total	Juvenile		Adults
		Delinquent	Non-Delinquent	
Superior	37	29	2	6
Bright normal	110	88	8	14
Normal	831	733	48	50
Dull normal	781	748	19	14
Borderline retardation	645	622	11	12
Mild retardation	161	156	2	3
Unspecified	41	38	3	-
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,329	660	102	567
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,935</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>666</b>

<sup>1</sup>Mental health assessment, no IQ required.

**TABLE 5**

**CLINICAL SERVICES UNIT ACTIVITIES: 1990**

Juvenile cases .....	411
Domestic relation cases .....	148
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>559</b>
Cases referred to outside agencies .....	30

**TABLE 4**

**PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS: 1990**

	Total	Juvenile		Adults
		Delinquent	Non-Delinquent	
Normal intelligence	1	1	-	-
Subnormal intelligence	1	1	-	-
Mental retardation	3	2	-	1
Neuroses	3	2	-	1
Personality disorders	101	101	-	-
Drug dependence	26	24	-	2
Adjustment reaction of adolescence	86	85	1	-
Adjustment reaction of childhood	2	2	-	-
Adjustment reaction of adult life	11	-	-	11
Unsocialized aggressive reaction	108	108	-	-
Group delinquent reaction	73	73	-	-
No mental disorder	820	660	3	157
Other diagnoses	19	2	1	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>188</b>

**CHILDREN CARED FOR IN NURSERY: 1986 TO 1990**

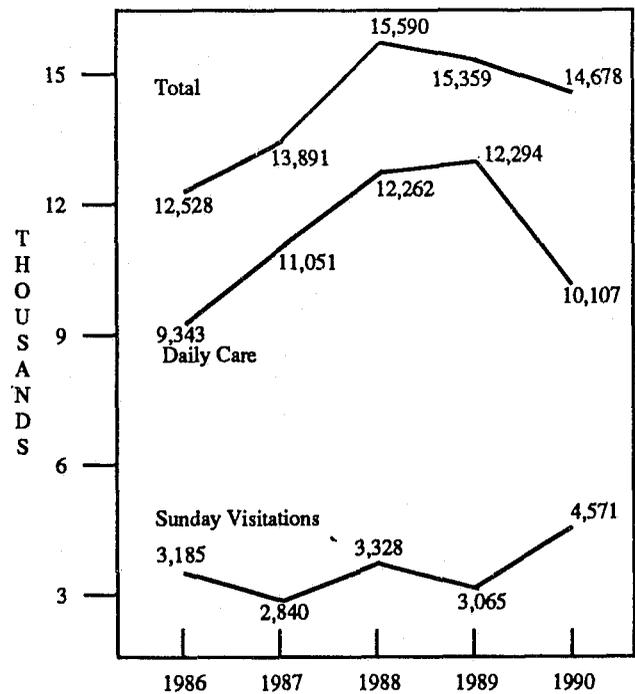
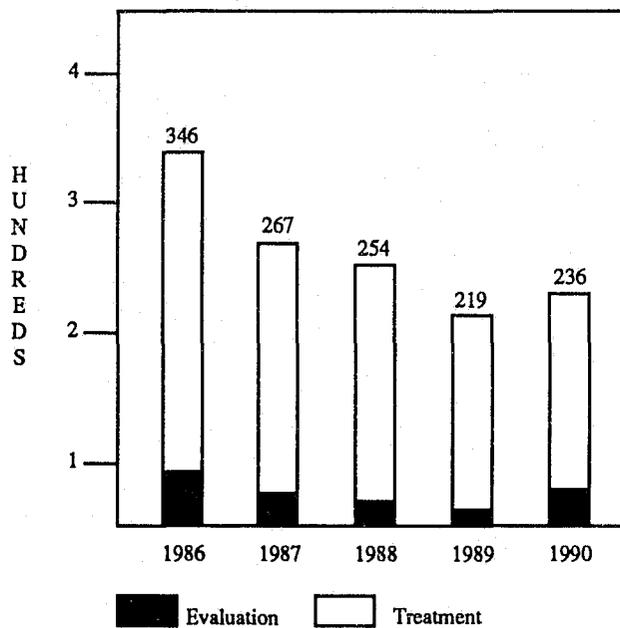


