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Sourcebook
of
Justice Data and
Statistics
in New Jersey

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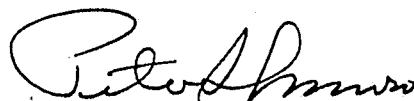
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Martin J. Hodanish

December, 1993

Dear Colleague:

Over the last several years, the Juvenile Delinquency Commission's *Profile* series has provided sound analysis of New Jersey's juvenile justice system. The series often serves as an initiation point for subsequent policy development. *Profile 93* continues this tradition.

In our complex and often disjointed juvenile justice system, the Commission's role of oversight, analysis and information dissemination is more important than ever. As legislative members of the Commission, we hope you find this year's edition useful.



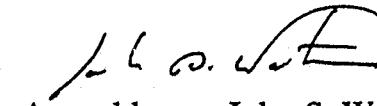
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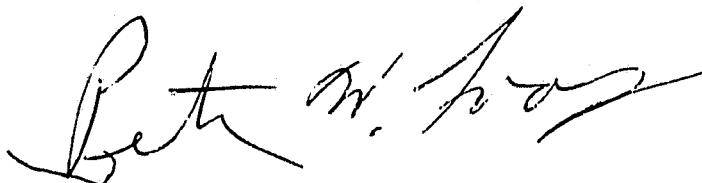
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Some findings contained in this edition of *Profile*:

- ✓ Juvenile delinquency continues to be a major problem in New Jersey; we are ranked 5th in the nation in number of juvenile arrests and 4th in arrest rate for serious violent crime. With 88,790 juvenile arrests in 1992, over one in every five arrests in New Jersey is a juvenile arrest.
- ✓ Juvenile arrests for murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault (the "violent Index offenses") have increased 34% since 1988, despite a 1% decline in 1992.
- ✓ Juvenile drug arrests rose by 7% in 1992, following a three year decline.
- ✓ The locus of arrests for serious juvenile crime, especially violent crime, is our urban centers. New Jersey's six most populated cities account for 37% of juvenile arrests for serious violent crime and 54% of juvenile arrests for selling drugs.
- ✓ There were nearly 12,000 juveniles detained in county detention facilities in 1992, a rise of 8% over the previous year. Our county-based detention system is becoming increasingly overcrowded.
- ✓ Probation continues to be the most widely used disposition, used in almost three in every five adjudicated cases.
- ✓ We handle delinquency cases in a variety of ways at all points in the system, with "diversion" continuing as an important strategy. The courts divert about 45% of the delinquency cases they handle.
- ✓ Minority overrepresentation at all points of the juvenile justice system continues, particularly in our training schools. Minority youth comprise well over 90% of our state training school population and 84% of all admissions to county detention facilities. A factor contributing to overrepresentation is the lack of adequate dispositional options.
- ✓ The closing of the Lloyd McCorkle Training School, along with a 6% increase in commitments (more than 1,000 in 1992) has contributed to our two remaining institutions being over capacity for 1992 and so far in 1993 – something to watch carefully.
- ✓ In an important reorganization of correctional responsibility, the Department of Human Services now operates state-run residential and day programs. This reorganization, along with an emerging redefinition of state and local roles in dealing with delinquency, promises to be a significant first step in "reinventing" our juvenile justice system.



Peter W. Loos
Chairman



Ty Hodanish
Executive Director

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Reinventing New Jersey's Juvenile Justice System – A Thinkpiece

We should "reinvent" our juvenile justice system! Recent thinking about reinventing government provides a model. And the model is consistent with many of the findings and recommendations of the Commission and others who have studied the system.

One of the most popular governmental themes of the 1990s is "reinventing government," a theme that responds to a growing disenchantment with government's inability to perform well. The concept suggests that government can perform more efficiently and effectively by following some simple rules – rules like encouraging competition in the delivery of services, viewing the citizen as a consumer, investing in prevention as well as in cures, empowering communities to solve problems and focusing governmental investments on programs that can dem-

The "reinventing government" movement has an important message for juvenile justice.

onstrate positive results. The reinventing government movement has an important message for juvenile justice.

IMPROVED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Community empowerment is a good example of where the reinvention theme hits home. Critics of the juvenile system see it as largely ineffective and unable to curtail juvenile crime. Arrest statistics appear to support this criticism. In 1992, there were almost 89,000 juvenile arrests in New Jersey. Over one in every five arrests is a juvenile arrest. Arrests for violent offenses have been on the rise.

In the past, we have looked to the juvenile justice system to control crime. But it's time we realize that law enforcement, the courts and corrections officials cannot, by themselves, significantly reduce crime or delinquency. We need a different approach. We must empower citizens to develop effective community approaches.

Law enforcement, the courts and corrections cannot, by themselves, significantly reduce delinquency. We must empower communities to develop effective approaches.

The family, school and local community are the primary instruments of socialization and delinquency control. Our efforts must focus here. This realization has led the Commission to recommend focusing delinquency prevention and control efforts at the local level, providing incentives to encourage these efforts, supporting local Youth Services Commissions and redirecting the state's policy to favor a "bottom-up" approach. But the message has not yet resulted in a coherent state policy.

The state must focus delinquency prevention and control efforts at the local level.

PREVENTION

The reinventing theme also stresses that prevention is preferable to cure, and considerably less expensive. It does not make sense to only wait until a juvenile commits a delinquent act, then rev up the system to apprehend, prosecute and adjudicate. All our public policies should focus on prevention.

A recent Commission symposium noted, for example, that many inner-city youth treated in public health clinics and emergency rooms as victims of violence would themselves become perpetrators of similar violence, often within several years. Early intervention with these youth by the public health

system could help curtail future problems. This is just one example of where targeted prevention could work ... and save dollars in the process!

RESPONSIVENESS TO THE CONSUMER

Reinventing government also focuses on "consumer-oriented" approaches, a concept almost foreign to our juvenile justice system. In our current system, delinquent youth are likely to be referred to whatever program is available rather than to one designed to meet their needs.

A consumer driven system would focus on juveniles' needs rather than on agency imperatives.

Programs are often designed to meet the needs and expertise of existing agencies and bureaucracies rather than correspond to the actual needs of particular youths. The result is that delinquent youth often do not get the interventions they need. At best, we waste resources. Intervening in the wrong way can also make problems worse. This is why we need early screening, expanded dispositional options and a continuum of options driven by "consumer" needs rather than by agency preferences.

AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

An investment strategy that focuses on positive results is an equally important challenge. We have a poor track record in this area. Evaluation is seldom stressed and the actual impact of many of our efforts and reforms is simply unknown. That is why our last *Profile* report called for increased agency and pro-

gram accountability, well-defined and measurable objectives and goals, and routine evaluation of all new initiatives and statutes.

THE ROLE OF COMPETITION

The concept of competition is central to the reinventing government theme. It is, unfortunately, another concept almost foreign to juvenile justice. Competition based on demonstrated results and "privatization" could introduce significant improvements to the system, particularly in the delivery of intervention strategies. And it goes hand-in-hand with the notion of an investment strategy.

The prognosis for "reinventing" juvenile justice is promising, if we keep our eye on the ball!

Can we "reinvent" our juvenile justice system using some of these principles? The prognosis is promising if we keep our eye on the ball! The reforms incorporated in the 1983 Juvenile Code point us in the right direction. The family court is geared in part toward prevention. The Code provisions stressing local efforts in planning for the needs of court-involved and at-risk youth seek to empower the local community. The recent executive branch Juvenile Justice Reorganization holds great promise for creating more dispositional options and for focusing effort at the local level. The Department of Human Services can play a significant role in the "reinvention" process. And the oversight and analysis performed by the Juvenile Delinquency Commission will continue to encourage accountability in the system.

JUVENILE ARRESTS

JUVENILE ARREST DATA AT A GLANCE

- ✓ There were almost 89,000 juvenile arrests in New Jersey in 1992, a 1% decline from the previous year.
- ✓ Juveniles now account for over one in every five (22%) arrests in the state.
- ✓ New Jersey ranks 5th in the nation in the total number of juvenile arrests and 4th in the arrest rate for serious violent offenses.
- ✓ Counteracting a rapid 3 year increase, arrests for violent Index offenses (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) declined by 1% in 1992.
- ✓ Drug arrests rose almost 7% in 1992, following a 3 year decline.
- ✓ Over the past ten years, the total number of juvenile arrests actually declined, by over 10%. Rather than reflecting a decreasing prevalence of juvenile crime, it should be seen in the context of a 17% drop in youth population during the same interval.
- ✓ In 1992, New Jersey's six most populated cities (with about 14% of the youth population) accounted for 37% of juvenile arrests for serious violent crime and 54% of arrests for selling drugs.
- ✓ The typical juvenile arrested in 1992 was a 17 year old white male.

JUVENILE ARRESTS

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) published yearly by the State Police provides our best available information on juvenile crime, in the form of arrests. But due to the well-known limitations of arrest data, UCR figures do not fully capture the incidence of delinquent activity. For example, many delinquent acts go undetected, and changing official policies and practices influence the number and kinds of arrests over time.

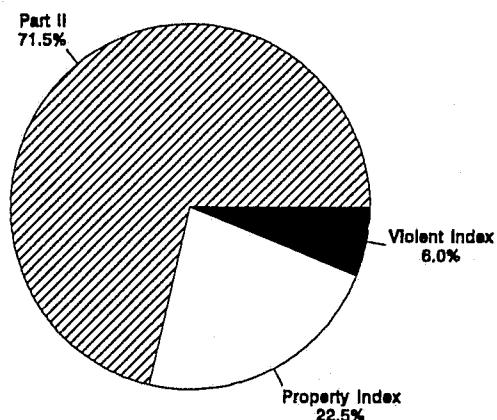
As reflected in official UCR statistics, there were 88,790 juvenile arrests in 1992. New Jersey ranks high relative to other states in its rate of arresting juveniles – especially in arrests for serious violent offenses. New Jersey recently ranked an estimated 5th in the nation in juvenile arrests and 4th in the rate of violent Index arrests.

The teen years appear to be the most crime-prone years, as reflected in arrest statistics. Taken as a group, juveniles accounted for more than one in every five (21.8%) arrests and an even greater share of arrests for serious offenses (e.g., 24.3% of all arrests for violent Index offenses). In all, there was more than one juvenile arrest for every ten youths in the state, ages 10 to 17.

Juveniles commit a wide variety of offenses, ranging from robbery and aggravated assault to vandalism and disorderly conduct. The UCR categorizes offenses as either "Index" or "Part II" offenses. Index offenses include serious violent offenses (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and property offenses (burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft). All others are referred to as Part II offenses.

While the majority of juvenile arrests in 1992 were for the Part II offenses, 25,331 (28.5%) were for Index offenses (including 22.5% for property offenses and 6.0% for violent offenses). Examining arrests in terms of juvenile population, the total juvenile arrest rate was 114 arrests per one thousand juveniles ages 10 to 17. For the specific types of offenses just described, the arrest rates per thousand were as follows: Part II offenses, 81; Index offenses, 32; property Index, 26; and violent Index, 6.8. See Table 1, appended, for a breakdown of these rates by county.

Juvenile Arrests by Type of Offense
1992



The five most common offense arrest categories in 1992 were: larceny-theft (15.7%), disorderly conduct (11.5%), simple assault (10.8%), malicious mischief (8.9%) and drug abuse violations (5.8%). Together they accounted for just over half (52.8%) of all arrests. An additional five categories (possessing/receiving stolen property, burglary, liquor law violations, aggravated assault and weapons offenses) combined with the "top 5" for a total share of 73.2% of all juvenile arrests.

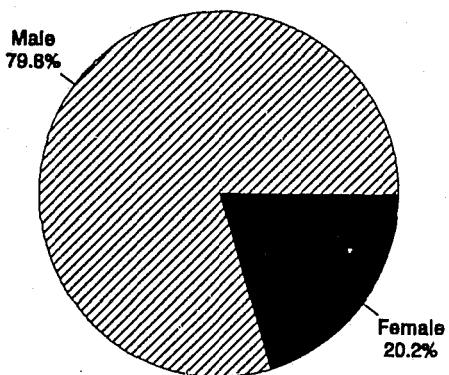
THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF ARREST

The typical juvenile arrested in 1992 was a 17 year old white male. Recent demographic patterns of arrests have remained fairly stable over time, with some important exceptions.

Gender. Males account for a large majority of juvenile arrests:

- In 1992, males accounted for about four of every five (79.8%) arrests.
- Gender differences were even greater for more serious offenses. Females accounted for only 14.0% of all arrests for violent Index offenses. But there has been a substantial change over the ten year period of 1983 to 1992, during which time female arrests rose 41.6% while male arrests decreased by 8.4%. In 1983, females accounted for only 9.5% of the arrests for serious violent offenses.

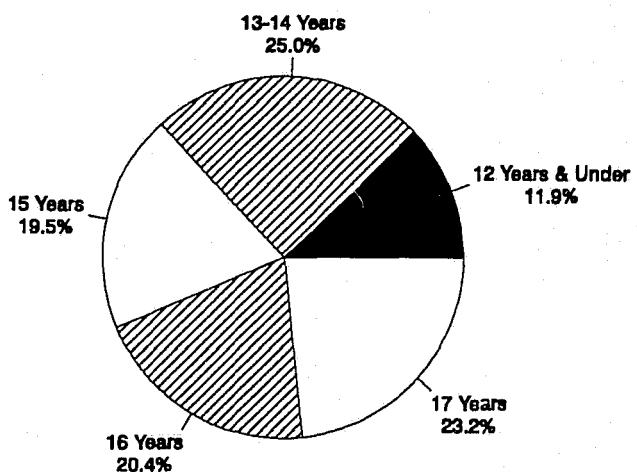
Gender



Age. Delinquency patterns also vary across age groups, with older juveniles more prone to arrest:

- In 1992, seventeen year olds remained the most arrest-prone age group, accounting for 23.2% of juvenile arrests. Fifteen to seventeen year olds accounted for a large majority of arrests, 63.1%.
- Focusing solely on violent Index offenses, 17 year olds comprised a 25.4% share of juvenile arrests; and the 15 to 17 year olds combined for 67.5% of these arrests.

Age

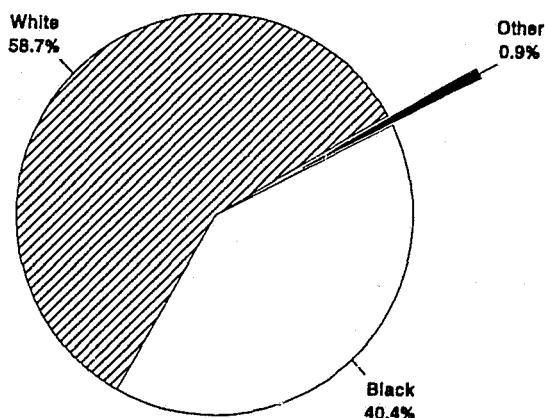


- Juveniles 12 and younger accounted for only 11.9% of all juvenile arrests (slightly lower than the figure of 12.3% in 1983). Their share of all violent Index offenses was even lower, 8.3%.

