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The Juvenile Justice System
in California:
An Overview

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THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA - AN OVERVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

This report focuses on the agencies which make up the juvenile justice system: police and sheriffs' departments, probation departments, district attorneys' offices, juvenile courts, and the California Youth Authority. The functions of these agencies, how they interact, and the decisions they make about the juveniles in their charge are described. The goal common to all: to recognize and meet the needs of juveniles as well as the demands of communities concerned with the safety of their citizens.

This report provides an overview of juvenile justice. It does not address the complexities of a system that, by its very nature, requires and allows a wide variety of decisions to be made by all agencies. Included in this overview are statewide figures covering a period of eleven years. These data were obtained from annual statistical files maintained by the Bureau of Criminal Statistics and Special Services.

TYPES OF JUVENILES

Three types of juveniles fall within the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system:

1. **Law violators.** Juveniles who violate state or federal laws, or city or county ordinances (other than ordinances established only for minors) are described in Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) Section 602. These juveniles are referred to as law violators, delinquents, or "602's."

2. **Status offenders.** Juveniles who are beyond the control of parents or guardians, habitually truant, in violation of curfew ordinances, or are runaways are referred to as status offenders or "601's" and are described in W&IC Section 601. The term "status offender" is used because intervention is based solely on the juvenile's status as a minor.¹ Status offenses are acts that would not be classified as crimes if committed by adults.

3. **Dependent children.** Juveniles who are neglected, abused, etc., are referred to as dependent children and are described in W&IC Section 300. They are not addressed in this report.

POLICE AND SHERIFFS' DEPARTMENTS

A police or sheriff's department is usually the first agency within the system to come in contact with the juvenile offender. Law enforcement personnel determine if a case should be resolved at the arrest level or if it should be referred to the county probation department. The seriousness of the alleged offense and the minor's prior record are the most important factors influencing this decision. Generally, law enforcement agencies have broad discretion in handling juveniles. However, any decision they make must be consistent with W&IC Sections 626 and 626.5 which state: "In determining which disposition of the minor he or she will make, the officer shall prefer the alternative which least restricts the minor's freedom of movement, provided

that alternative is compatible with the best interests of the minor and the community."

The following options are available to law enforcement agencies:

1. **Release.** If an officer decides that a minor does not need to be referred to the probation department, the minor may be released from custody without further action as specified in W&IC Section 626. For example, a juvenile may be stopped, questioned, and reprimanded for a violation of a curfew ordinance. Release of a juvenile at this point resolves the matter-at-hand informally and further processing in the juvenile justice system is avoided. However, a release does not mean that a petition on the same matter cannot be filed at a later date.²

2. **Divert.** "Any referral to a program or project that prevents the filing of a petition is called diversion."³ After contact with a juvenile, an officer may decide that he or she is in need of assistance, but that this assistance can best be provided outside of the juvenile justice system. In this case an officer may "deliver or refer the minor to a public or private agency with which the city or county has an agreement or plan to provide shelter care, counseling, or [other] diversion services. . ." (W&IC Section 626). Diversion services are community-based alternatives to formal court processing and may include, for example, sheltered-care facilities which provide immediate, short-term housing and living needs. Diversion can occur at different points in the juvenile justice system (see "Probation Departments -

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Close or transfer a case"). In fact, some law enforcement agencies operate programs that divert selected offenders from further processing in the juvenile justice system. For example, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department operates the Youth Citation Program. In this program, all citations issued to juveniles by law enforcement officers are reviewed and a juvenile's prior record is determined. If the juvenile has not been previously arrested or cited and the current offense is a misdemeanor, he or she may be eligible for "first-time offender" counseling. After counseling, no further action is taken.

3. **Cite.** In lieu of an arrest, an officer may issue a citation which requires the juvenile and a parent or guardian to appear at a hearing at the county probation department (W&IC Section 626). In general, a citation refers to the procedure used when a juvenile is not booked by a law enforcement agency but is cited to appear later to answer for an offense for which he or she could have initially been booked.⁴ A citation may be issued for a felony, misdemeanor, or infraction. It is usually delivered to the minor and a parent or guardian and specifies the reason the minor is being requested to appear before the probation department. After a promise to appear has been given (in writing), the law enforcement officer must release the minor.