TABLE 6

COMMITMENTS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH ACT: 1990

Admitting Centers or Institutions	Evaluation	Treatment
Benjamin Rush .....	2	-
Catch (formerly Jefferson) .....	-	1
Charles R. Drew CMHC .....	12	9
Community Council (CA 4).....	1	7
Eastern State School and Hospital .....	-	105
Hahnemann Hospital .....	5	3
Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital .....	-	2
INTERAC .....	2	-
John F. Kennedy CMHC.....	3	-
Juvenile Forensic Unit - ESSH.....	-	32
Northeast CMHC .....	7	1
Northwest Center .....	4	1
Northwestern Institute .....	2	2
Path CMHC.....	7	-
Pennsylvania Hospital (Hall - Mercer).....	4	-
Philadelphia Child Guidance Center.....	-	4
Philadelphia Psychiatric Center .....	6	9
West Philadelphia Consortium .....	2	-
Other .....	1	2
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>178</b>

COMMITMENTS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH ACT: 1986 TO 1990



## ADOPTION UNIT

The Adoption Act of January, 1981<sup>1</sup> provided for the following:

1. the adoption of individuals
2. the termination of certain parent-child relationships
3. the recording of foreign decrees of adoption
4. provisions for adoption procedures, decrees, records and related matters.

Under the law, any individual may be adopted and any person may become an adopting parent with the approval of the Court when in the best interest of the child.

The Adoption Unit is responsible for investigating and processing all matters relating to termination of parental rights and adoption.

There are two types of adoption cases:

1. Kinship cases involve petitioner(s) and adoptee(s) who are related.
2. No kinship cases concern parties with no familial relationship.

In no kinship cases, placements are made under the auspices of an agency or a private attorney.

Adoption proceedings vary somewhat depending on the type of case and the relationship of the adoptee to the petitioner(s).

Petitions for termination of parental rights require a court hearing before a Judge. These petitions are granted only when the statutory requirements have been met. See chart in next column for conditions and requirements which must be met.

A report of intention to adopt must be filed with the Court in all adoptions where the child is not related by blood or marriage to the person having custody or control. The Court must make a complete investigation regarding the health, social and economic status of the adopting parent(s). No report is required when the child is related by blood or marriage to the adopting parent(s).

Since adoption is a statutory proceeding, the following are other mandates which are required by law:

1. The Court shall appoint counsel or a guardian ad litem for a child who has not reached 18 years whenever it is in the best interest of the child. No attorney or law firm shall represent both the child and the adopting parent(s).

Petition	Party Filing Petition	Conditions for Termination
Voluntary Relinquishment	Natural Parents	a. Consent of agency b. Consent of natural parent c. Court appearance by consenting parent
Involuntary Termination	a. Natural parent; When termination is sought with respect to other parent b. Agency; When custody of child has been given to agency c. Individual having custody of child	Parental rights may be terminated on any of the following grounds: a. Failure or refusal to perform parental duties for a period of six months. b. Parents whereabouts unknown and child is not claimed for a period of three months. c. Continued incapacity, abuse or neglect has caused the child to be without essential parental care, control or subsistence. d. The parent is the presumptive but not the natural father of the child. e. The child was removed from the parent by the Court or by a voluntary placement for a period of six months and the parent cannot or will not remedy the conditions which led to the removal or placement of the child.
Petition to Confirm Consent	a. Intermediary b. In cases where there is no intermediary, the adoptive parent(s) may file the Petition.	If parent or parents of the child have executed consents to an adoption but have failed for a period of 40 days after executing the consent to file or proceed with the Petition for Voluntary Relinquishment, the intermediary may petition the Court to hold a hearing for the purpose of confirming the intention of the parent(s) to voluntarily relinquish their rights and duties as evidenced by the consent(s) to the adoption.

<sup>1</sup>Repealed the Adoption Act of July 1970.