Race/Ethnicity.¹ While white youths account for most arrests, minority arrests continue at rates dis-

proportionate to their presence in the overall youth population:

Race



- In 1992, white youths accounted for 58.7% of all juvenile arrests, down from 67.9% in 1983.
- Black youths accounted for 40.4% of all arrests. They accounted for a similar share of Index offenses (43.3%) and more than six in ten (61.5%) arrests for violent Index offenses. By comparison, black youths accounted for a lower portion (31.9%) of all arrests but a higher portion of violent Index arrests (69.4%) in 1983.
- Hispanic youths accounted for 13.0% of all juvenile arrests in 1992, compared with only 8.3% in 1983. In 1992, this figure included 12.9% of Index arrests and 16.2% of violent Index arrests (and 10.4% and 11.4%, respectively, for 1983).

Where are Delinquency Arrests Found? Delinquency occurs everywhere in New Jersey. However, a majority of all juvenile arrests occur in a handful of counties. This is especially true for the most serious offenses. In 1992, the six counties (in order of magnitude) of Essex, Bergen, Union, Hudson, Monmouth and Middlesex accounted for about half (49.9%) of all juvenile arrests. In contrast, Hunterdon, Warren, Salem, Sussex, Cape May and Gloucester counties accounted for only 8.1%.

The concentration of arrests was most evident for the most serious (i.e., violent Index) offenses. The six counties of Essex, Hudson, Camden, Passaic, Atlantic and Bergen accounted for nearly two-thirds (65.3%) of arrests for these serious offenses. Essex and Hudson counties alone accounted for 41.5%. Note that these six counties comprise about 43% of

the total 10 to 17 population. In contrast, the nine counties of Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex, Salem, Cape May, Somerset, Morris, Gloucester and Ocean accounted for only 9.2% (and about 24% of the youth population).

Serious violent crime among youth is predominantly an urban phenomenon in New Jersey. Our six most populated cities (Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Trenton) contain about 14% of the state's under 18 population. In 1992, these six cities together accounted for 18.2% of the state's juvenile arrests. In addition, they accounted for 17.0% of the Index arrests and 37.2% of arrests for violent Index offenses (see Table 2, appended). The cities of Jersey City and Newark alone accounted for more than one-quarter (25.6%) of all juvenile arrests for serious violent crimes.

The cities have also been the locus of much of the recent drug problem (at least as measured by arrest statistics). The "big six" cities named above combined for 44.2% of the state's juvenile drug arrests — 36.9% of the arrests for use/possession of drugs and more than half (53.6%) of the arrests for drug sales/distribution.

ARREST PATTERNS AND TRENDS

It is useful to examine current arrest statistics in the context of changes over time. Below, we examine short and long term trends.

1992 vs. 1991. The number of juvenile arrests in 1992 decreased slightly, down by 1.1%, compared with 1991. Arrests for Part II offenses showed a slight rise of 0.6% while arrests for Index offenses declined 5.1% in 1992. More specifically, arrests for property Index offenses declined by 6.0% and violent Index offenses by 1.4%.

There were some notable changes within specific offense types (see Table 3, appended). Arrests for four of the seven Index offenses decreased including motor vehicle theft (-18.3%), burglary (-7.9%), robbery (-6.5%) and larceny-theft (-3.7%). Arrests for the other three (each a violent Index offense) rose; specifically, the relatively uncommon offenses of murder (+10.2%) and rape (+4.9%), and the much larger category of aggravated assault (+1.4%).

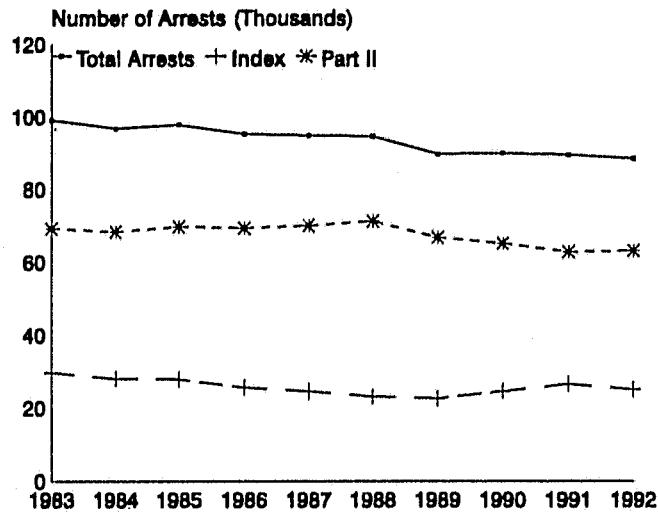
In addition, arrests for weapons offenses rose 15.7% while drug arrests rose 6.9%. Among the

declines, and one consistent with the drop in motor vehicle theft arrests, was an 11.4% decline in arrests for possessing/receiving stolen property, an offense with which juveniles are often charged in auto theft-related cases.

The Ten Year Trend (1983-1992). There has been a fairly steady downturn in juvenile arrests over ten years. Overall, juvenile arrests are down 10.5%. Since 1989, however, the number has remained relatively stable. Note that this ten year decline was accompanied by an even larger drop of about 17% in the youth population, ages 10 to 17. As a result, the juvenile arrest rate rose somewhat during this period, from 106 to 114 arrests per 1,000 juveniles.

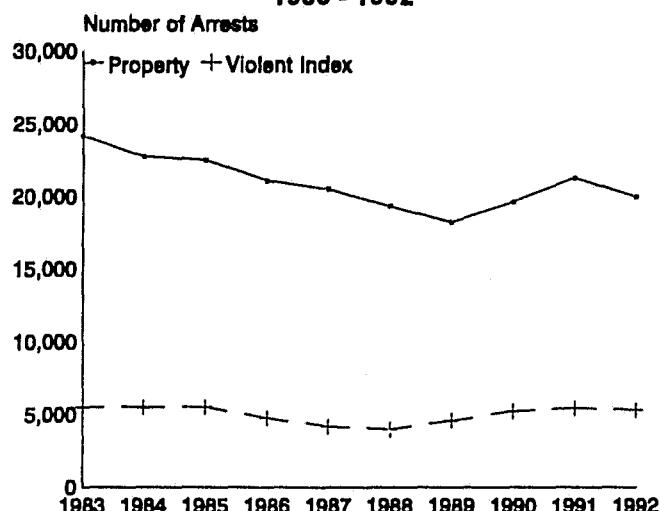
The ten year decline in arrests includes an 8.6% drop for Part II offenses and a 14.8% decrease for Index offenses. Specifically, there was a 17.3% decline for property Index offenses and a 3.6% decline for violent Index offenses during the 1983 to 1992 period. The trend since the late 1980s is up, both for property and violent Index offenses, despite the decline in 1992. Juvenile arrests for violent Index offenses have risen 33.9% since 1988.

Juvenile Arrest Trends 1983 - 1992



Again, within the context of juvenile population, changes in arrest rates for the particular offense types were as follows: Part II – up from 74 to 81 (per thousand); Index – remained at 32; property Index – remained at 26; and violent Index – up from 5.9 to 6.8.

Juvenile Arrests by Type of Index Offense 1983 - 1992



Changing Arrest Patterns in the Counties

1992 vs. 1991. Most counties experienced a decline in juvenile arrests in 1992, with the greatest drop in arrests in Cumberland County (-21.0%). The seven counties experiencing growth in juvenile arrests were Ocean (27.5%), Atlantic (14.2%), Sussex (10.7%), Gloucester (9.8%), Mercer (9.7%), Bergen (1.7%) and Middlesex (1.3%).

The Ten Year Trend. Most counties experienced a decline in juvenile arrests over the ten year period of 1983 to 1992. Bergen and Sussex counties had the greatest drop (-29.6%). The seven counties experiencing a growth in juvenile arrests were: Cumberland (74.7%), Atlantic (43.7%), Cape May (38.4%), Somerset (13.2%), Salem (3.9%), Gloucester (2.9%) and Camden (0.5%).

A different picture emerges when we focus on arrests for serious violent offenses. Fourteen of the 21 counties showed an increase over ten years. The increases were as follows: Cumberland (259.7%), Cape May (188.9%), Gloucester (104.5%), Atlantic (102.0%), Bergen (82.6%), Ocean (58.0%), Mercer (40.7%), Somerset (39.3%), Middlesex (39.0%), Morris (35.5%), Burlington (24.3%), Salem (24.0%), Sussex (23.1%) and Camden (9.1%). Those with the greatest decreases were Warren (-42.9%), Essex (-31.5%) and Passaic (-31.2%) counties.

While the statewide youth population decreased about 17% over ten years, this change varied by county. A comparison of 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census figures (post-1990 census estimates are not yet available for counties) reveals that each of our 21

counties' youth populations declined except for Ocean County which remained virtually unchanged. The greatest decreases in population occurred in Bergen and Essex counties (-30%). Additional county change figures are provided in the section notes below.²

Trends in Juvenile Drug Arrests

Juvenile drug arrests rose 6.9% in 1992. This followed a three year decline in drug arrests of 46.2%. Juvenile drug arrests fluctuated greatly during the 1983 to 1992 period, largely due to changing enforcement patterns tied to new drug laws beginning in 1987. Overall, juvenile drug arrests declined 7.5% between 1983 and 1992.

There are two basic categories of drug arrests – arrests for possession and arrests for sales/distribution. The 1991-1992 change in the number of drug arrests varied by type of arrest. Juvenile arrests for possession rose 18.9% while arrests for sales/distribution declined by 5.5%. This reverses a recent trend of increasing arrests for drug sales relative to possession. Drug sales jumped from a 25.3% share of all drug arrests in 1986 to a high of 49.3% in 1991 before declining somewhat to 43.6% in 1992.

As we mentioned in an earlier section, juvenile drug arrests occur disproportionately in our larger urban areas. Consequently, the racial/ethnic composition of those arrested is largely minority. Statewide, in 1992, black youths accounted for 64.0% of all drug arrests, down from 68.5% for the prior year, but well over double the figure for 1983 (25.7%). More specifically, in 1992, black youths were arrested for 54.7% of arrests for possession and 76.0% of arrests for sales/distribution.

Notes:

1. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, African Americans comprise 16.9% of New Jersey's under 18 population. Hispanics (who are categorized as either white (primarily), black or other races) comprise 12.4% of the under 18 population. While whites account for 73.3% of the under 18 population, the figure for white non-Hispanics (i.e., the nonminority group) is 66.9%.

2. The estimated changes in youth population (ages 10 to 17) for counties were as follows: Atlantic (-16%), Bergen (-30%), Burlington (-24%), Camden (-16%), Cape May (-12%), Cumberland (-19%), Essex (-30%), Gloucester (-10%), Hudson (-24%), Hunterdon (-17%), Mercer (-25%), Middlesex (-27%), Monmouth (-20%), Morris (-29%), Ocean (0%), Passaic (-23%), Salem (-16%), Somerset (-24%), Sussex (-10%), Union (-28%) and Warren (-20%).

TABLE 1
JUVENILE ARREST RATES PER 1,000 YOUTHS BY TYPE AND COUNTY
1992

	1990 Population 10-17	Total Arrests	Total Arrest Rate	Index Arrests	Index Rate	Violent Index Arrests	Violent Index Rate	Property Index Arrests	Property Index Rate	Part II Arrests	Part II Rate
Atlantic	21,404	4,141	193.5	1,258	58.8	301	14.1	957	44.7	2,883	134.7
Bergen	74,333	7,412	99.7	1,667	22.4	294	4.0	1,373	18.5	5,745	77.3
Burlington	41,864	3,175	75.8	1,044	24.9	143	3.4	901	21.5	2,131	50.9
Camden	55,682	5,535	99.4	2,043	36.7	347	6.2	1,696	30.5	3,492	62.7
Cape May	8,652	2,055	237.5	495	57.2	52	6.0	443	51.2	1,560	180.3
Cumberland	15,830	3,117	196.9	1,064	67.2	223	14.1	841	53.1	2,053	129.7
Essex	83,185	12,066	145.1	2,989	35.9	1,218	14.6	1,771	21.3	9,077	109.1
Gloucester	26,398	2,309	87.5	723	27.4	90	3.4	633	24.0	1,586	60.1
Hudson	53,233	6,268	117.7	2,141	40.2	993	18.7	1,148	21.6	4,127	77.5
Hunterdon	11,079	554	50.0	150	13.5	5	0.5	145	13.1	404	36.5
Mercer	31,175	5,091	163.3	1,595	51.2	273	8.8	1,322	42.4	3,496	112.1
Middlesex	60,627	5,709	94.2	1,743	28.7	239	3.9	1,504	24.8	3,966	65.4
Monmouth	58,703	6,182	105.3	1,759	30.0	222	3.8	1,537	26.2	4,423	75.3
Morris	42,713	2,845	66.6	673	15.8	84	2.0	589	13.8	2,172	50.9
Ocean	41,852	5,459	130.4	2,062	49.3	128	3.1	1,934	46.2	3,397	81.2
Passaic	46,640	5,153	110.5	1,247	26.7	324	6.9	923	19.8	3,906	83.7
Salem	7,718	747	96.8	271	35.1	31	4.0	240	31.1	476	61.7
Somerset	22,013	2,750	124.9	659	29.9	78	3.5	581	26.4	2,091	95.0
Sussex	15,223	756	49.7	259	17.0	16	1.1	243	16.0	497	32.6
Union	46,133	6,630	143.7	1,253	27.2	259	5.6	994	21.5	5,377	116.6
Warren	9,324	728	78.1	234	25.1	8	0.9	226	24.2	494	53.0
STATE TOTAL*	773,781	88,682	114.6	25,329	32.7	5,328	6.9	20,001	25.8	63,352	81.9

* Some of the state totals which are based on aggregating county figures are slightly lower than actual statewide figures provided in the text. In some arrest cases involving state, federal or interstate agencies the appropriate county jurisdiction has not been identified. The arrest rates in the text utilize 1992 state population estimates from the New Jersey Department of Labor; county figures are not available beyond 1990.

Source: State of New Jersey, Division of State Police, Crime in New Jersey, Uniform Crime Report (1992).

TABLE 2
JUVENILE ARRESTS IN NEW JERSEY CITIES, 1992

	State Total	The "Big 6"	% of State Total	The "Urban 15"	% of State Total
Murder	54	36	66.7%	45	83.3%
Rape	236	90	38.1%	114	48.3%
Robbery	1,941	845	43.5%	1,055	54.4%
Aggravated Assault	3,097	1,013	32.7%	1,403	45.3%
Burglary	4,318	526	12.2%	1,050	24.3%
Larceny-Theft	13,959	1,158	8.3%	2,549	18.3%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,726	630	36.5%	747	43.3%
Manslaughter	3	3	100.0%	3	100.0%
Simple Assault	9,604	1,822	19.0%	2,875	29.9%
Arson	342	27	7.9%	125	36.5%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	84	17	20.2%	21	25.0%
Fraud	224	20	8.9%	36	16.1%
Embezzlement	6	1	16.7%	1	16.7%
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing, etc.	4,587	2,005	43.7%	2,374	51.8%
Criminal/Malicious Mischief	7,902	940	11.9%	1,549	19.6%
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2,563	507	19.8%	795	31.0%
Prostitution & Commercialized Vice	21	6	28.6%	7	33.3%
Sex Offenses (Except Rape & Prostitution)	481	107	22.2%	149	31.0%
Drug Abuse Violations	5,149	2,276	44.2%	2,790	54.2%
Gambling	78	3	3.8%	8	10.3%
Offenses Against Family & Children	46	0	0.0%	1	2.2%
Driving Under the Influence	212	4	1.9%	14	6.6%
Liquor Laws	3,535	61	1.7%	164	4.6%
Disorderly Conduct	10,245	1,543	15.1%	2,586	25.2%
Vagrancy	44	12	27.3%	12	27.3%
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	10,741	951	8.9%	1,528	14.2%
Curfew & Loitering Law Violations	1,950	295	15.1%	342	17.5%
Runaways	5,642	1,254	22.2%	2,582	45.8%
Violent Index	5,328	1,984	37.2%	2,617	49.1%
Property Index	20,003	2,314	11.6%	4,346	21.7%
Index	25,331	4,298	17.0%	6,963	27.5%
Part II	63,459	11,854	18.7%	17,962	28.3%
TOTAL	88,790	16,152	18.2%	24,925	28.1%

The "Big 6" includes Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and Trenton. The "Urban 15" includes the "Big 6" and Bayonne, Clifton, Dover Township, East Orange, Irvington (town), Passaic, Union City, Vineland and Woodbridge. According to the 1990 Census, the "Big 6" accounts for 14.3% and the "Urban 15" 22.1% of the under 18 population.