4. **Arrest.**⁵ As specified in W&IC Section 663, a juvenile may be arrested instead of cited because an officer has determined that he or she may be a danger to himself or the person or property of another. W&IC Sections 625 and 663 establish the authority by which juveniles may be arrested.⁶ Summarized, they state that an officer must have reasonable cause for believing that (1) a juvenile has committed a 601 or 602 offense, or (2) a juvenile has violated an

order of the juvenile court or has escaped from a juvenile court-ordered commitment. Once arrested, the juvenile must be advised of his constitutional rights, "...including his right to remain silent, his right to have counsel present during any interrogation, and his right to have counsel appointed if he is unable to afford counsel." After an arrest, juveniles must be taken to the probation department "without unnecessary delay" (W&IC Section 626[d]).

PROBATION DEPARTMENTS

After a juvenile has been referred to the probation department by a law enforcement agency, a school, parents, or another source, the probation officer investigates the circumstances surrounding the alleged offense. The officer also investigates the background and prior record of the juvenile and decides whether the minor should be detained at juvenile hall (prior to a

detention hearing) or released. Probation officers also file status offense petitions with the juvenile court and decide which cases involving law violations should be referred to the district attorney. (Some cases must be referred because of the seriousness of the alleged offense.) Probation departments supervise juveniles placed on probation and may also operate separate detention and commitment facilities, such as the county juvenile hall, group homes, or ranches. In addition, probation officers provide information about offenders to the court and make disposition recommendations.

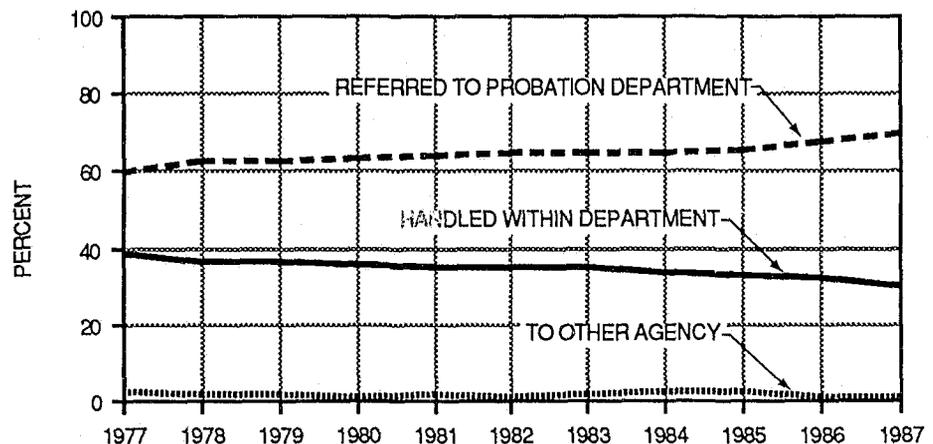
The following options are available to probation departments:

1. **Close or transfer a case.** If a charge is unfounded (groundless) or not serious, a case may be closed or a juvenile may receive a reprimand or be referred to a Youth Service Bureau or other agency that provides services not available through the probation department. All of

Chart 1

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITIONS OF JUVENILE ARRESTS, 1977-1987 Type of Disposition by Year

From 1977 to 1987 the proportion of juveniles referred to the probation department increased. The proportion of juveniles handled within the department or turned over to another agency declined during the same period.



Source: Table 1.

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these actions are referred to as "closed at intake" or "closures" because the probation officer has decided, after investigation of the case, that no other action by the probation department is necessary. Closures may also occur with very young or first-time offenders. They are also common when a juvenile already on probation commits a new offense, but the probation officer does not think that further court action is needed and decides to continue the existing probation plan. In this case, the juvenile's "prior status" is maintained.

In adult criminal cases, hearings are, with few exceptions, held in the county where the crime took place.⁷ Juvenile court proceedings, however, can begin in the county (1) where the act occurred, (2) where the minor resides, or (3) where the minor is found (W&IC Section 651). Generally, proceedings begin in the county where the act occurred, regardless of where the minor resides. If the minor resides in another county, the case is

usually transferred to that county for disposition after an adjudication in the county where the act occurred. However, these transfers are not mandatory.⁸