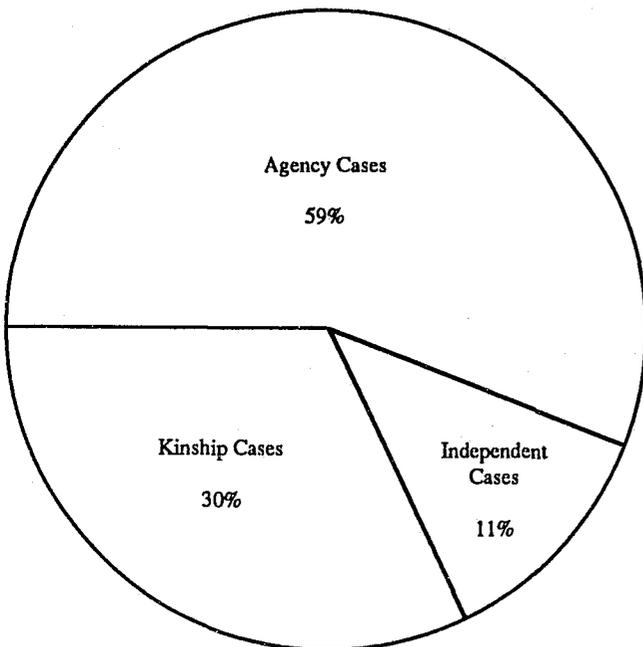
2. If the adoptee is over twelve years of age, his/her consent to the adoption must be obtained.
3. A decree of adoption is not granted until the adoptee has been in the custody of the petitioner(s) for at least six months. This is not required when the adoptee is over 18 years of age or related to the petitioner(s) by blood or marriage.
4. All court hearings are conducted in private.
5. All records relating to an adoption proceeding are kept in strict confidence and may be inspected only through a court order.

**Summary**

The total number of petitions filed in 1990 increased 18 percent from 1989. Adoption petitions filed in 1990 increased by 3 percent over the number filed in 1989. Petitions for voluntary relinquishment increased by 50 percent while petitions for involuntary termination increased by 8 percent.

The adoption of 401 individuals was approved by the Court in 1990, 381 children and 20 adults. Most of the adoptees had been born out of wedlock (85 percent). Adoptees were placed for adoption by the natural parent(s) in 42 percent of the cases with an additional 47 percent placed by an agency or an intermediary. In the balance of cases (11 percent), the child was placed by other relatives or the Department of Human Services. Of the total adoptees, 53 percent were 5 years of age or under with 3 percent being under one year of age. The median age for adoptees born during wedlock was 10.3 years; for those born out of wedlock, 3.4 years. Forty-six percent of the adoptees were in custody of the petitioner(s) for one year or less. The adoptee and the petitioner(s) were not related in 59 percent of the cases while 35 percent of the adoptees were adopted by step-parents. The balance of adoptions (6 percent) involved other relatives such as grandparents.

SOURCE OF PETITIONS: 1990



Single petitioners accounted for 14 percent of all adoption in 1990, with women being the predominant petitioner in these cases.

The ages of adopting parents ranged from under 25 years to 60 years and over with the median age for women at 36.6 years, for men, 37.5 years.

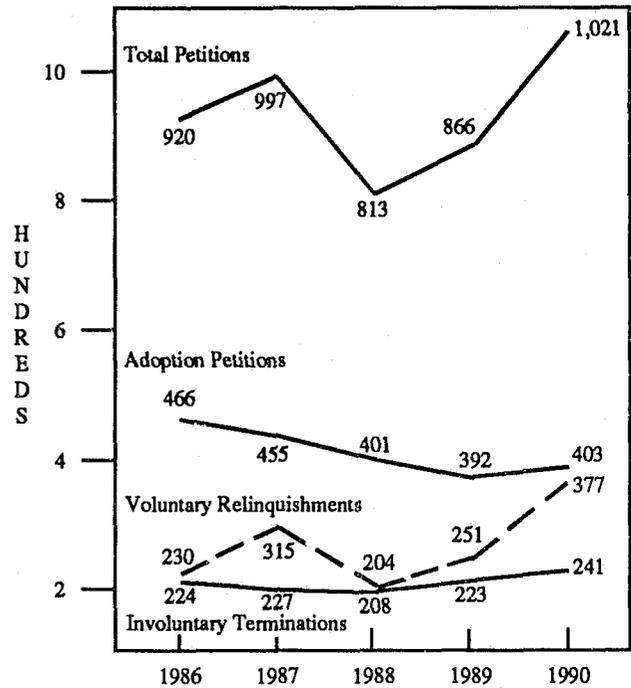
The income of the adopting parents appears advantageous for the adoptee. Of the total petitioners, 73 percent had annual incomes of \$25,000 or more with 46 percent having incomes of \$40,000 or more.