Source: State of New Jersey, Division of State Police.

TABLE 3
TRENDS IN JUVENILE ARRESTS BY OFFENSE
1983 – 1992

	1983	1984	83-84 %Chng	1985	84-85 %Chng	1986	85-86 %Chng	1987	86-87 %Chng	83-87 %Chng	1988	87-88 %Chng	1989	88-89 %Chng	1990	89-90 %Chng	1991	90-91 %Chng	1992	91-92 %Chng	83-92 %Chng
Murder	41	28	-31.7%	43	53.6%	30	-30.2%	35	16.7%	-14.6%	37	5.7%	38	2.7%	51	34.2%	49	-3.9%	54	10.2%	31.7%
Rape	293	304	3.8%	269	-11.5%	281	4.5%	214	-23.8%	-27.0%	203	-5.1%	168	-17.2%	231	37.5%	225	-2.6%	236	4.9%	-19.5%
Robbery	2,996	2,733	-8.8%	2,793	2.2%	2,128	-23.8%	1,657	-22.1%	-44.7%	1,397	-15.7%	1,652	18.3%	1,964	18.9%	2,076	5.7%	1,941	-6.5%	-35.2%
Aggravated Assault	2,199	2,416	9.9%	2,397	-0.8%	2,300	-4.0%	2,258	-1.8%	2.7%	2,342	3.7%	2,733	16.7%	2,949	7.9%	3,055	3.6%	3,097	1.4%	40.8%
Burglary	6,801	6,096	-10.4%	5,977	-2.0%	5,077	-15.1%	4,950	-2.5%	-27.2%	4,553	-8.0%	4,321	-5.1%	4,532	4.9%	4,687	3.4%	4,318	-7.9%	-36.5%
Larceny-Theft	16,183	15,533	-4.0%	15,094	-2.8%	14,310	-5.2%	13,773	-3.8%	-14.9%	12,799	-7.1%	12,172	-4.9%	13,183	8.3%	14,490	9.9%	13,959	-3.7%	-13.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,212	1,138	-6.1%	1,474	29.5%	1,728	17.2%	1,824	5.6%	50.5%	2,011	10.3%	1,779	-11.5%	1,922	8.0%	2,112	9.9%	1,726	-18.3%	42.4%
Manslaughter	3	3	0.0%	8	166.7%	7	-12.5%	5	-28.6%	66.7%	9	80.0%	5	-44.4%	14	180.0%	5	-64.3%	3	-40.0%	0.0%
Simple Assault	8,167	8,591	5.2%	8,613	0.3%	8,136	-5.5%	8,565	5.3%	4.9%	8,225	-4.0%	8,139	-1.0%	8,683	6.7%	9,163	5.5%	9,604	4.8%	17.6%
Arson	320	354	10.6%	311	-12.1%	328	5.5%	221	-32.6%	-30.9%	272	23.1%	246	-9.6%	299	21.5%	327	9.4%	342	4.6%	6.9%
Forgery & Counterfeiting	68	76	11.8%	110	44.7%	95	-13.6%	104	9.5%	52.9%	102	-1.9%	77	-24.5%	92	19.5%	97	5.4%	84	-13.4%	23.5%
Fraud	163	184	12.9%	350	90.2%	461	31.7%	244	-47.1%	49.7%	250	2.5%	236	-5.6%	272	15.3%	265	-2.6%	224	-15.5%	37.4%
Embezzlement	13	11	-15.4%	8	-27.3%	20	150.0%	54	170.0%	315.4%	30	-44.4%	22	-26.7%	17	-22.7%	8	-52.9%	6	-25.0%	-53.8%
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing, etc.	3,031	2,884	-4.8%	3,621	25.6%	4,320	19.3%	5,249	21.5%	73.2%	5,745	9.4%	5,749	0.1%	5,373	-6.5%	5,177	-3.6%	4,587	-11.4%	51.3%
Criminal/Malicious Mischief	8,331	9,058	8.7%	8,660	-4.4%	7,975	-7.9%	7,616	-4.5%	-8.6%	7,441	-2.3%	7,100	-4.6%	7,424	4.6%	7,844	5.7%	7,902	0.7%	-5.1%
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2,007	2,199	9.6%	2,193	-0.3%	1,995	-9.0%	1,762	-11.7%	-12.2%	1,983	12.5%	1,766	-10.9%	1,846	4.5%	2,215	20.0%	2,563	15.7%	27.7%
Prostitution & Commercialized Vice	50	55	10.0%	63	14.5%	60	-4.8%	27	-55.0%	-46.0%	27	0.0%	31	14.8%	50	61.3%	39	-22.0%	21	-46.2%	-58.0%
Sex Offenses (Except Rape & Prostitution)	545	642	17.8%	554	-13.7%	537	-3.1%	451	-16.0%	-17.2%	416	-7.8%	470	13.0%	468	-0.4%	572	22.2%	481	-15.9%	-11.7%
Drug Abuse Violations	5,566	6,154	10.6%	6,319	2.7%	6,275	-0.7%	7,902	25.9%	42.0%	8,954	13.3%	7,746	-13.5%	5,568	-28.1%	4,818	-13.5%	5,149	6.9%	-7.5%
Gambling	12	22	83.3%	9	-59.1%	24	166.7%	9	-62.5%	-25.0%	96	966.7%	86	-10.4%	152	76.7%	151	-0.7%	78	-48.3%	550.0%
Offenses Against Family & Children	0	10	—	36	260.0%	26	-27.8%	18	-30.8%	—	9	-50.0%	10	11.1%	16	60.0%	39	143.8%	46	17.9%	—
Driving Under The Influence	505	381	-24.6%	335	-12.1%	386	15.2%	347	-10.1%	-31.3%	377	8.6%	296	-21.5%	295	-0.3%	245	-16.9%	212	-13.5%	-58.0%
Liquor Laws	5,362	4,580	-14.6%	5,288	15.5%	5,993	13.3%	5,808	-3.1%	8.3%	5,475	-5.7%	4,170	-23.8%	4,425	6.1%	3,654	-17.4%	3,535	-3.3%	-34.1%
Disorderly Conduct	12,189	11,280	-7.5%	11,370	0.8%	11,833	4.1%	11,036	-6.7%	-9.5%	11,432	3.6%	11,332	-0.9%	11,288	-0.4%	10,600	-6.1%	10,245	-3.3%	-15.9%
Vagrancy	61	37	-39.3%	39	5.4%	28	-28.2%	21	-25.0%	-65.6%	60	185.7%	30	-50.0%	58	93.3%	34	-41.4%	44	29.4%	-27.9%
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	15,570	14,041	-9.8%	13,863	-1.3%	12,570	-9.3%	12,783	1.7%	-17.9%	12,505	-2.2%	11,967	-4.3%	11,502	-3.9%	10,506	-8.7%	10,741	2.2%	-31.0%
Curfew & Loitering Law Violation	2,013	2,073	3.0%	1,725	-16.8%	2,100	21.7%	1,608	-23.4%	-20.1%	1,490	-7.3%	1,621	8.8%	1,650	1.8%	2,118	28.4%	1,950	-7.9%	-3.1%
Runaways	5,478	5,897	7.6%	6,461	9.6%	6,406	-0.9%	6,487	1.3%	18.4%	6,622	2.1%	6,002	-9.4%	5,941	-1.0%	5,211	-12.3%	5,642	8.3%	3.0%
Violent Index	5,529	5,481	-0.9%	5,502	0.4%	4,739	-13.9%	4,164	-12.1%	-24.7%	3,979	-4.4%	4,591	15.4%	5,195	13.2%	5,405	4.0%	5,328	-1.4%	-3.6%
Property Index	24,196	22,767	-5.9%	22,545	-1.0%	21,115	-6.3%	20,547	-2.7%	-15.1%	19,363	-5.8%	18,272	-5.6%	19,637	7.5%	21,289	8.4%	20,003	-6.0%	-17.3%
Index	29,725	28,248	-5.0%	28,047	-0.7%	25,854	-7.8%	24,711	-4.4%	-16.9%	23,342	-5.5%	22,863	-2.1%	24,832	8.6%	26,694	7.5%	25,331	-5.1%	-14.8%
Part II	69,454	68,532	-1.3%	69,936	2.0%	69,575	-0.5%	70,317	1.1%	1.2%	71,520	1.7%	67,101	-6.2%	65,433	-2.5%	63,088	-3.6%	63,459	0.6%	-8.6%
Total	99,179	96,780	-2.4%	97,983	1.2%	95,429	-2.6%	95,028	-0.4%	-4.2%	94,862	-0.2%	89,964	-5.2%	90,265	0.3%	89,782	-0.5%	88,790	-1.1%	-10.5%

Source: State of New Jersey, Division of State Police, *Crime in New Jersey, Uniform Crime Report (1983–1992)*

TABLE 4
JUVENILE ARRESTS BY COUNTY
1983 - 1992

	1983	1984	83-84 %Change	1985	84-85 %Change	1986	85-86 %Change	1987	86-87 %Change	1988	87-88 %Change	1989	88-89 %Change	1990	89-90 %Change	1991	90-91 %Change	1992	91-92 %Change	83-92 %Change
Atlantic	2,882	2,888	0.2%	3,233	11.9%	2,921	-9.7%	3,039	4.0%	3,245	6.8%	3,073	-5.3%	3,827	24.5%	3,626	-5.3%	4,141	14.2%	43.7%
Bergen	10,532	10,290	-2.3%	10,053	-2.3%	9,344	-7.1%	8,855	-5.2%	8,010	-9.5%	7,751	-3.2%	7,845	1.2%	7,288	-7.1%	7,412	1.7%	-29.6%
Burlington	3,367	3,129	-7.1%	3,406	8.9%	3,357	-1.4%	3,022	-10.0%	2,957	-2.2%	2,817	-4.7%	2,761	-2.0%	3,282	18.9%	3,175	-3.3%	-5.7%
Camden	5,508	4,738	-14.0%	4,755	0.4%	4,957	4.2%	5,077	2.4%	5,068	-0.2%	5,111	0.8%	5,256	2.8%	5,789	10.1%	5,535	-4.4%	0.5%
Cape May	1,485	1,217	-18.0%	1,574	29.3%	1,846	17.3%	2,086	13.0%	1,982	-5.0%	1,845	-6.9%	1,911	3.6%	2,086	9.2%	2,055	-1.5%	38.4%
Cumberland	1,784	1,753	-1.7%	2,026	15.6%	2,157	6.5%	2,508	16.3%	2,964	18.2%	3,348	13.0%	3,989	19.1%	3,948	-1.0%	3,117	-21.0%	74.7%
Essex	13,983	14,141	1.1%	14,768	4.4%	14,655	-0.8%	14,522	-0.9%	14,328	-1.3%	13,398	-6.5%	12,705	-5.2%	12,087	-4.9%	12,066	-0.2%	-13.7%
Gloucester	2,243	2,465	9.9%	2,044	-17.1%	2,047	0.1%	1,943	-5.1%	2,008	3.3%	1,982	-1.3%	1,946	-1.8%	2,102	8.0%	2,309	9.8%	2.9%
Hudson	7,869	7,710	-2.0%	7,437	-3.5%	6,405	-13.9%	6,242	-2.5%	7,010	12.3%	7,359	5.0%	6,347	-13.8%	6,886	8.5%	6,268	-9.0%	-20.3%
Hunterdon	574	415	-27.7%	518	24.8%	597	15.3%	646	8.2%	503	-22.1%	431	-14.3%	489	13.5%	604	23.5%	554	-8.3%	-3.5%
Mercer	5,187	5,691	9.7%	5,376	-5.5%	5,554	3.3%	5,929	6.8%	6,074	2.4%	6,078	0.1%	5,297	-12.8%	4,639	-12.4%	5,091	9.7%	-1.9%
Middlesex	6,429	6,356	-1.1%	6,341	-0.2%	6,020	-5.1%	6,031	0.2%	6,229	3.3%	5,454	-12.4%	5,768	5.8%	5,635	-2.3%	5,709	1.3%	-11.2%
Monmouth	8,101	6,927	-14.5%	6,941	0.2%	6,558	-5.5%	6,816	3.9%	7,307	7.2%	6,621	-9.4%	6,766	2.2%	6,433	-4.9%	6,182	-3.9%	-23.7%
Morris	4,007	4,465	11.4%	3,904	-12.6%	3,782	-3.1%	3,747	-0.9%	3,491	-6.8%	2,986	-14.5%	2,889	-3.2%	2,924	1.2%	2,845	-2.7%	-29.0%
Ocean	6,073	5,509	-9.3%	5,637	2.3%	5,227	-7.3%	5,227	0.0%	5,098	-2.5%	4,859	-4.7%	4,643	-4.4%	4,281	-7.8%	5,459	27.5%	-10.1%
Passaic	6,090	6,065	-0.4%	6,045	-0.3%	6,165	2.0%	6,464	4.8%	6,595	2.0%	6,109	-7.4%	6,574	7.6%	6,341	-3.5%	5,153	-18.7%	-15.4%
Salem	719	534	-25.7%	630	18.0%	705	11.9%	721	2.3%	755	4.7%	696	-7.8%	839	20.5%	788	-6.1%	747	-5.2%	3.9%
Somerset	2,430	2,515	3.5%	2,284	-9.2%	2,413	5.6%	2,423	0.4%	2,505	3.4%	2,372	-5.3%	2,485	4.8%	2,768	11.4%	2,750	-0.7%	13.2%
Sussex	1,074	965	-10.1%	997	3.3%	1,013	1.6%	862	-14.9%	833	-3.4%	685	-17.8%	592	-13.6%	683	15.4%	756	10.7%	-29.6%
Union	7,890	7,443	-5.7%	8,289	11.4%	7,846	-5.3%	7,315	-6.8%	6,757	-7.6%	5,934	-12.2%	6,422	8.2%	6,713	4.5%	6,630	-1.2%	-16.0%
Warren	952	1,047	10.0%	1,124	7.4%	1,308	16.4%	1,169	-10.6%	867	-25.8%	725	-16.4%	711	-1.9%	756	6.3%	728	-3.7%	-23.5%
TOTAL*	99,179	96,263	-2.9%	97,382	1.2%	94,877	-2.6%	94,644	-0.2%	94,586	-0.1%	89,634	-5.2%	90,062	0.5%	89,659	-0.3%	88,682	-1.2%	-10.6%

* The arrest totals based on county figures are slightly lower than statewide totals. In some arrests involving state, federal or interstate agencies the appropriate jurisdiction has not been identified.