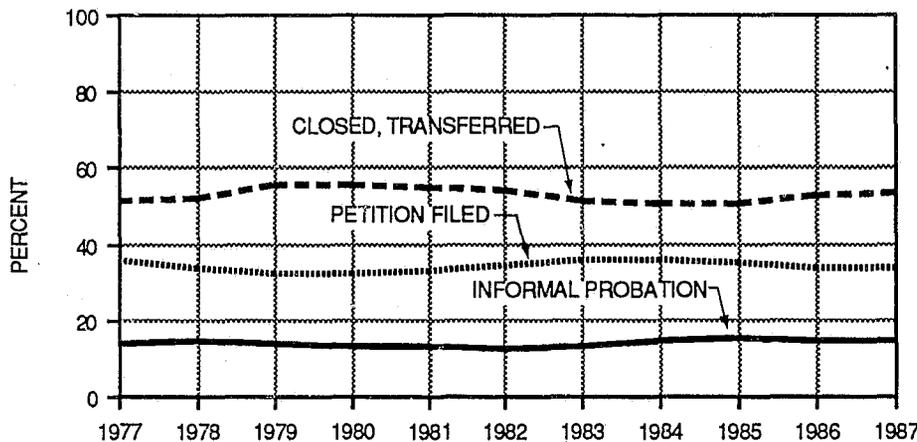
2. Place on informal probation. W&IC Section 654 establishes the basis by which probation officers, in lieu of other disposition options, may place the minor on informal probation (also referred to as informal supervision). Typically, informal probation is given a minor to avoid the formal process of filing a court petition. However, a minor may also be placed on informal probation after his or her petition has been filed and dismissed by the juvenile court. To be placed on informal probation, the consent of the parents and the minor is required. Supervision may last up to six months and include drug treatment, vocational training, placement in sheltered-care facilities or crisis resolution homes. Restitution may even be required. If the minor commits a new offense within six months or the minor does not participate

in the agreed upon programs within 60 days of referral, a petition may be filed. If informal probation is successful, no petition is requested.

3. File a petition. After investigation of a case, the probation department may decide to file a petition with the juvenile court. A petition is the formal presentation to the juvenile court of information surrounding the alleged offense. Generally, all 601 petitions are filed by the probation department. However, if a 602 petition is sought, a written summary of charges or an "affidavit" is prepared by the probation department. This affidavit is presented to the district attorney who then evaluates it and decides whether to file a petition with the juvenile court. Cases involving certain serious crimes (see W&IC Section 707(b)) committed by minors 16 years of age or older must be referred to the district attorney.⁹ The probation department in these instances cannot screen out cases before referring to the district attorney and cannot place the minor on informal probation.

Chart 2
PROBATION DEPARTMENT DISPOSITIONS OF NEW REFERRALS, 1977-1987
Type of Disposition by Year

From 1977 to 1987 the proportion of cases closed, transferred, or placed on informal probation increased slightly while the proportion of petitions filed declined slightly.



Source: Table 2.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' OFFICES

Enacted January 1, 1977, Assembly Bill 3121 requires that all 602 petitions be filed by the district attorney, who represents the state in all *delinquency* proceedings. Prior to 1977, 602 petitions were filed exclusively by the probation department. Most cases come to the attention of the district attorney as a result of a referral from the probation department. However, if the probation department does not refer the case to the district attorney within a specified period of time, the person who applied to the probation department for a petition may apply directly to the district attorney to review the decision of the probation department¹⁰ (W&IC Section 655). In both cases, the district attorney reviews

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the petitioner's request to determine whether to prosecute and, if so, what charges to bring against the minor. In all cases, the district attorney has the authority to either initiate or decline prosecution.¹¹

JUVENILE COURTS

A juvenile who has had a petition filed by either the probation department for a status offense or the district attorney's office for a law violation comes within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. The juvenile court (a part of the superior court system) is a civil, not a criminal, court. It may be presided over by a judge or by a referee; however, the decisions of a referee may be subject to review by a juvenile court judge. A juvenile may proceed through a variety of hearings while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and has a right to a defense attorney. Because there are specified legal deadlines for these hearings, the time it takes for a juvenile to be processed through juvenile court is usually much less than for an adult to be processed through criminal court.

The types of hearings are:

1. **Detention hearing.** A detention hearing is held after a petition is filed to determine whether a minor should be detained pending trial. This hearing may result in detention in a secure facility such as juvenile hall or in a nonsecure facility such as a crisis resolution home or sheltered-care facility. A juvenile may also be placed on home supervision (the minor lives at home or in the home of a relative or guardian). In order to detain a minor, the court must find that the minor is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court or that detention is necessary for the protection of the minor or of the person or property of another. The seriousness of the alleged offense may also be

considered (W&IC Section 635). A juvenile has no right to bail.