**TABLE 1**

**TOTAL ACTIVITY: 1990**

Petitions filed .....	1,021
Reports of intention to adopt filed .....	253
Petitions disposed .....	1,005
Total adoptees .....	401
Court sessions .....	85

**PETITIONS FILED: 1986 TO 1990**

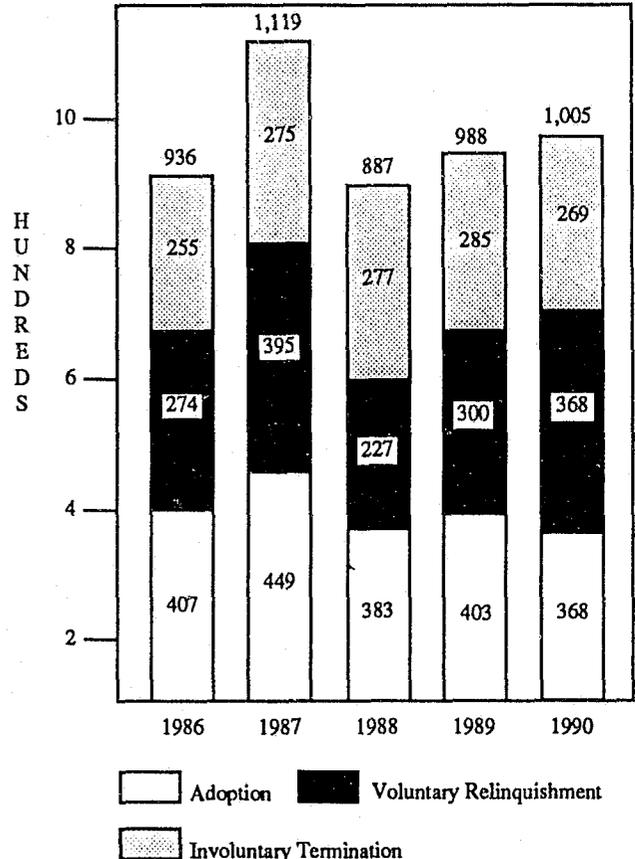


**TABLE 2**

**TYPE OF PETITION BY SOURCE: 1990**

Type of Petition	Total	Source		
		Agency	Independent	Kinship
Adoption	403	116	71	216
Voluntary relinquishment <sup>1</sup>	377	350	22	5
Involuntary termination	241	134	17	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>311</b>

**PETITIONS DISPOSED: 1986 TO 1990**



**TABLE 3**

**PETITIONS DISPOSED: 1990**

Adoption .....	368
Voluntary Relinquishment <sup>1</sup> .....	368
Involuntary Termination .....	269
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,005</b>

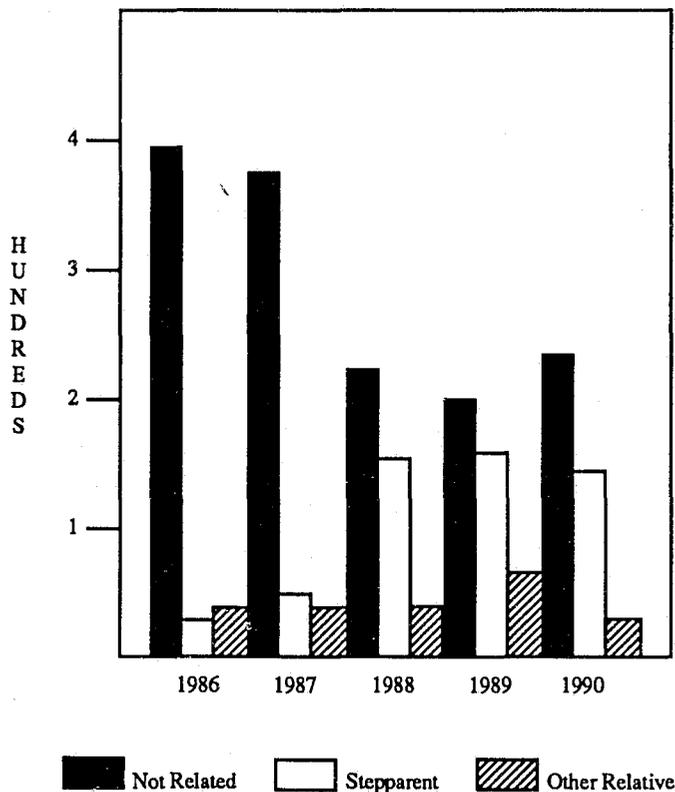
<sup>1</sup>Includes petitions to confirm consent for adoption.