Source: State of New Jersey, Division of State Police, Crime in New Jersey, Uniform Crime Report (1983 - 1992)

TABLE 5
JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT INDEX OFFENSES BY COUNTY
1983 – 1992

	1983	1984	83-84 %Change	1985	84-85 %Change	1986	85-86 %Change	1987	86-87 %Change	1988	87-88 %Change	1989	88-89 %Change	1990	89-90 %Change	1991	90-91 %Change	1992	91-92 %Change	83-92 %Change
Atlantic	149	222	49.0%	278	25.2%	182	-34.5%	239	31.3%	187	-21.8%	219	17.1%	323	47.5%	280	-13.3%	301	7.5%	102.0%
Bergen	161	199	23.6%	167	-16.1%	161	-3.6%	116	-28.0%	146	25.9%	169	15.8%	221	30.8%	245	10.9%	294	20.0%	82.6%
Burlington	115	112	-2.6%	153	36.6%	140	-8.5%	83	-40.7%	128	54.2%	96	-25.0%	178	85.4%	149	-16.3%	143	-4.0%	24.3%
Camden	318	321	0.9%	362	12.8%	291	-19.6%	273	-6.2%	241	-11.7%	313	29.9%	360	15.0%	357	-0.8%	347	-2.8%	9.1%
Cape May	18	17	-5.6%	17	0.0%	24	41.2%	26	8.3%	31	19.2%	45	45.2%	56	24.4%	62	10.7%	52	-16.1%	188.9%
Cumberland	62	68	9.7%	97	42.6%	111	14.4%	119	7.2%	145	21.8%	222	53.1%	280	26.1%	251	-10.4%	223	-11.2%	259.7%
Essex	1,777	1,863	4.8%	1,591	-14.6%	1,383	-13.1%	1,360	-1.7%	1,348	-0.9%	1,406	4.3%	1,463	4.1%	1,292	-11.7%	1,218	-5.7%	-31.5%
Gloucester	44	64	45.5%	58	-9.4%	60	3.4%	30	-50.0%	42	40.0%	77	83.3%	64	-16.9%	60	-6.3%	90	50.0%	104.5%
Hudson	1,220	1,010	-17.2%	1,152	14.1%	853	-26.0%	555	-34.9%	500	-9.9%	695	39.0%	802	15.4%	1,094	36.4%	993	-9.2%	-18.6%
Hunterdon	6	5	-16.7%	7	40.0%	7	0.0%	9	28.6%	11	22.2%	5	-54.5%	5	0.0%	9	80.0%	5	-44.4%	-16.7%
Mercer	194	212	9.3%	221	4.2%	212	-4.1%	173	-18.4%	175	1.2%	249	42.3%	175	-29.7%	191	9.1%	273	42.9%	40.7%
Middlesex	172	192	11.6%	234	21.9%	191	-18.4%	166	-13.1%	168	1.2%	182	8.3%	234	28.6%	229	-2.1%	239	4.4%	39.0%
Monmouth	238	193	-18.9%	247	28.0%	209	-15.4%	210	0.5%	213	1.4%	174	-18.3%	253	45.4%	295	16.6%	222	-24.7%	-6.7%
Morris	62	72	16.1%	41	-43.1%	67	63.4%	55	-17.9%	69	25.5%	57	-17.4%	51	-10.5%	78	52.9%	84	7.7%	35.5%
Ocean	81	109	34.6%	88	-19.3%	89	1.1%	77	-13.5%	70	-9.1%	68	-2.9%	70	2.9%	90	28.6%	128	42.2%	58.0%
Passaic	477	436	-8.6%	342	-21.6%	375	9.6%	320	-14.7%	258	-19.4%	336	30.2%	334	-0.6%	381	14.1%	324	-15.0%	-32.1%
Salem	25	19	-24.0%	15	-21.1%	15	0.0%	22	46.7%	15	-31.8%	18	20.0%	26	44.4%	22	-15.4%	31	40.9%	24.0%
Somerset	56	40	-28.6%	88	120.0%	37	-58.0%	46	24.3%	46	0.0%	47	2.2%	50	6.4%	74	48.0%	78	5.4%	39.3%
Sussex	13	10	-23.1%	11	10.0%	14	27.3%	22	57.1%	12	-45.5%	17	41.7%	16	-5.9%	13	-18.8%	16	23.1%	23.1%
Union	327	298	-8.9%	322	8.1%	296	-8.1%	239	-19.3%	173	-27.6%	189	9.2%	220	16.4%	223	1.4%	259	16.1%	-20.8%
Warren	14	19	35.7%	11	-42.1%	22	100.0%	24	9.1%	1	-95.8%	7	600.0%	14	100.0%	10	-28.6%	8	-20.0%	-42.9%
TOTAL	5,529	5,481	-0.9%	5,502	0.4%	4,739	-13.9%	4,164	-12.1%	3,979	-4.4%	4,591	15.4%	5,195	13.2%	5,405	4.0%	5,328	-1.4%	-3.6%

Source: State of New Jersey, Division of State Police, Crime in New Jersey, Uniform Crime Report (1983 – 1992)

JUVENILES IN FAMILY COURT

FAMILY COURT DATA AT A GLANCE

- ✓ New Jersey's family court handles a significant delinquency caseload.
- ✓ The court's Juvenile-Family Crisis Intervention Units handled over 12,600 cases in Fiscal Year 1992.
- ✓ The courts detained over 11,600 juveniles in detention facilities in 1992, an 8% increase over the previous year. The county-based detention system is becoming increasingly overcrowded.
- ✓ Diversion continues to be a major court strategy for handling delinquency cases. In 1992, about 45% of delinquency cases were diverted from formal court proceedings.
- ✓ Counties in New Jersey vary greatly in the seriousness of the delinquency cases they handle...and in how they handle them.
- ✓ Minority youth overrepresentation at all points of the family court system continues. Minority youth are about four times as likely to be incarcerated once adjudicated delinquent as are white youth. One partial explanation is the somewhat more serious nature of their offenses. Another is a lack of alternative dispositional options.
- ✓ The short-term incarceration option was utilized in 253 cases in 1992, up 41% over 1991.
- ✓ Court supervised probation continues to be a heavily used disposition, used in almost three in every five adjudicated cases. An average of almost 12,400 juveniles were under probation supervision in 1992, a slight decrease from 1991.

The juvenile court system is often seen as the center of the juvenile justice system. And New Jersey has a unique way of handling juvenile delinquency and related cases. Our state is one of only a handful that has created a "family" court system. This family court handled over 340,000 cases in FY 1993, including delinquency, family crisis, family dissolution, child abuse and neglect, child support and domestic violence cases. One goal of a family court is to handle delinquency and related youth problems with knowledge of their individual family contexts.

There has also been a major reform in recent years in how we handle "status" or "JINS" cases involving such things as truancy, running away and "incomigibility." With its creation of Juvenile-Family Crisis Intervention Units as part of the 1983 Juvenile Code, New Jersey no longer sees such behavior as juvenile offenses but rather as family crisis situations in need of intervention and possibly referral for further services. We analyze, below, several aspects of how we currently utilize these Units.

A small minority of juveniles who come before the court on delinquency charges are placed in detention facilities while awaiting hearings. Sensitive to the serious deprivation of liberty entailed by such incarceration, public policy has attempted to ensure that detention is used only when necessary and to establish feasible alternatives consistent with public safety. The use of detention alternative programs has grown substantially and the trend is likely to continue as counties gain awareness of the potential of this response. We analyze detention trends below.

Finally, we examine recent trends in the use of juvenile probation, the most "popular" response to juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent. Probation trends include the continued growth in juvenile probation caseloads and the handling of increasingly serious offenders by probation. One result has been increased reliance on improving management techniques to handle the larger and more varied caseloads.

A "SNAPSHOT" OF DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS IN EIGHT COUNTIES

One of the Commission's mandates is to provide information on the handling of delinquency cases, including analysis by age, gender and race. This enables us to understand who is coming into court and how we handle cases, and leads to greater insights and improved response. In this report, we utilize New Jersey's Family Automated Case Tracking System (FACTS) to examine recent processing of delinquency cases by the court.

Last year, we provided a five county analysis of court data in *Profile 92*. As additional counties become operational in FACTS, we will broaden the base of our reporting. As eight counties had data available for the full 1992 calendar year, we are providing an "eight county report." Those counties are: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Hudson, Monmouth, Morris and Ocean. While the data is not fully reflective or "representative" of statewide practice, they do provide a mix of urban, suburban and rural jurisdictions allowing somewhat of a statewide perspective.

The report examines three distinct areas of family court processing: intake, diversion and adjudication/disposition.

COURT INTAKE

Delinquency Referrals to Family Court

Once a complaint is brought to court, a youth will be handled in one of two ways: either through diversion to informal mechanisms (e.g., Juvenile Conference Committees or Intake Services Conferences) or through formal handling before a judge. In a few counties, juvenile referees handle adjudications of delinquency and dispositions for select cases.

In 1992, there were 27,916 cases handled on new delinquency complaints in our eight county sample. These cases involved 19,793 juveniles and 50,536 offenses.¹ This means that some juveniles come before the court on more than one occasion in a year and may be charged with more than one offense. Statewide, this averages to 1.4 cases per juvenile; 2.6 offenses per juvenile and 1.8 offenses per case.

The number of juveniles and cases entering family court varied greatly by county. Of our eight, Hudson had the greatest number of new cases (5,303) and juveniles (3,530) docketed. Morris County had the fewest cases (1,770) and juveniles (1,439). Atlantic averaged the highest number of cases docketed per juvenile (1.6) while Bergen and Morris had the lowest (1.2).

Demographics at Intake²

Gender. Juveniles in family court are predominantly male. In 1992, males accounted for 78.5% of the juveniles docketed.

Age. The majority of juveniles docketed on delinquency charges in 1992 were in middle to late adolescence. The most common age group was 15 to 16 year olds (38.3%). Two-thirds (66.6%) were 15 or older while only 9.8% were 12 or younger. There were small differences by county. Younger juveniles were most prevalent in Ocean County (36.5%) and least prevalent in Morris (28.9%). Juveniles 17 and older were most common in Morris County (33.0%) and least so in Hudson (25.9%).

Race/Ethnicity. A majority (50.8%) of docketed juveniles were white. Black youths accounted for nearly one-third (32.6%), Hispanics 14.8%. Racial/ethnic makeup varied greatly by county. White youths were most prevalent (80.2%) in Morris County and least so in Hudson (22.3%). By far, Hudson handled the highest proportion of Hispanic youth (35.7%) and Burlington the lowest (4.6%). Black youths comprised the greatest share of docketed juveniles in Atlantic County (47.9%).

Charges at Intake

Docketed youths are charged with a wide range of offenses. The most common included Simple Assault (DP); Shoplifting (DP); Criminal Mischief, loss of \$500 or less (DP); Burglary (3°); and Theft by Unlawful Taking (3°). Together, these five offenses accounted for 30.6% of all charges. An additional five, Theft by Unlawful Taking (DP); Improper Behavior (PDP); Harassment (PDP); Aggravated Assault (2°); and Criminal Mischief, loss of \$2,000 or more (3°) increased the figure to nearly half (46.3%) of the charges in our sample of docketed cases.

Degree and Type of Charge. We also analyzed how cases varied by the degree and type of their most serious or "lead" charge (see Table 2, appended). A large share of the docketed cases involved less serious charges as their lead charge – 49.3% involved a disorderly persons (DP) or petty disorderly persons (PDP) offense. In contrast, 15.9% involved a first or second degree offense.

Analyzed another way, almost one-quarter (24.8%) of the cases included a violent offense as the lead charge while nearly half (49.5%) included a property offense and 7.2% included a drug or alcohol offense.

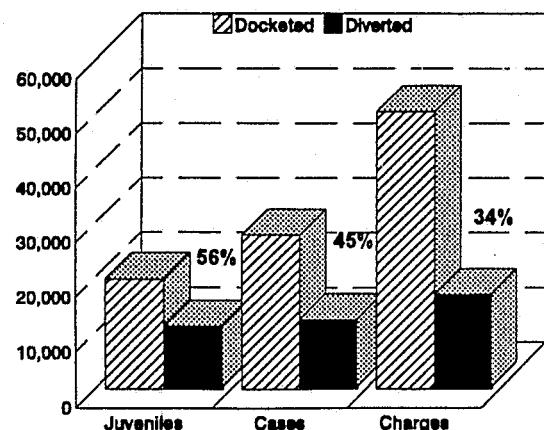
Our analysis also indicates that offenses varied markedly across counties. While close to two-thirds (64.8%) of Bergen's cases were led by DP or PDP charges, the figure for Hudson was 28.9%. On the other hand, first and second degree offenses were involved in 41.8% of Hudson's cases, compared with 3.8% in Ocean. And 19.4% of the cases in Hudson County involved a violent Index offense, compared with 4.2% in Morris. Likewise, drugs/alcohol were involved in 11.5% of the Hudson cases and in only 3.4% in Ocean.

COURT DIVERSION

Many juveniles docketed in family court on delinquency charges do not undergo adjudicatory hearings. Diversion is used for many juveniles who have not established a lengthy "court career," especially for first time offenders and for less serious offenses. These cases are diverted for informal handling using one of several mechanisms: Juvenile Conference Committees (JCCs), Intake Services Conferences (ISCs), Juvenile-Family Crisis Intervention Units (CIUs), or other specialized diversion programs. First time offenders, for example, charged with relatively nonserious offenses will typically be handled by Juvenile Conference Committees composed of community volunteers who decide on an appropriate response to the delinquent activity.

In 1992, 12,433 (44.5%) of the 27,916 new docketed juvenile cases in our sample were diverted. In addition, 56.5% of docketed juveniles and 33.6% of docketed offenses were diverted.

Number of Cases, Juveniles and Charges Docketed in 1992 and Subsequently Diverted



Use of diversion varied by county, ranging from a high in Camden of 53.2% to a low of 34.3% in Burlington. The vast majority of diverted cases were handled either by JCCs or ISCs.

Diversion Demographics

Compared with docketed juveniles, diverted juveniles were somewhat more likely to be female, white and younger.

Gender. While males accounted for the largest number of diverted juveniles, females accounted for 26.6% compared with their 21.5% share of all docketed juveniles. This pattern occurred in varying degrees in each county.

Age. On average, diverted juveniles were somewhat younger than those docketed. Younger juveniles (ages 12 and under) comprised a somewhat larger share (13.5%) of diverted than docketed (9.8%) juveniles. And 59.4% of diverted juveniles were 15 or older vs. 66.6% of those docketed. Similar differences occurred in each of the eight counties.

Race/Ethnicity. White youths comprised 55.7% of diverted compared with 50.8% of docketed youths. Black youths comprised a smaller portion of diverted (27.4%) than docketed (32.6%) juveniles. Practically no difference was found for Hispanic youths (15.0% diverted vs. 14.8% docketed).

In contrast to docketed cases, diverted cases tend to be less serious, although some diversions involve serious charges. Diversions commonly involve disorderly persons or less serious offenses. The ten most common diverted charges were Shoplifting

(DP); Simple Assault (DP); Criminal Mischief, loss of \$500 or less (DP); Harassment (PDP); Improper Behavior (PDP); Possession or Consumption of Alcohol in Public (DP); Criminal Mischief, loss of \$2,000 or more (3rd degree); Theft by Unlawful Taking (DP); Criminal Trespass (4°) and Theft by Unlawful Taking (3°).