2. **Prima facie hearing.** If detained, a minor may request that a prima facie hearing be held. The court that conducted the detention hearing holds the prima facie hearing. Its purpose is to review the decision made during the detention hearing. In addition, the court must find that there is sufficient evidence¹² to prove that the minor has violated an offense described under W&IC Section 601 or 602. If the minor is successful in challenging the detention decision, he or she must be released until the jurisdictional hearing is held.¹³ If unsuccessful, the minor will be detained pending the results of the jurisdictional hearing.

3. **Fitness hearing.** Fitness hearings are held only for minors accused of 602 offenses (law violations) to determine whether they are amenable to treatment available through juvenile court facilities

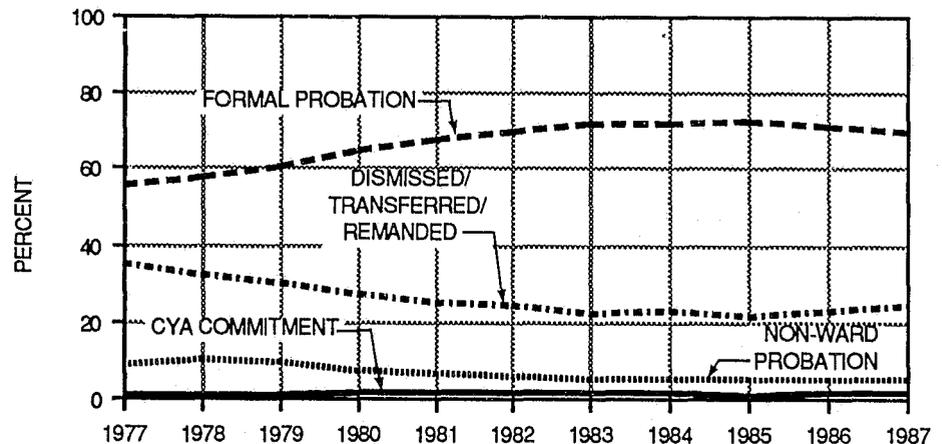
(W&IC Section 707). These proceedings are initiated at the discretion of the district attorney (W&IC Section 707[a]). A fitness hearing is usually held after the detention hearing and must be held before the jurisdictional hearing.¹⁴ W&IC Section 707(a) establishes the criteria upon which fitness determinations are based: (1) criminal sophistication, (2) likelihood of rehabilitation while under juvenile court jurisdiction, (3) history of delinquency, (4) success of efforts to rehabilitate, and (5) seriousness of the alleged offense. A determination of unfitness may be based on any one or a combination of the above factors.¹⁵ If the minor is found unfit, the juvenile court petition is dismissed and the case is referred (remanded) to adult court. If the minor is found fit, he or she remains in juvenile court. Status offenders (601's) cannot be remanded to adult court.

4. **Jurisdictional hearing.** The jurisdictional hearing is also referred to as an adjudication hearing or trial. When

Chart 3

JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS OF NEW PETITIONS, 1977-1987
Type of Disposition by Year

From 1977 to 1987 the proportion of cases dismissed, transferred, remanded to adult court, or placed on non-ward probation declined. During the same period the proportion of cases placed on formal probation or committed to the California Youth Authority increased.



Source: Table 3.

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a status offense is involved, the hearing is similar to a civil court trial, and allegations in the petition must be found true by a preponderance of evidence.¹⁶ When a 602 offense (law violation) is involved, the hearing resembles an adult criminal court trial, and allegations in the petition must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt (W&IC Section 701). Minors are entitled to most of the same rights as adult defendants, including the right to appeal juvenile court decisions and to be represented by counsel.¹⁷ However, in California minors are not entitled to a jury trial. The following may occur: (1) If the court finds that the allegations in a petition are not true, the petition is dismissed and the minor is released from any detention or other restrictions that may have been imposed. (2) If the court decides that a petition should not have been filed but that the juvenile is in need of supervision, the petition may be dismissed and the probation department ordered to place the minor on informal probation (W&IC

Section 654). (3) If the court decides that the allegations in a petition are true, the petition is sustained and a dispositional hearing is held.

5. **Dispositional hearing.** This hearing is also referred to as a sentencing hearing. Its purpose is to determine an appropriate disposition for a juvenile whose petition has been sustained by the court. The dispositional hearing may occur immediately after the jurisdictional hearing, or it may be set for a later date. The outcome of this hearing depends on the probation officer's report,¹⁸ the probation department's disposition recommendations, and other evidence presented to the court.