**TABLE 4**  
**CHARACTERISTICS OF ADOPTEES AND PETITIONERS: 1990**

Adoptees: 401		Petitioners			
<b>Age:</b>		<b>Birth status:</b>	<b>Marital status:</b>		
Under 1 year .....	14	Born during wedlock .....	60	Married .....	345
1 - 5 years .....	198	Born out of wedlock .....	341	Single .....	56
6 - 9 years .....	86			<b>Age:</b>	
10 - 17 years .....	83	<b>Adoptee placed by:</b>			
18 and over .....	20	Natural parent(s) .....	169	Under 25 .....	Mother: 16   Father: 2
<b>Sex:</b>		Agency .....	40	25 - 34 .....	127   117
Male .....	217	Intermediary .....	147	35 - 44 .....	171   133
Female .....	184	DHS <sup>1</sup> .....	26	45 - 54 .....	49   54
		Other .....	19	55 and over .....	36   41
<b>Duration of custody:</b>		<b>Relationship of petitioner to adoptee:</b>		<b>Income:</b>	
Under 1 year .....	32	Not related .....	235	Under \$5,000 .....	5
1 - 4 years .....	280	Stepparent .....	141	5,000 - 14,999 .....	24
5 - 9 years .....	63	Other relative .....	25	15,000 - 24,999 .....	68
10 years and over .....	26			25,000 - 39,000 .....	108
				40,000 - 49,000 .....	75
				50,000 and over .....	109
				Not reported .....	12

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Services.

**RELATIONSHIP OF PETITIONER TO ADOPTEE: 1986 TO 1990**



# Glossary



## GLOSSARY

**AFDC** — Aid to families with dependent children.

**AFTERCARE** — a supervised and or treatment program for delinquent juveniles released from commitment.

**AGREEMENT** — mutual consent by both parties with respect to support or custody/visitation matters. The agreement is put in writing and becomes an enforceable order when given judicial approval.

**ARREST** — taking physical custody of a juvenile, by a legal authority, to answer a complaint regarding a delinquent act.

**CASE** —

**ADULT** — includes cases involving adults charged with endangering the welfare of a child, corrupting the morals of a child, or committing a crime against a child.

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS** — case involving financial support of children and spouses; custody/visitation matters; establishment of paternity; and protection from abuse within the family.

**JUVENILE** — cases involving children alleged to be delinquent or dependent.

**CHILD** — an individual under the age of 18 years; or under the age of 21 years who committed a delinquent act before reaching the age of 18 years; or who was adjudicated dependent before reaching the age of 18 years and requests the Court to retain jurisdiction. In no event will this jurisdiction extend past the age of 21 years.

**DELINQUENT CHILD** — a child ten years of age or older whom the Court has found to have committed a delinquent act and is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation.

**DEPENDENT CHILD** — a child under the age of 18 years found to be:

1. without proper parental care, control, subsistence or education as required by law.
2. ungovernable and in need of care, treatment or supervision.
3. habitually truant from school.
4. under the age of ten who has committed a delinquent act.

**COMMITMENT** — a child placed in the care of: Department of Human Services, private agency, institution or an individual, by order of the Court.

**CONSENT DECREE** — a court order placing the child under supervision for a period of six months with neither an adjudication of delinquency nor an admission of guilt.

**CUSTODIAN** — a person other than a parent or legal guardian, who stands in loco parentis to the child, or a person to whom legal custody of the child has been given by order of the Court.

**DELINQUENT ACT** — an act designated a crime under the laws of this State or another State if the act occurred in that State or under Federal law or local ordinances.

**DETENTION** — legal authorized confinement of a juvenile, subject to juvenile court proceedings, until committed to a correctional facility or released.