There were clear variations in the use of diversion across counties. Three in ten (30.1%) of the diverted cases in Hudson County involved first or second degree charges compared with 0.9% in Bergen County. Hudson County also had the greatest share of diverted cases involving violent charges (29.9%). In contrast, violent cases comprised 11.0% of Bergen's diversions.

Cases Diverted by Degree of the Most Serious Charge

Degree of Most Serious Charge	# of Cases Diverted	% of All Cases
First Degree	121	1.0
Second Degree	922	7.4
Third Degree	1,977	15.9
Fourth Degree	974	7.8
Disorderly Persons	6,726	54.1
Petty Disorderly Persons	1,249	10.0
Degree Not Indicated	464	3.7
Total	12,433	100.0

Racial Patterns in Diversion

In 1992, a majority (51.0%) of the cases involving white youths were diverted. In contrast, only 37.1% of the cases involving minority youths were diverted. What might account for this substantial difference?

A partial explanation for this disparity would appear to be that minority youth enter the court with, on average, more serious charges. For example, 29.0% of the minority cases docketed involved a violent offense as the lead charge compared with 19.9% for white youths. In addition, a first or second degree charge was the most serious in 20.5% of minority cases compared with 10.0% of white cases.

We also examined the ten most common types of cases for which each group was docketed (see Table 3, appended). Minority youths entered with more serious cases, on the whole, than did white youths. We also see, however, that even when we "control" for case type, minority cases were diverted less than white cases for most case types. Among

a range of potential factors, prior court involvement may also contribute to this differential handling at the diversion stage.³

ADJUDICATION AND DISPOSITION

A minority of the delinquency cases entering the court result in an adjudication of delinquency and, consequently, a disposition. In 1992, there were 8,819 cases in our sample in which an adjudication of delinquency was made and a disposition ordered.⁴ These involved 7,072 juveniles and 18,778 separate charges. Camden County had the greatest number of cases involving an adjudication of delinquency (1,502) and Morris the smallest (540).

Adjudication Demographics

Gender. Adjudicated juveniles were predominantly male (87.8%) with only small differences across counties. Hudson had the greatest share of males (91.0%) and Ocean the smallest (83.6%).

Age. The most common age category was 15 to 16, comprising 39.8% of all juveniles. More than three-quarters of the juveniles (78.0%) were 15 years of age or older while only 4.3% were 12 or younger. There were only small differences by county.

Race/Ethnicity. Unlike the case for docketing and diversion, more than half (53.1%) of the juveniles receiving an adjudication of delinquency were minority youth. Specifically, 38.7% of the juveniles were black, 13.2% were Hispanic and the remainder "other." Race/ethnic makeup varied greatly by county. White youths were most prevalent in Ocean County (79.7%) and least so in Hudson (17.7%). Hudson County easily had the highest proportion of Hispanic youths (31.8%), and Burlington the lowest (4.4%). Black youths comprised the greatest share of adjudicated delinquent youths in Atlantic County (58.8%) and the lowest share in Ocean (13.0%).

Offenses

One-third (33.7%) of the cases had a disorderly or petty disorderly persons offense as their most serious charge. By contrast, just under one-sixth (16.1%) were led by a first or second degree offense. Violent offenses were the lead charge in under one-quarter (23.5%) of the cases; 11.1% were led by a violent Index offense. In addition, property offenses were the lead charge in more than

two-fifths (42.3%), and another 9.1% were drug/alcohol cases.

The nature of the cases varied substantially across counties. For example, first and second degree cases were most prevalent in Hudson (37.9%) and least in Ocean (2.8%). In addition, 17.1% of the cases in Burlington County involved a violent Index offense, compared with 4.2% in Ocean. And drug/alcohol cases were most common in Hudson (17.9%) while least common in Morris (4.1%).

Dispositions

Once a juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent, a disposition is ordered. Frequently, an order will contain two or more separate components. For example, a juvenile may be placed under probation supervision and ordered to pay restitution.

In order to analyze dispositions in our eight counties, we identified the most restrictive aspect, what we call the "lead disposition." The following provides a breakdown of lead dispositions for cases receiving a disposition:

Lead Dispositions in Adjudicated Cases, 1992

Disposition	% of Cases
Probation	46.1
Formal continuance	21.4
Incarceration (commitment to state training school)	6.8
Remedial nonresidential services	3.5
Community service	3.3
Incarceration Suspended	3.1
Continue prior disposition (typically probation)	2.8
Pay restitution	2.6
Short-term incarceration (in county detention center)	1.5
Pay fine	1.5
DOC (Division of Youth Services) community residential placement	1.2
Combined use of other dispositions	6.2

While particular dispositions are described in more detail later in this report and in other Commission publications, several points should be made. Probation continues to be the most common lead disposition, and is utilized in a much greater portion of cases than reflected above. That is because probation is often utilized along with more restrictive dispositions (e.g., a residential or day program).

In 1992, probation was actually ordered in more than half (55.8%) of all cases receiving dispositions. Use of probation as a lead disposition varied by

county ranging from a high in Morris County (76.7%) to a low in Atlantic (29.0%). Total use of probation ranged from 77.2% of Morris County's cases receiving dispositions to 45.5% for Bergen.

The Code also enables judges to adjourn formal entry of disposition of a case for a period not to exceed 12 months for the purpose of determining if the juvenile makes a satisfactory adjustment — an option called formal continuance. Formal continuance is the second most common lead disposition (21.4%), and is actually utilized in nearly three out of every ten (27.1%) cases. For the most part, cases that are formally continued require no supervision or services, only that the juvenile stay out of trouble. For this reason, the option is considered one of the most lenient and least intrusive available. Use of formal continuance as a lead disposition varied from a high in Bergen County of 41.2% to a low in Morris of 2.6%.

The category of dispositional options entitled "remedial nonresidential services" includes a wide array of community-based treatment programs and services, ranging from alternative schools or "outward-bound" programs to psychological, drug or alcohol counseling. Residential programs are excluded from this category as are nonresidential or "day" programs run by state agencies. While used in 3.5% of the cases as a lead disposition, these services were actually utilized in 5.5% of all cases.⁵

The most severe disposition available to the family court is incarceration. The typical sentence length is two years, although the State Parole Board can release the juvenile after one-third of the term has been served (or earlier if acceptable to the judge in a particular case). Sentences range from about 6 months to 20 years or longer.

As a result of the classification process, incarcerated youths will typically be placed in either a training school or a community residential program. The use of incarceration varied greatly by county, with Camden County utilizing incarceration in 20.4% of its cases and Morris ordering incarceration in only one case (0.2%).

Racial Patterns in Dispositions

Minority youth accounted for more than half (52.0%) of all cases for which there was an adjudication of delinquency (where race/ethnicity was known). On average, minority cases involved offenses of a somewhat more serious nature than cases for non-

minority youth, and were more likely to receive the most restrictive dispositions.

With reference to the most serious charge, 19.0% of the minority cases involved a first or second degree offense compared with 11.9% of cases involving white youths. In addition, for minority youths, 26.5% of the cases involved violent offenses and another 12.3% involved drug/alcohol offenses. In contrast, violent cases comprised 19.5% of the cases for white youths, and another 5.5% were drug/alcohol cases.

The breakdown of lead dispositions also varied by race/ethnicity. In their total of 3,757 cases receiving dispositions, 47.0% of white youths received probation, 25.7% a formal continuance, 4.2% community service, 3.2% were ordered to pay restitution, 2.8% remedial nonresidential services, 2.7% an incarceration, 2.5% ordered to pay a fine, 2.3% a suspended DOC incarceration, 1.9% a continuance of prior disposition, 1.7% short-term commitment to a county detention center, and the remaining 6.1% received other types of lead dispositions.

For minority juveniles, in their total of 4,587 cases, 45.8% received probation, 16.9% a formal continuance, 10.4% an incarceration, 4.1% remedial nonresidential services, 4.0% a suspended DOC incarceration, 3.7% a continuance of prior disposition, 2.4% community service, 2.2% an order to pay restitution, 2.0% DOC community residential placement, 1.4% short-term commitment to a county detention center, and the remaining 7.1% received other types of dispositions.

Perhaps the major difference in racial/ethnic patterns is the rate at which the two groups were incarcerated. Minority youths were nearly four times as likely to be incarcerated as were white youths. In addition, if we consider all lead dispositions involving out-of-home placement in public and private facilities, minority juveniles were also substantially more likely to receive such dispositions. Minority juveniles received an out-of-home placement in 14.7% of their adjudicated cases compared with 5.1% for white juveniles.

JUVENILE-FAMILY CRISIS INTERVENTION

One of the ongoing debates in juvenile justice has been whether the court should be responsible for handling "troublesome" juveniles, youths who are incorrigible, truant or run away from home. Many hold that these juveniles can best be served by social service agencies. New Jersey resolved this dilemma by creating Juvenile-Family Crisis Intervention Units (CIUs) to handle such behavior.

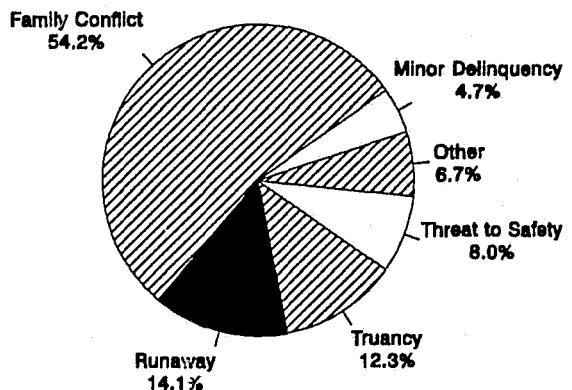
CIU OPERATIONS IN 1992

Every county in New Jersey operates a CIU. Ten counties operate Units within the court system while eleven operate CIUs through outside agencies. The former include Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Salem and Sussex counties.

In FY 1992, there were 12,661 cases handled and "disposed" by CIUs, a 10.5% increase over the FY 1991 total. Camden, Monmouth, Essex and Union handled the greatest number of cases, accounting for almost two in five, statewide. Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex, Cape May and Salem handled the least, combining for only 8.1% of the state total.

CIU cases are classified by type. In FY 1992, over half (54.2%) of the state's CIU cases were classified as having a "serious family conflict" as the primary reason for referral. Cases involving runaways accounted for 14.1%, followed by truancy cases (12.3%) and cases involving a serious threat to the well-being/safety of the juvenile (8.0%). Minor delinquency complaints (i.e., disorderly/petty disorderly persons offenses) accounted for 4.7%.

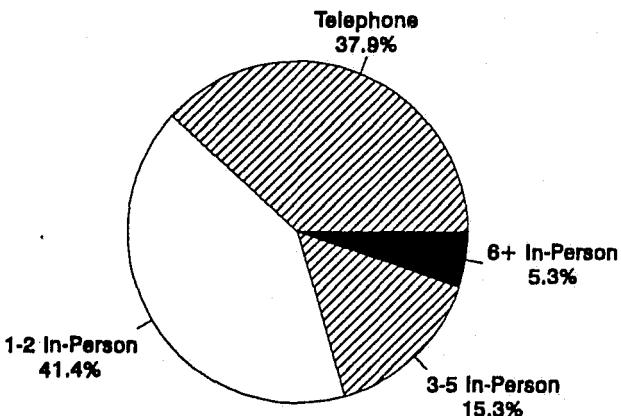
Case Types Handled by CIUs
FY 1992



Counties varied in the types of cases handled (see Table 4, appended). For example, the portion of serious family conflict cases ranged from a high of 72.4% in Monmouth to a low of 24.0% in Burlington. There was also significant variation with regard to truancy cases, ranging from 38.2% in Camden to 3.2% in Monmouth. Handling of minor delinquency cases was rare in most counties.

CIU cases are handled in a variety of ways. A large share was handled solely through telephone contacts (37.9%). The majority (62.1%), though, were handled by at least one face-to-face counseling session, with about one in five (20.7%) handled by three or more sessions. In-court and out-of-court CIUs differed somewhat in this regard. In-court Units used telephone contacts alone in 41.5% of their cases while out-of-court CIUs used them in 33.8%. In addition, out-of-court CIUs used at least three face-to-face counseling sessions in nearly one-third (30.2%) of their cases as compared with 12.4% for in-court Units.

CIU Counseling Sessions by Number and Type
FY 1992

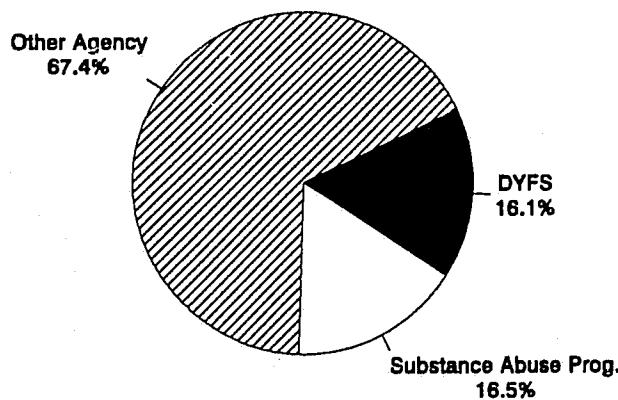


CIUs frequently refer cases to other community agencies when a need for further services is indicated. This happened in almost half (49.2%) of all cases in FY 1992. Sussex (97.3%) and Hunterdon (88.0%) referred the most cases while Essex (14.8%) referred the least. With regard to referrals statewide, about one in six (16.1%) were made to the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) and 16.5% to substance abuse programs. The majority of referrals (67.4%) went to an array of diverse agencies and programs.

Consistent with the goal of keeping families together, most cases do not result in an out-of-home placement. For FY 1992, the out-of-home place-

ment rate was 11 per 100 cases. The majority of placements (62.2%) were considered "involuntary."

CIU Service Referral FY 1992



Occasionally, crisis cases are referred for a hearing before a judge. This results either when the family crisis situation goes unresolved or when an "involuntary" out-of-home placement request occurs. These referrals, done by way of "petition," were filed in about one in ten cases (11.4%) in FY 1992, identical to the percentage recorded in FY 1991. Counties varied in the rate at which they petitioned cases, ranging from 24.1% in Middlesex to 3.7% in Ocean.

HOW SUCCESSFUL ARE CIUs?

There are several useful yardsticks by which we can measure CIU success. CIUs do divert a significant number of juveniles from court involvement. Only about one in ten cases gets referred to family court. But there is no hard evidence to show how successful CIUs are at resolving family crises or at curtailing future court involvement. We conducted an informal

survey of CIU Directors to gauge their current thinking on CIU operations. While the directors consider CIUs to be successful, most voiced concerns about current operations and future directions. Specifically, CIU directors stated that:

- CIUs are significantly understaffed and underfunded.
- In recent years, CIUs have been asked to handle a number of cases that could be better served by other agencies, including cases involving very serious family conflicts and juveniles with severe mental or emotional problems.
- CIU's have only limited authority and judges, when asked to intervene, are often reluctant to exercise judicial authority for a wide variety of reasons.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

CIUs continue to play an important role in the juvenile system. They are, in fact, an important part of the reinvention of our juvenile justice system. CIUs impact thousands of juveniles and families, and as indicated by CIU directors and others, they may not be accomplishing all they set out to do. We encourage, as we have in past publications, that a formal evaluation be conducted on the impact CIUs have on juveniles, their family situations and subsequent court involvement. This examination should reveal what works best with which cases, and the improvements and adaptations required.