A dispositional hearing can result in the following:

a. **Dismissal/transfer.** W&IC Section 782 authorizes a dismissal of a petition if the court finds "... that the interests of justice and the welfare of the minor

require such dismissal, or if it finds that the minor is not in need of treatment or rehabilitation." For a discussion of transfers, see "Probation Departments - Close or transfer a case," page 2.

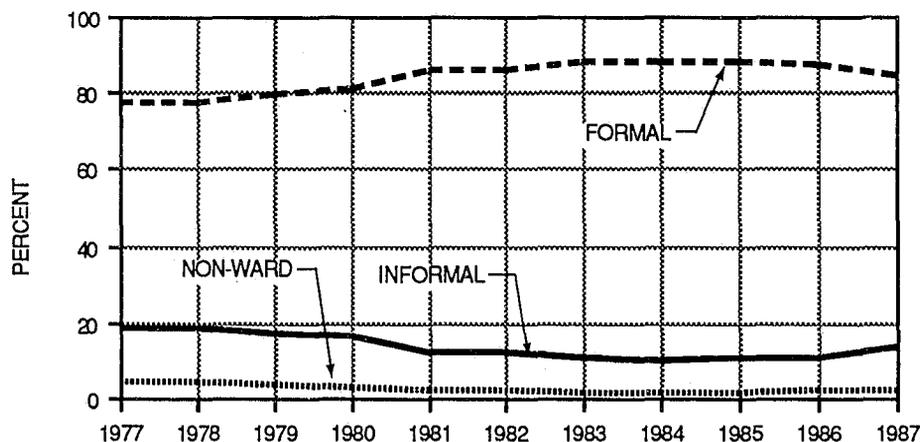
b. **Non-ward probation.** W&IC Section 725(a) authorizes the court to place a minor on probation for up to six months without becoming a ward of the court. A probation officer supervises the minor who must adhere to specified conditions of probation.

c. **Formal probation.** W&IC Section 725(b) provides that a minor can be declared a ward of the court. As a ward, a minor can remain at home (or the home of a relative or guardian) on formal probation. A violation of a condition of probation may result in a limited period of confinement outside of the home (W&IC Section 777[b]). Formal probation may also include immediate removal from the home and placement in, for example, a foster home, a county-operated ranch, or a county-operated juvenile hall. These placements are less restrictive than a commitment to the California Youth Authority but more restrictive than "at home" probation.¹⁹ Formal probation may also include restitution made to the victim or some sort of community service (W&IC Sections 726-731).

d. **California Youth Authority commitment.** A commitment to the California Youth Authority (CYA) is the most severe disposition available to the juvenile court. It is reserved for juveniles who are in most need of intense supervision and discipline. A minor declared a ward of the court and committed to CYA may not be held in physical confinement for longer than the maximum term of imprisonment which could be imposed on an adult convicted of the same offense²⁰ (W&IC Section 731). After commitment, CYA provides "... training and treatment to juvenile and young adult offenders."²¹

Chart 4
JUVENILE PROBATION CASELOAD, 1977-1987
Type of Probation by Year

From 1977 to 1987 the proportion of juveniles supervised by probation departments after placement on informal or non-ward probation declined while the proportion of juveniles supervised on formal probation increased.



Source: Table 4.