**DISPOSITION** — a final determination of a case.

**EXCEPTION** — a formal objection to the action of the Court during a hearing in which the party excepting seeks to reverse the Court's decision at a later proceeding.

**FORMAL COMPLAINT** — An affidavit submitted by an individual alleging delinquent or dependent conditions.

**HABITUAL OFFENDER** — juvenile who meets the following criteria:

Three adjudications for any charge involving Rape, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Kidnapping, Arson, Burglary, or Drug Sales

and

Commitment to a residential placement facility.

**HEARING OFFICER** — a court employee assigned to preside at domestic relations preliminary conference.

**HEARING** —

**ADJUDICATORY** — juvenile hearing to determine if child is either dependent or delinquent based on evidence presented at hearing.

**CERTIFICATION** — a hearing to determine if a juvenile should be tried as an adult in criminal court.

**DETENTION** — held within 72 hours of juvenile's detention. At this hearing a judicial determination is made as to the release or continued detention of the juvenile pending a further court hearing.

**PRE-TRIAL** — hearing held after intake interview at Youth Study Center, before a Master or Judge, at which time it is determined if the case should be disposed of or scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

**REVIEW** — involves a case already under court supervision which is returned to Court for review or amendment of the original disposition.

**HOUSE ARREST** — Juvenile who, if at large, presents a threat to the community, is restricted to his/her home according to the dictates of the Court.

**INTAKE INTERVIEW** — an informal conference presided over by an intake interviewer authorized to screen all delinquent cases to determine if the Court has jurisdiction. If the case comes under the Court's jurisdiction, the interviewer hears the facts of the case and either disposes of the case or refers it to Court. Pending the court hearing, the child is either released to the parent(s)/guardian or detained.

**INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION** — the termination of parental rights with respect to a child.

**IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN** — estrangement due to marital difficulties with no reasonable prospect of reconciliation.

**IV D PROGRAM** — a federally funded program under the Social Security Act which provides incentives and reimbursement funds to local domestic relations offices for increased efforts in collecting AFDC and non-AFDC child support monies.

**MASTER** — (a) an attorney employed by the Court to hear cases involving financial support of families; (b) one who hears cases dealing only with the economic issues in divorce cases or (c) one who presides over delinquent and dependent cases and with the consent of all parties, may conduct hearings on all matters relating to delinquent (except transfers to the Trial Division) or dependent proceedings; (d) an attorney appointed by the Court to make recommendation with respect to non-economic issues in a divorce case.

**MOTION** — an oral or written request made to a court at any time before, during, or after court proceedings, asking the Court to make a specified finding, decision, or order.

**PETITION** — a written request made to the Court asking exercise of judicial powers of the Court in relation to a specific matter.

**PERMANENT HEARING OFFICER** — see Master (a).

**PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE** — a domestic relations proceeding, in which a hearing officer, acting as a mediator, attempts to effect an agreement between both parties concerning financial support of children and spouses and/or matters involving custody/visitation of mutual children.

**PROBATION** — the placing of a delinquent child under the supervision of the Court's probation staff.

**PROBATION OFFICER** — a court employee responsible for the supervision of juvenile offenders placed on probation.

**PROTECTIVE CUSTODY** — an emergency measure taking physical custody of a child where there is reasonable cause to believe that the health or safety of the child is in imminent danger, or that the child may abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the Court.

**PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION** — supervision of dependent children by the Court's probation staff or the Department of Human Services.

**REFERRAL** —

**NEW** — family or individual's first time contact with Family Court.

**SOURCE** — person or agency formally bringing the case to the attention of the Court.

**REIMBURSEMENT ORDER** — an order of the Court directing parents to reimburse the County for care of a child committed or accepted into an agency or institution.

**RESTITUTION** — a court order directing a juvenile to reimburse his/her victim for any loss due to the juvenile's action.

**REVIEW HEARING** — see hearing.

**SUPPORT ORDER** — an order of the Court directing the defendant in a domestic relations case to pay a specified sum on a regular basis to a spouse and/or children.

**VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT** — a procedure whereby the natural parents of a child (under eighteen years) petition the Court to relinquish forever all parental rights and duties with respect to their child.