JUVENILE DETENTION

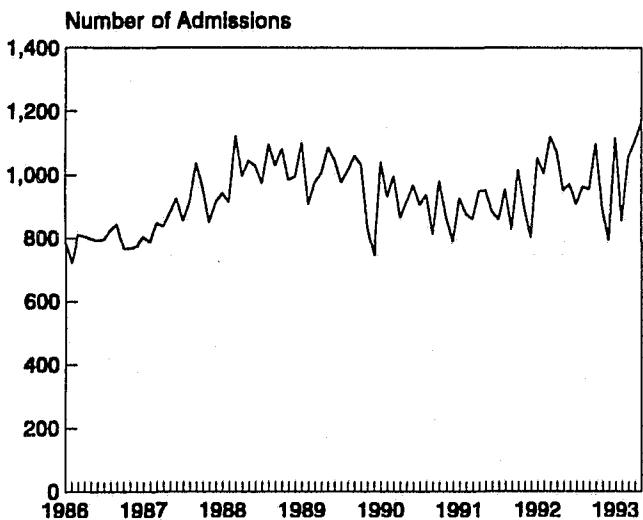
By law, the court can detain juveniles pre-dispositionally if they are considered a danger to the community or if they are deemed a risk not to appear in court. Responsibility for maintaining detention facilities rests with the counties. There are currently 16 county detention centers in New Jersey. In addition, Somerset County continues to contract with the Department of Corrections to house detained juveniles while Cape May, Hunterdon, Salem and Sussex contract with neighboring counties to handle their juveniles.⁶

ADMISSIONS AND POPULATIONS

Admissions. In 1992, the courts detained 11,664 juveniles, an 8.0% increase over 1991 and the first increase since 1988. Essex County alone accounted for nearly one-quarter (24.7%) of admissions and Essex, Hudson and Camden counties combined for nearly half (46.5%) of all admissions.

Data for the first five months of 1993 showed a continued increase in admissions of 4.4% compared with the same period in 1992. County changes over this period are dramatic. Admissions in five counties increased by at least two-thirds: Somerset (+119.5%), Burlington (+96.7%), Warren (+84.4%), Atlantic (+71.8%) and Mercer (+66.9%). The greatest decreases were in Union (-24.3%), Hudson (-15.8%) and Passaic (-10.0%).

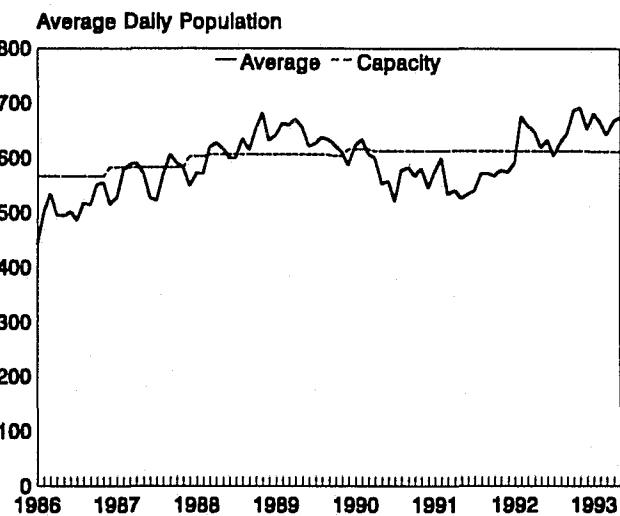
Pre-dispositional Detention Admissions January 1986 - May 1993



The average length of stay for detained juveniles varies significantly, with many detained for only a day or two while others are detained significantly longer. The statewide average length of stay in 1992 was 20 days, up slightly from the 19 days recorded for 1991. Mercer (39 days) recorded the highest average stay while Bergen (11) had the lowest.

Populations. An average of 642 juveniles were held in secure detention facilities on any given day in 1992, up 14.8% from the 1991 average (559). This represents the highest recorded average daily population in at least a decade. With a statewide rated capacity (i.e., total available beds) of 612, the system last year ran at 105% of capacity. The average population is even greater (666) for January through May of 1993, an increase of 5.2% over the five month period of the prior year.⁷

Average Daily Detention Populations January 1986 - May 1993



Detention facilities were overcrowded in a number of counties in 1992, with nearly half (8 of 17) of the detention facilities having an average daily population greater than rated capacity for the year. This trend is continuing in 1993. A three month averaging of detention populations (March through May) revealed that nine of the seventeen facilities were at or over capacity. Passaic (178%) was most overcrowded, followed by Essex (146%) and Ocean (140%).

Detention Capacity March - May 1993

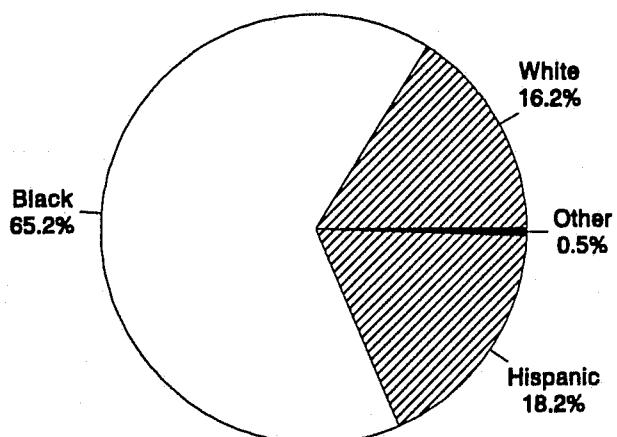
County	Capacity	Average Population	Percent of Capacity
Atlantic	19	23.8	125%
Bergen	41	13.3	32%
Burlington	21	12.5	60%
Camden	37	50.9	138%
Cumberland	32	28.2	88%
Essex	100	145.6	146%
Gloucester	15	8.4	56%
Hudson	45	60.3	134%
Mercer	44	44.1	100%
Middlesex	39	44.0	113%
Monmouth	39	34.9	89%
Morris	24	11.3	47%
Ocean	16	22.5	141%
Passaic	52	92.3	178%
Somerset	17	6.2	36%
Sussex	16	7.0	44%
Union	34	43.5	128%
Warren	20	14.3	72%
State Total	611	663.2	109%

DETENTION DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender. Males continue to comprise the majority of juveniles placed pre-dispositionally in detention facilities, accounting for 87.5% of all 1992 admissions. Males tended to stay in detention facilities longer than females, averaging about 21 days compared to 13 for females. Female admissions during 1992 increased substantially (21.1%) compared with the prior year.

Race/Ethnicity. Minority youth continue to be heavily represented in detention, accounting for 83.8% of admissions in 1992. Black juveniles accounted for nearly two-thirds (65.2%) of admissions, Hispanic juveniles nearly one-fifth (18.2%) and white juveniles, 16.2%.

Race/Ethnicity of Detained Juveniles 1992



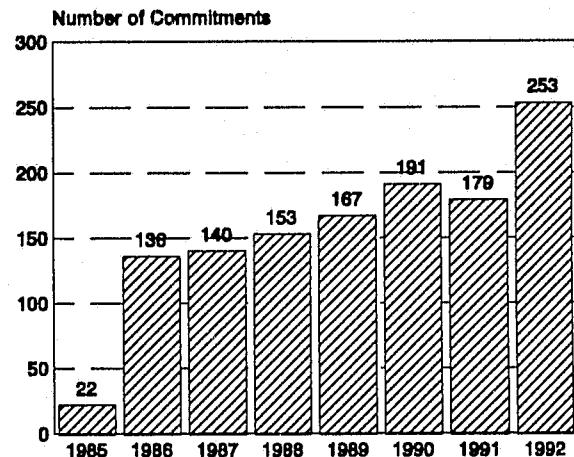
AN INCREASED EMPHASIS ON ALTERNATIVES

A number of counties have begun to develop detention alternative programs. The programs take several forms. Some are operated by detention centers while others are run by the courts or social service agencies. Most appear to operate like an intensive probation supervision program where juveniles must follow specific schedules and are subject to random phone calls and on-site staff visits. One program includes electronic monitoring. A mentoring process is an important component of yet another. Others operate in a less formal and structured manner. While the Commission has advocated the use of detention alternatives, evaluation of these programs is clearly needed.

SHORT-TERM COMMITMENTS

The Legislature permanently established the use of short-term commitment to detention centers in 1988 as part of its effort to expand dispositional options for judges. This option allows judges to place adjudicated juveniles in detention centers for periods up to sixty consecutive days. During 1992, seven counties utilized this option: Bergen, Cumberland, Middlesex, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex and Warren. Morris County has since been added to this list, receiving formal approval and beginning operations in July of this year. New Jersey remains far short of providing statewide availability of this important option.

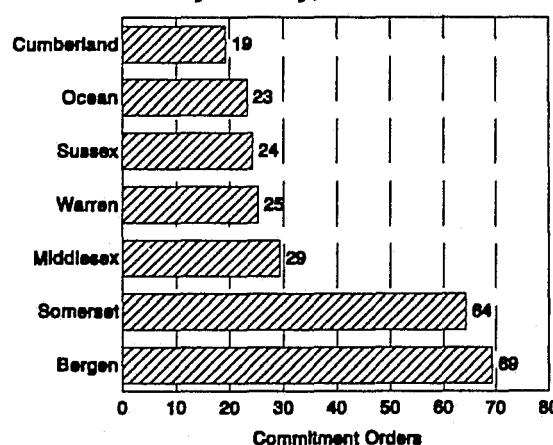
Short-Term Detention Facility Commitments 1985 - 1992



In 1992, there were 253 short-term commitment orders, up significantly (41.3%) from the 179 orders recorded in 1991.⁸ Use of this option increased substantially (66.9%) over a five year period (1988-92). Data for the first six months of 1993 reveal a continuation of this upward trend. For the first six months of 1993, the number of short-term commitments increased 27.9% compared with the same period in 1992. The addition of the new Morris County program will likely add to this trend.

Counties vary greatly in their use of this option. In 1992, Bergen accounted for the greatest share (27.3%) of statewide short-term commitments and Cumberland the smallest (7.5%). Counties also varied in the average length of time juveniles were incarcerated under this option. With a statewide average of 24 days incarceration time, the figure ranged from a high in Middlesex (37 days) to a low of 19 days in Ocean and Warren.

Short-Term Detention Facility Commitments by County, 1992



Males continue to comprise the majority of short-term commitment orders, accounting for about nine in ten (90.5%) in 1992. With reference to race/ethnicity, white juveniles accounted for the largest share, representing nearly three in five admissions (58.5%). Minorities accounted for 41.5% of admissions with black youth accounting for 24.9%, Hispanic youth 14.6% and other juveniles 2.0%. Note that white juveniles comprise a much larger share of short-term commitment admissions (58.5%) than of the pre-disposition admissions discussed above (16.2%).

JUVENILE PROBATION

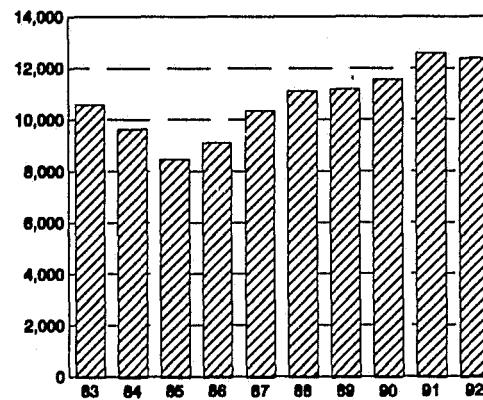
The administration of a system of probation supervision is a judicial function in New Jersey. The probation function has changed greatly through the years in an effort to adapt to changing needs. Probation departments today perform a host of different services – supervision, provision of and referral to support services, collection of fines and restitution, and the development of community support for assisting offenders.

Probation is used as a disposition in about three in five adjudicated cases (either alone or in tandem with other options). It continues to be our most widely used disposition.

JUVENILES ON PROBATION

In 1992, there was an average of 12,376 juveniles on probation, at any one time. This represents a 1.5% decrease from the previous year and halts the steady increase started in 1985. Preliminary data for 1993 suggest that this reversal may be only temporary. Data for the first six months show 13,164 juveniles under probation supervision at any one time, a 4.2% increase over the same period for 1992.

**Juveniles Under Probation Supervision
1983 - 1992**



The ten year period of 1983 to 1992 witnessed a 17.2% increase in the number of juveniles under probation supervision. Yet, since 1985, the use of probation has increased significantly (46.5%). A 20.0% decrease between 1983 and 1985 occurred largely as a result of the 1983 Code which prohibited juveniles involved in a family crisis situation (formerly "Juveniles in Need of Supervision") from being placed on probation.

As with other dispositions, probation usage varies by county. Passaic County accounted for about one in six probation cases (16.9%), while three counties (Passaic, Essex and Camden) combined for 39.2% of the state total.

Juveniles on Probation by County 1992

Atlantic	859	Middlesex	950
Bergen	505	Monmouth	735
Burlington	450	Morris	434
Camden	1,347	Ocean	421
Cape May	125	Passaic	2,096
Cumberland	552	Salem	135
Essex	1,403	Somerset	269
Gloucester	165	Sussex	116
Hudson	532	Union	594
Hunterdon	76	Warren	98
Mercer	514	State Total	12,376

Probation populations in several counties have shifted significantly over time. A comparison of data between 1990 and 1992 reveals that five counties increased their average number of juvenile probationers by at least 20%: Passaic by 50.4%; Sussex by 33.3%; Essex by 29.3%; Bergen by 24.4%; and Middlesex by 23.5%. Four others reduced their total by at least as much: Union, -25.8%; Gloucester, -23.6%; Cumberland, -23.5%; and Warren, -22.8%.

In 1992, the state's average juvenile caseload for probation officers was 77, slightly below the 83 averaged in 1991. Cumberland had the largest caseload (171) and Cape May the smallest (41). Since 1985, the state's average caseload has fluctuated, ranging between 70 and 85 juveniles.

Juvenile Probation Caseloads by County 1992

Atlantic	139	Middlesex	100
Bergen	60	Monmouth	82
Burlington	103	Morris	42
Camden	88	Ocean	80
Cape May	41	Passaic	104
Cumberland	171	Salem	72
Essex	53	Somerset	49
Gloucester	47	Sussex	84
Hudson	66	Union	65
Hunterdon	68	Warren	49
Mercer	72	State Total	77

WHO GETS PROBATION?

Utilizing FACTS data from eight counties for 1992 (Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Hudson, Monmouth, Morris and Ocean), we were able to examine some characteristics of juveniles receiving probation dispositions, and the nature of their offenses. The data (for these eight counties) revealed that nearly nine in ten (89.5%) probationers were male. White juveniles comprised the largest share (44.0%) of probationers, followed by black youth (41.7%), Hispanic youth (13.4%) and other juveniles (0.9%). Data also revealed that juveniles 15 to 16 years old comprised the largest share of probationers, accounting for more than two in every five (41.2%). Juveniles 17 and older accounted for 37.2% of the total, and youths 14 and under, 21.5%.

About two in five (40.7%) probationers had a disorderly or petty disorderly persons offense as their most serious charge. In contrast, 17.3% had a first or second degree offense. The most common "lead" offenses for probationers were Simple Assault (D.P.), Burglary (3°), Theft (3°) and Aggravated Assault (2°).