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NOTES

- 1 Anne Harris, ed., Dependent Minors: Status Offenders, Vol. II of California Juvenile Court Practice (Berkeley: California Continuing Education of the Bar, 1981), p. 219.
- 2 Henry J. Hall, Delinquent Minors, Vol. I of California Juvenile Court Practice (Berkeley: California Continuing Education of the Bar, March 1986 Supplement), p. 6.
- 3 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, Vol. I of California Juvenile Court Practice (Berkeley: California Continuing Education of the Bar, 1981), p. 37.
- 4 California Department of Justice, Standards for Monthly Arrest and Citation Register Reporting (Sacramento: State of California, April 1985), p. 13.
- 5 For this report, a distinction has been made between a citation release (statistically counted as an arrest) and the arrest of a juvenile, that is, a juvenile who is booked and taken by a police officer to the probation department. Generally, police contacts that do not require subsequent action are not considered arrests; contacts that require subsequent action are considered arrests. See California Department of Justice, Standards, pp. 12-13.
- 6 Many Welfare and Institutions Code statutes use the term "take into temporary custody" rather than "arrest," ". . .but California courts have recognized 'that taking [a juvenile] into [temporary] custody' is functionally equivalent to 'arresting' an adult." See Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, pp. 34-35.
- 7 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, p. 90.
- 8 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, p. 19.
- 9 In addition to crimes specified in W&IC Section 707(b), W&IC Section 653.5 lists additional conditions upon which cases must be referred to the district attorney.
- 10 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, pp. 23 and 390.
- 11 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, p. 399.
- 12 Technically, this sentence should read ". . .the court must find that there is prima facie evidence to prove that the minor has violated. . . ." Prima facie, however, is a legal term, complex in its definition. For readability I have chosen to use "sufficient evidence" instead, even though the legal definitions of prima facie and "sufficient evidence" differ.
- 13 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, p. 125.
- 14 "Double jeopardy" is a term used to describe the prohibition against a second prosecution after a first trial for the same offense. Because double jeopardy applies to adjudications in juvenile court, a minor may not be tried in adult court after an adjudication in juvenile court. See Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, pp. 150 and 208.
- 15 To be found *fit* when charged with W&IC Section 707(b) offenses, W&IC Section 707(c) establishes five criteria, *all* of which must be met in order for a minor to remain in juvenile court. In these cases, there is a "presumption of unfitness." See Henry J. Hall, Delinquent Minors, September 1987 Supplement, p. 43.
- 16 Anne Harris, ed., Dependent Minors: Status Offenders, p. 223.
- 17 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, pp. 26-27.
- 18 The report or "social study" contains information surrounding an offense, the prior record of a juvenile, and information about a juvenile's family. For additional information see Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, pp. 241-242.
- 19 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, pp. 27 and 254.
- 20 Anne Harris, ed., Delinquent Minors, p. 286.
- 21 California Department of the Youth Authority, Biennial Report 1984 and 1985, (Sacramento: State of California, 1986), p. 4.

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TABLE 1
LAW ENFORCEMENT DISPOSITIONS OF JUVENILE ARRESTS,^a 1977-1987
 Type of Disposition

Year	Type of disposition ^b							
	Total		Handled within department		To other agency		Referred to probation department	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1987	223,611	100.0	67,116	30.0	1,497	.7	154,998	69.3
1986	235,830	100.0	74,484	31.6	2,442	1.0	158,954	67.4
1985	230,961	100.0	75,423	32.7	4,791	2.1	150,747	65.3
1984	222,047	100.0	73,577	33.1	4,863	2.2	143,607	64.7
1983	218,126	100.0	75,333	34.5	2,427	1.1	140,366	64.4
1982	243,249	100.0	84,653	34.8	2,375	1.0	156,221	64.2
1981	265,870	100.0	93,065	35.0	2,960	1.1	169,845	63.9
1980	282,526	100.0	100,547	35.6	2,870	1.0	179,109	63.4
1979	294,552	100.0	106,480	36.1	4,170	1.4	183,902	62.4
1978	284,203	100.0	102,747	36.2	4,823	1.7	176,633	62.2
1977	311,643	100.0	119,536	38.4	5,819	1.9	186,288	59.8

^a This table includes citations which are issued in lieu of arrests.

^b Once arrested (or cited in lieu of an arrest) the law enforcement agency may (1) handle the matter within the department or use an informal "diversion" program, (2) release the minor to another jurisdiction because the arrest was made on another law enforcement agency's warrant, or (3) refer the juvenile to the probation department.

Notes: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Divisions may be counted in the "handled within department" category.

TABLE 2
PROBATION DEPARTMENT DISPOSITIONS OF NEW REFERRALS,^a 1977-1987
 Type of Disposition

Year	Type of disposition							
	Total		Closed, transferred		Informal probation		Petition filed ^b	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1987	124,385	100.0	66,064	53.1	17,238	13.9	41,083	33.0
1986	124,838	100.0	65,632	52.6	17,363	13.9	41,843	33.5
1985	120,468	100.0	61,022	50.7	17,654	14.7	41,792	34.7
1984	113,522	100.0	57,444	50.6	15,769	13.9	40,309	35.5
1983	116,893	100.0	59,728	51.1	15,313	13.1	41,852	35.8
1982	126,181	100.0	67,607	53.6	15,411	12.2	43,163	34.2
1981	139,205	100.0	76,140	54.7	17,441	12.5	45,624	32.8
1980	144,268	100.0	79,404	55.0	18,453	12.8	46,411	32.2
1979	145,863	100.0	80,180	55.0	19,239	13.2	46,444	31.8
1978	142,975	100.0	74,440	52.1	20,481	14.3	48,054	33.6
1977	149,215	100.0	76,192	51.1	20,493	13.7	52,530	35.2

^a The term "new referral" means that the juvenile was not on probation or parole at the time of referral. This does not mean that the juvenile has not had previous contact with the juvenile justice system. The term "subsequent referral" means that the juvenile was on probation or parole at the time of referral to a probation department. All 58 county probation departments report complete new referral data. However, some departments were unable to modify pre-1980 automated reporting programs to include certain types of subsequent referral information. For this reason, only new referral data are included in this table.

^b The "petition filed" category includes both 601 and 602 offenses.

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

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TABLE 3
JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS OF NEW PETITIONS,^a 1977-1987
 Type of Disposition

Year	Type of disposition									
	Total ^b		Dismissed, transferred, remanded to adult court		Non-ward probation ^c		Formal probation		CYA commitment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1987	41,083	100.0	9,976	24.3	1,980	4.8	28,540	69.5	587	1.4
1986	41,843	100.0	9,593	22.9	2,012	4.8	29,698	71.0	540	1.3
1985	41,792	100.0	8,970	21.5	2,178	5.2	30,231	72.3	413	1.0
1984	40,309	100.0	9,011	22.4	2,047	5.1	28,785	71.4	466	1.2
1983	41,852	100.0	9,133	21.8	2,122	5.1	30,097	71.9	500	1.2
1982	43,163	100.0	10,376	24.0	2,337	5.4	29,890	69.2	560	1.3
1981	45,624	100.0	11,428	25.0	2,770	6.1	30,805	67.5	621	1.4
1980	46,750	100.0	12,726	27.2	3,467	7.4	30,022	64.2	535	1.1
1979	48,133	100.0	14,199	29.5	4,344	9.0	29,120	60.5	470	1.0
1978	48,744	100.0	15,575	32.0	4,709	9.7	27,981	57.4	479	1.0
1977	52,998	100.0	18,596	35.1	4,617	8.7	29,336	55.4	449	.8

^a The term "new petition" means that the juvenile was not on probation or parole at the time the petition was filed in juvenile court. This does not mean that the juvenile has not previously had a petition filed. The term "subsequent petition" means that the juvenile was already under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at the time a petition was filed. All 58 county probation departments report complete new petition data. However, some departments were unable to modify pre-1980 automated reporting programs to include certain types of subsequent petition information. For this reason, only new petition data are included in this table.

^b These totals include remands to adult court, which occur during fitness hearings.

^c This category includes both 654 and 725(a) Welfare and Institutions Codes.

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

TABLE 4
JUVENILE PROBATION CASELOAD,^a 1977-1987
 Type of Probation

Year	Type of probation							
	Total ^b		Informal		Non-ward		Formal	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1987	63,903	100.0	8,588	13.4	1,359	2.1	53,956	84.4
1986	61,644	100.0	6,332	10.3	1,376	2.2	53,936	87.5
1985	78,812	100.0	8,543	10.8	1,242	1.6	69,027	87.6
1984	71,386	100.0	7,291	10.2	1,132	1.6	62,963	88.2
1983	67,236	100.0	6,999	10.4	1,132	1.7	59,105	87.9
1982	60,612	100.0	7,430	12.3	1,105	1.8	52,077	85.9
1981	54,609	100.0	6,742	12.3	1,142	2.1	46,725	85.6
1980	57,910	100.0	9,608	16.6	1,431	2.5	46,871	80.9
1979	57,058	100.0	9,689	17.0	2,124	3.7	45,245	79.3
1978	53,894	100.0	9,751	18.1	2,374	4.4	41,769	77.5
1977	53,322	100.0	9,762	18.3	2,246	4.2	41,314	77.5

^a Juveniles are supervised by county probation departments after placement on informal, non-ward, or formal probation. Informal and non-ward probation cannot exceed six months. As a ward of the court, a juvenile may be placed on formal probation for an indeterminate length of time. A count of the number of juveniles on probation (caseload count) is taken on December 31 of each year.

^b Cases pending court actions are not included.

Notes: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

In 1986, BCS developed a new one-day survey form to collect juvenile probation caseload counts. Prior to 1986, these data were developed programmatically from transactions reported by probation departments.

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