THE JUVENILE INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

One important innovation in juvenile probation has been the recent initiation of a Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP). JISP blends intensive surveillance and control with rehabilitation and treatment services involving daily contacts with participants and requirements to attend school or work regularly, perform community service, participate in structured group activities, submit to random urine testing and comply with daily curfews.

Once fully operational, the program is projected to serve up to 225 previously committed juveniles. By serving only committed youths, the program seeks to provide a community response in suitable cases and to help relieve overcrowding in correctional facilities. By the end of September of this year, the program was serving about 45 juveniles and hopes to add another fifteen each month until it reaches capacity.

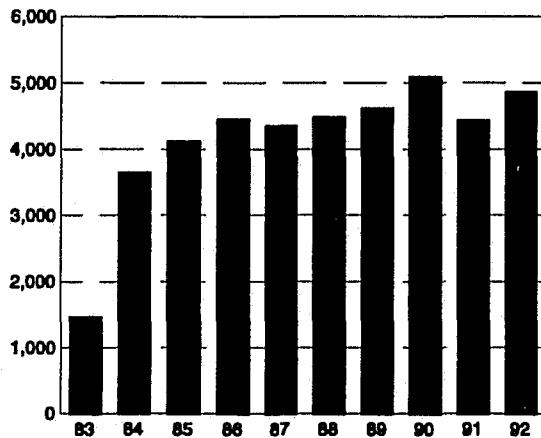
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service has become an important dispositional option for judges as a means of stressing

accountability. Overseen by county probation departments, community service programs allow juveniles to "give back" to the community by performing services. These services often vary across communities and may include cleaning parks and roadways, washing police cars, and doing general maintenance and landscaping work.

In 1992, there were 4,871 court orders for community service, representing a moderate increase (9.8%) over the previous year but a slight decrease (4.5%) from the 1990 total. The ten year trend (1983 to 1992) shows a dramatic increase in community service orders (230.0%), although most of this occurred between 1983 and 1984. Since 1984, orders have increased 33.3%

Community Service Orders 1983 - 1992



Counties continued to vary greatly in their use of community service, ranging from a high of 643 orders in Morris County to a low of 48 in Warren. The five counties with the greatest number of orders (Morris, Hudson, Camden, Burlington and Gloucester) accounted for nearly half (47.4%) of the state's orders. In contrast, the five counties with the fewest (Warren, Atlantic, Sussex, Middlesex, and Cape May) combined for only 8.1%.

There were 148,655 community service hours ordered statewide in 1992, a 20.8% increase over the 1991 total. In addition, an average of 31 hours was ordered per case, up from the 28 recorded for 1991. Counties varied greatly, ranging from a high in Passaic of 58 hours per case to a low of 13 hours in Union and Bergen.

Community Service by County 1992

County	New Cases	New Hours Ordered	Average	Compliance Rate
			Hours Per Case	
Atlantic	62	1,335	21.5	76%
Bergen	143	1,921	13.4	96%
Burlington	358	7,471	20.9	97%
Camden	385	11,630	30.2	89%
Cape May	110	2,430	22.1	85%
Cumberland	155	2,945	19.0	93%
Essex	186	5,570	29.9	77%
Gloucester	340	14,755	43.4	91%
Hudson	581	11,011	19.0	86%
Hunterdon	163	4,398	27.0	99%
Mercer	158	7,785	49.3	100%
Middlesex	90	2,947	32.7	66%
Monmouth	239	8,162	34.2	99%
Morris	643	23,597	36.7	100%
Ocean	209	4,820	23.1	86%
Passaic	322	18,819	58.4	90%
Salem	128	3,575	28.0	96%
Somerset	171	7,595	44.4	98%
Sussex	86	2,390	27.8	100%
Union	294	3,849	13.1	62%
Warren	48	1,650	34.4	90%
State Total	4,871	148,655	30.5	88%

With accountability as one of the driving forces behind community service, it is important to consider whether juveniles actually complete their orders. For 1992, nearly nine out of ten youths (88%) were reported to have completed their hours. Union had the lowest compliance rate (62%), followed by Middlesex (66%), while Mercer, Morris and Sussex each reported a perfect compliance rate (100%).

Notes:

1. For our purposes, a docketed "case" includes all new complaints docketed on the same filing date for a particular juvenile. With reference to adjudications of delinquency, in contrast, a "case" is tied to the hearing date on which a disposition is ordered on related complaints.

Data involving new complaints docketed and diverted do not include violation of probation charges.

Demographic analysis below is based on juvenile figures while the remaining analysis (e.g., type and degree of most serious charge) is generally based on case figures.

2. See Table 1 comparing demographic data at intake, diversion and adjudication stages.

- Demographic data are provided on juveniles for whom the data are known. The percentage of juveniles for whom specific data is not available is as follows: docketed – age (0.5%), and race/ethnicity (8.3%); diverted – age (0.5%), and race/ethnicity (9.6%); and adjudicated delinquent – age (0.2%), and race/ethnicity (5.8%).
3. A preliminary examination of diversion in one of our study counties suggested that minority youths in that county were more likely than white youths to have prior docketing on delinquency charges, and averaged a substantially greater number of "priors."
 4. These figures include adjudications of delinquency by judges and by juvenile referees. Among the eight counties analyzed here, Atlantic, Burlington and Morris counties utilize referees.
 5. In an unknown but significant portion of probation cases, involvement in community programs and services is ordered through the probation department and not indicated in the data provided here.
 6. The Sussex facility was officially closed in May 1993.
 7. As of January 1, 1993, Camden reduced its capacity by one (from 38 to 37), reducing the state's rated capacity to 611. And as of May 1, 1993, the rated capacity dropped to 595 after the closing of the Sussex facility.
 8. Our last *Profile* report stated that there were 194 commitment orders in 1991. Somerset County, which was listed as having 75 orders, was later found to have had only 60 orders. Thus, the 1991 total was 179.

TABLE 1
AGE, RACE/ETHNICITY AND GENDER OF JUVENILES AT THREE POINTS IN THE SYSTEM
1992

	AGE (%)				
	6-10	11-12	13-14	15-16	17+
Docketed	2.6	7.3	23.9	38.3	28.0
Diverted	3.8	9.8	27.1	36.0	23.4
Adjudicated Delinquent	0.9	3.4	17.6	39.8	38.2

	RACE/ETHNICITY (%)			
	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Docketed	50.8	32.6	14.8	1.9
Diverted	55.7	27.4	15.0	2.0
Adjudicated Delinquent	46.9	38.7	13.2	1.2

	GENDER (%)	
	Male	Female
Docketed	78.5	21.5
Diverted	73.4	26.6
Adjudicated Delinquent	87.8	12.2

TABLE 2
TYPE AND DEGREE OF LEAD OFFENSES AT THREE POINTS IN THE SYSTEM
1992

Type of Offense

	Violent Index	Property Index	Other Violent	Other Property	Drug/Alcohol	Other
Docketed	2,619	7,744	4,315	6,607	2,000	5,174
	9.4%	27.7%	15.5%	21.7%	7.2%	18.5%
Diverted	430	3,705	2,060	3,038	423	2,777
	3.5%	29.8%	16.6%	24.4%	3.4%	22.3%
Adjudicated Delinquent	975	2,209	1,100	1,520	806	2,209
	11.1%	25.0%	12.5%	17.2%	9.1%	25.0%

Type of Offense

	1st Degree	2nd Degree	3rd Degree	4th Degree	Disorderly Persons	Petty Disorderly Persons	No Degree Indicated
Docketed	914	3,520	6,513	2,340	11,497	2,267	868
	3.3%	12.6%	23.3%	8.4%	41.2%	8.1%	3.1%
Diverted	121	922	1,977	974	6,767	1,249	464
	1.0%	7.4%	15.9%	7.8%	54.1%	10.0%	3.7%
Adjudicated Delinquent	280	1,143	2,512	810	2,454	519	1,101
	3.2%	13.0%	28.5%	9.2%	27.8%	5.9%	12.5%

TABLE 3
TOP TEN CASE TYPES FOR MINORITY AND WHITE YOUTHS AND PERCENT DIVERTED
1992

MINORITY				
Charge	Degree	Number	% Diverted	% Diverted (White)
Simple Assault	DP	1,830	46.3	55.3
Shoplifting	DP	1,434	66.9	74.9
Improper Behavior	PDP	589	50.1	52.5
Robbery	1°	579	15.0	17.2
Theft by Unlawful Taking	DP	577	34.8	32.6
Aggravated Assault	2°	567	21.0	15.4
Theft by Unlawful Taking	3°	550	19.6	24.9
Possession of Drugs	No ° Indicated	530	18.9	23.8
Receiving Stolen Property	3°	501	28.7	37.9
Criminal Mischief (\$500 or <)	DP	485	54.0	59.4
WHITE				
Charge	Degree	Number	% Diverted	% Diverted (Minority)
Shoplifting	DP	1,565	74.9	66.9
Simple Assault	DP	1,462	55.3	46.3
Criminal Mischief(\$500 or<)	PDP	849	59.4	54.0
Theft by Unlawful Taking	3°	812	24.9	19.6
Theft by Unlawful Taking	DP	727	32.6	34.8
Possession of Alcohol	DP	604	69.5	52.8
Harrassment	PDP	502	64.1	50.9
Improper Behavior	PDP	343	52.5	50.1
Criminal Tresspass in a Dwelling	4°	310	61.9	49.7
Aggravated Assault	2°	260	15.4	21.0

TABLE 4
JUVENILE-FAMILY CRISIS INTERVENTION DATA BY COUNTY
1992

	New Cases	TYPES OF NEW CASES (%)							Cases Disposed	% Referred for Services	% Petitioned to Court	Out-of-Home Placement Rate Per 100 Cases*	
		Threat to Safety	Family Conflict	Runaway	Truancy	Minor Delinquency	Other					Voluntary	Involuntary
Atlantic	822	7.4%	52.4%	8.3%	31.3%	0.5%	0.1%	827	37.1%	12.2%	0.6	3.6	
Bergen	550	5.1%	58.2%	19.5%	10.2%	3.3%	3.8%	542	57.9%	23.2%	4.6	13.6	
Burlington	526	17.9%	24.0%	13.3%	12.0%	14.6%	18.3%	556	37.8%	18.9%	9.9	10.8	
Camden	1,255	15.6%	31.9%	9.7%	38.2%	3.3%	1.3%	1,289	31.3%	6.1%	4.2	2.4	
Cape May	282	16.3%	64.5%	9.2%	3.9%	2.1%	3.9%	273	28.6%	14.7%	5.9	9.5	
Cumberland	537	1.9%	47.3%	12.3%	7.4%	27.6%	3.5%	530	23.4%	3.8%	3.4	1.5	
Essex	1,065	4.0%	67.1%	9.0%	8.7%	8.6%	2.4%	1,141	14.8%	8.1%	1.7	10.4	
Gloucester	688	24.7%	59.9%	9.9%	3.8%	0.7%	1.0%	693	56.7%	10.4%	1.2	9.2	
Hudson	487	4.3%	54.2%	19.1%	12.1%	6.6%	3.7%	503	75.3%	13.1%	2.4	8.3	
Hunterdon	94	19.1%	53.2%	23.4%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	83	88.0%	13.3%	20.5	18.1	
Mercer	829	1.9%	41.5%	7.4%	7.6%	0.8%	40.8%	838	69.0%	4.5%	3.9	1.8	
Middlesex	635	9.8%	51.5%	16.7%	8.5%	3.0%	10.6%	622	64.5%	24.1%	13.3	17.2	
Monmouth	1,225	6.5%	72.4%	12.6%	3.2%	1.6%	3.7%	1,233	64.2%	14.3%	4.2	1.1	
Morris	451	7.1%	67.4%	17.5%	3.3%	1.3%	3.3%	438	63.0%	4.8%	2.7	0.7	
Ocean	414	4.1%	70.5%	13.0%	7.2%	1.4%	3.6%	430	79.3%	3.7%	11.2	3.3	
Passaic	663	3.7%	59.7%	12.8%	10.1%	2.6%	11.0%	594	50.3%	5.4%	5.6	6.6	
Salem	259	0.8%	60.6%	20.1%	12.7%	5.8%	0.0%	275	51.6%	22.5%	1.1	20.7	
Somerset	326	7.7%	30.1%	19.3%	8.3%	17.2%	17.5%	348	26.4%	7.2%	0.0	2.9	
Sussex	245	13.5%	52.7%	25.3%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	262	97.3%	14.1%	4.2	13.7	
Union	1,053	2.2%	59.5%	27.6%	7.9%	1.7%	1.0%	1,053	47.8%	14.6%	2.7	10.8	
Warren	112	3.6%	65.2%	14.3%	15.2%	0.0%	1.8%	131	80.9%	11.5%	1.5	1.5	
TOTAL	12,518	8.0%	54.2%	14.1%	12.3%	4.7%	6.7%	12,661	49.2%	11.4%	4.2	6.9	

*Note a potential for multiple placements in any particular case.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

TABLE 5
JUVENILE DETENTION
1992

	Capacity	Average Daily Population	% of Capacity	Average Length of Stay (Days)	ADMISSIONS						
					Male	Female	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Atlantic	19	38.0	200%	33.3	396	22	418	11.0%	69.1%	19.9%	0.0%
Bergen	41	13.6	33%	11.1	359	88	447	23.0%	53.0%	22.1%	1.8%
Burlington	21	11.8	56%	22.4	181	12	193	37.3%	54.4%	7.3%	1.0%
Camden	38	40.0	105%	13.4	983	110	1,093	14.4%	60.8%	24.1%	0.8%
Cumberland	32	21.9	68%	15.0	468	67	535	27.3%	51.4%	21.1%	0.2%
Essex	100	141.3	141%	17.9	2,606	279	2,885	1.8%	86.6%	11.6%	0.0%
Gloucester	15	9.8	65%	16.6	186	29	215	42.3%	52.6%	4.7%	0.5%
Hudson	45	58.3	130%	14.7	1,302	147	1,449	6.4%	64.6%	28.6%	0.3%
Mercer	44	40.6	92%	38.7	327	57	384	12.0%	72.9%	14.3%	0.8%
Middlesex	39	39.2	101%	22.1	551	99	650	28.0%	48.6%	23.1%	0.3%
Monmouth	39	34.1	87%	24.3	413	101	514	25.7%	63.6%	9.9%	0.8%
Morris	24	14.1	59%	21.3	199	43	242	59.1%	22.3%	16.9%	1.7%
Ocean	16	19.5	122%	22.1	248	75	323	51.7%	32.5%	15.5%	0.3%
Passaic	52	88.6	170%	37.5	741	124	865	5.9%	65.8%	28.3%	0.0%
Somerset	17	4.2	25%	14.9	88	15	103	49.5%	33.0%	10.7%	6.8%
Sussex	16	7.2	45%	12.7	182	27	209	90.0%	4.3%	3.8%	1.9%
Union	34	51.0	150%	18.4	881	133	1,014	7.3%	75.2%	17.4%	0.1%
Warren	20	8.8	44%	25.8	98	27	125	73.6%	21.6%	4.0%	0.8%
State Total	612	642.0	105%	20.1	10,209	1,455	11,664	16.2%	65.2%	18.2%	0.5%

JUVENILE CORRECTIONS

JUVENILE CORRECTIONS DATA AT A GLANCE

- ✓ The big news in juvenile corrections is reorganization. Responsibility for residential and day programs now resides with the Department of Human Services while the Department of Corrections continues to operate juvenile correctional institutions.
- ✓ An average of 1,186 juveniles were under some type of state correctional supervision on any given day in 1992, a 5% decrease from the previous year.
- ✓ In 1992, there were 1,041 juvenile commitments, a 6% increase over 1991. Preliminary 1993 data indicate that commitments continue to rise.
- ✓ Essex, Camden and Passaic counties account for nearly three of every five commitments to state facilities.
- ✓ An average of 579 juveniles were in state training schools on any given day in 1992 – about 6% fewer than in 1983. An average of 432 juveniles were in residential settings on any given day in 1992, an increase of over 10% from the previous year.
- ✓ Minority youth constitute well over 90% of all youth in state institutional settings.
- ✓ The state's institutional bed capacity has dropped considerably with the closing of the Lloyd McCorkle facility, from 729 to 536 beds. In August of 1993, the total number of juveniles housed in state correctional institutions was 575, about 7% over the state's rated capacity.

REORGANIZATION AT THE STATE LEVEL

In recent years, the primary state-level response to juveniles adjudicated delinquent on more serious offenses was commitment to the Department of Corrections. Once committed, juveniles were subsequently incarcerated in an institution or placed in one of the Department's residential programs. This has changed somewhat.

The big news in corrections is a reorganization of responsibility. Plans for this reorganization began in late 1992 and, after traveling a rocky road, became a reality as of July 1, 1993.

In November of 1992, a reorganization plan was proposed that would have transferred the Division of Juvenile Services (DJS) and related functions from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to the Department of Human Services (DHS). This proposal sought to implement a recommendation of the Cabinet Action Group on Juvenile Justice. The anticipated payoff of the new structure was expected to be a "better designed, more efficient and cost-effective approach to rehabilitating juveniles in New Jersey." Facing opposition, the Plan was revised to address a number of concerns and resubmitted with modifications to the Senate and General Assembly in March of 1993.

Again facing opposition, a compromise approach was outlined in Executive Order No. 93. The Plan, which went into effect on May 21, 1993, assigns responsibility for juvenile community (residential and day) programs to DHS and leaves day-to-day management and operation of the two juvenile institutions with DOC. The Plan requires joint management of the two institutions by DOC and DHS (see **JDC Clearinghouse**, June 4, 1993 issue).

With reference to the two institutions, Human Services may supplement existing programs with additional educational, remedial and/or rehabilitative programs; it is also given authority and responsibility for assigning or "classifying" juveniles for placement in the institutions and/or for reassigning youth from these facilities to other institutions and facilities. DHS also exercises joint responsibility with DOC for planning and overseeing capital improvements of the two facilities.

The transfer of jurisdiction was implemented as of July 1st of this year. After 15 months, a report will be issued evaluating the operation of the two institutions under reorganization and making recommendations for their future management.

A CALL FOR EXPANDED SERVICES FOR JUVENILES

Alongside the transfer of some state-level juvenile correctional services, the Plan addresses the system's response to juvenile offenders on a broader front. Again, it follows the lead of the Cabinet Action Group in seeking to expand and improve coordination of services for juveniles involved in the system. The Plan requires the Commissioner of Human Services to establish an Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice. The Advisory Council would assist the Commissioner in expanding dispositional options available to the court, develop a range of services for committed youth and work with county Youth Services Commissions to achieve an improved response for youth.

While the Plan does not provide specific guidance in this area, a clue to current thinking is provided by the report of the Cabinet Action Group's Task Force on Community Services and Dispositional Alternatives, the "Waldman Report" (see **JDC Clearinghouse**, October 2, 1992). The focus of the Task Force was to address the array of community services that should be available for juveniles adjudicated delinquent as well as for youth "at risk" of involvement with the court. Among the principles delineated by the Task Force: special attention to be paid to urban and minority issues; development of a full spectrum of services and sanctions for youth; possible redirection of juvenile institutional expenditures to the operation of community-based programs (i.e., alternatives to incarceration); refashion the system to improve intergovernmental coordination and to foster local empowerment; improve handling of delinquency cases through a multidisciplinary team approach; incorporate multicultural competency and sensitivity in the system; and provide that county Youth Services Commissions be a key actor in the expanding community response to delinquency.

In short, the proposed approach focuses on an expanded local role in the operation of programs and provision of services for court-involved youth – something sought by the framers of the 1983 Code

of Juvenile Justice, and something articulated by the Juvenile Delinquency Commission.

STATE AND LOCAL ROLES IN THE RESPONSE TO DELINQUENCY

We are now in the midst of a redefinition and clarification of state vis a vis local roles. The actual form the system will take remains unclear, but the direction echoes sentiments provided in the First Annual Report of the Commission in 1986:

Increased emphasis on community-based approaches, combined with a realization that local services are often more effective than state-delivered services, has increasingly shifted the state role from direct service delivery to planning, funding, standard setting, research and monitoring. New Jersey's new Code reflects many of these trends.

One of the Commission's key concerns has been the insufficient supply of good local programs, especially in our urban centers. We have pointed out that a major reason for the slow pace of local program development is the fragmented and poorly organized nature of our juvenile justice system. Another is the lack of incentives from the state to encourage an increased local role. In these hard fiscal times, the bulk of such incentives can be expected only within the context of a redirection of existing state-level executive branch funding.

The reorganization of the state-level correctional system for juveniles is a positive first step toward desired change. Implementation of a number of the principles recently espoused in the Waldman Report can be expected to take us even further.

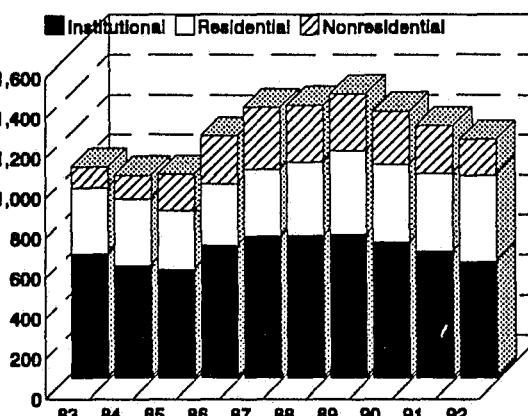
RECENT CORRECTIONAL TRENDS

Below, we examine correctional trends. Note that the data reflect trends within the pre-reorganization correctional structure (i.e., prior to July 1993). Future *Profile* editions will examine trends under the current organizational arrangement.

In 1992, there were 1,186 juveniles under state correctional supervision on any given day, a 5.4% decrease from 1991 and the lowest recorded average since 1985. Data for the first six months of 1993 also reveal an 8.8% decrease from the same period of the prior year, showing a continued decline. While totals are down in recent years, a ten year trend analysis (1983 to 1992) shows an increase of 26.5%.

Juveniles Under Correctional Supervision by Program Type, 1983 - 1992

Number of Juveniles

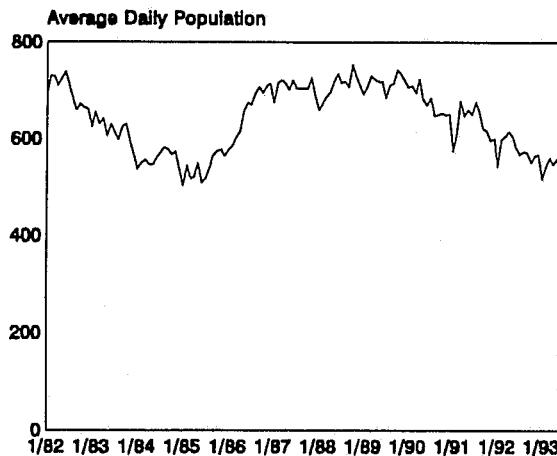


In 1992, an average of 579 juveniles were in a state training school on any given day, the lowest total since 1985. This represents an 8.4% decrease from 1991. An examination of the ten year trend (from 1983 to 1992) reveals a 6.3% decline. Institutional populations fluctuated considerably during the ten year period.

Prior to the closing of the Lloyd McCorkle Training School, the state's institutional capacity (available training school beds) was 729.¹ But with the closing, the total capacity has dropped to 536 beds, a 26.5% decrease. The impact of the closing has been hardest felt by the Training School for Boys at Jamesburg which has a capacity of 404. In June 1991, a year before the official closing, Jamesburg's average daily population was 350. Since the closing, its

population has increased considerably, peaking at 457 juveniles in August of 1992. As of August of this year, the institution had a population of 441 juveniles. The total institutional population, in August, was 575 which is 7.3% above capacity.

Average Daily Institutional Populations January 1983 - June 1993²



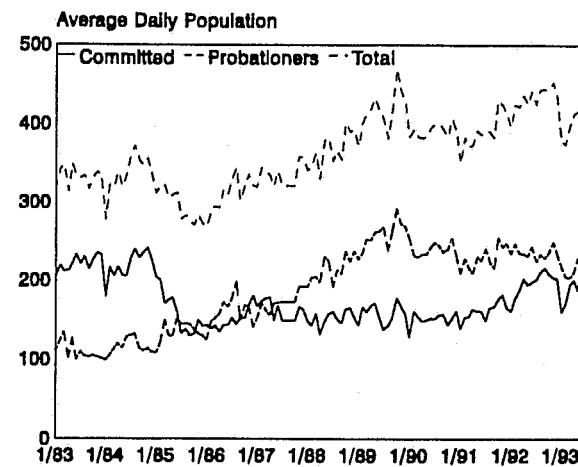
RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

Residential programs played a more prominent role in 1992 than ever before. In 1992, over one-third (36.4%) of all DJS youths under state correctional supervision were in residential programs.

There were 432 juveniles in residential placements on any given day during 1992, an increase of 10.8% over the prior year. This marks the highest total ever, surpassing the previous high (416) recorded in 1989. Data for the first six months of 1993, however, show 399 youths in residential programs, a 5.9% dip from the 1992 six month average. The ten year analysis (1983 to 1992) revealed a 30.1% growth in residential populations.

Residential programs handle two types of juveniles – those committed to the Division of Juvenile Services by the courts and placed there following classification, and those ordered directly into residential care, typically alongside placement under probation supervision. Nearly half (45.5%) of all juveniles in residential facilities in 1992 were committed juveniles, the highest figure recorded since the mid-1980s. This recent increase may be at least partly attributed to the closing of Lloyd McCorkle and the subsequent institutional overcrowding.

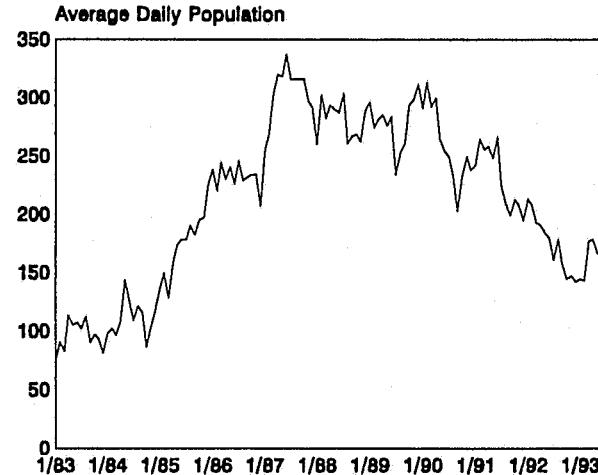
Average Daily Residential Populations by Type of Resident January 1983 - June 1993²



DAY PROGRAMS

Juveniles placed in day programs remain there during the day and return home at night. They are, typically, under probation supervision as well. There were 175 juveniles in day programs on any given day in 1992, significantly less (24.6%) than in 1991. In fact, since 1987 day program populations have decreased 42.4%. Data from January to June of 1993 show the average daily population to have dropped to 157, 19.5% below the average recorded for the same period in 1992. Much of this decrease can be traced to a reduction in the number of programs. In a little over two years (June 1991 to July 1993), the number of day program slots decreased 37.7%, from 310 to 193.

Average Daily Day Program Populations January 1983 – June 1993²



COMMITMENTS

Incarceration is the most serious disposition the family court can order. In 1992, there were 1,041 state commitments, a 6.3% increase over the 1991 total and the third straight year that an increase has occurred. Data for the first six months of 1993 reveal a continued rise with an 11.0% increase in commitments compared with the same period in 1992, and a 16.4% increase over the 1991 period. Although commitments have increased in recent years, the ten year trend (1983 to 1992) shows a decrease of 12.8%. During this time, commitment levels fluctuated greatly, ranging from a high of 1,194 in 1983 to a low of 794 in 1985.

Commitments continue to vary significantly by county. Three counties (Essex, Camden and Passaic) combined to account for nearly three in five (56.6%) commitments, statewide. Essex County alone accounted for one in every four commitments in 1992; Essex commitments grew 51.2% over its 1991 figure. By contrast, ten other counties combined for 6.7% of the state's commitment total (Hunterdon, Sussex, Warren, Morris, Cape May, Salem, Bergen, Gloucester, Mercer and Ocean). See Table 1, appended, for additional county-level commitment information.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender. A large majority of juveniles arrested, especially those arrested for the more serious offenses, are male. However, males comprise an even more disproportionate share of juveniles un-

der state correctional supervision. On June 1, 1993 males comprised 96.6% of the total population, including 97.9% of the institutional, 95.8% of the residential and 93.9% of the day program populations.

Race/Ethnicity. Minorities continue to be significantly overrepresented in our training schools. In October of this year, minority youth comprised 91.3% of the population at the Training School for Boys at Jamesburg. Black youths accounted for 72.2% and Hispanic youths 19.1%. White youths accounted for the remaining 8.7%.

SPECIAL CONTRACT PROGRAMS

The state also contracts for a number of residential and nonresidential services known as "Governor's Initiative Contract Programs," the result of a special appropriation. These programs were developed as alternatives to incarceration in detention centers and training schools. As of June 1993, the state was funding 10 such programs – 2 residential and 8 nonresidential. During 1992, these programs served, on average, 90 youths daily, with 85 in day programs and 5 in residential facilities.

NOTES

1. One cottage in Lloyd McCorkle, housing up to 14 female juvenile offenders, remains open.
2. Missing data for 8-10/87 plotted at 7/87 level.

TABLE 1
JUVENILE COMMITMENTS BY COUNTY
1983 – 1992

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Atlantic	100	60	47	63	86	106	87	60	84	78
Bergen	39	33	26	18	10	12	6	12	8	10
Burlington	32	12	16	23	24	14	18	13	26	29
Camden	128	156	123	169	129	96	137	154	167	184
Cape May	9	8	6	13	7	4	3	1	7	5
Cumberland	49	38	36	22	16	27	29	29	50	20
Essex	132	127	116	143	144	181	182	224	172	260
Gloucester	6	6	7	5	6	3	7	12	11	13
Hudson	28	63	28	66	22	27	56	45	47	78
Hunterdon	7	6	3	4	4	6	7	0	1	1
Mercer	40	39	21	21	27	31	37	26	15	13
Middlesex	92	40	29	43	33	53	52	36	35	33
Monmouth	83	61	62	67	62	123	119	51	76	51
Morris	12	7	4	8	3	5	4	2	3	4
Ocean	58	40	29	21	26	20	31	19	10	14
Passaic	190	187	125	172	139	182	175	184	171	145
Salem	20	6	3	4	2	6	6	6	3	6
Somerset	57	28	42	30	7	11	25	19	15	18
Sussex	8	5	0	6	10	1	2	1	7	2
Union	89	55	65	75	68	66	64	61	66	75
Warren	15	10	6	1	1	5	4	6	5	2
TOTAL	1,194	987	794	974	826	979	1,051	961	979	1,041