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**THE SERIOUS AND VIOLENT
JUVENILE OFFENDER
IN MISSOURI**

1993

Compiled by

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

and

The Missouri Department of Public Safety

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INTRODUCTION

VIOLENCE The issue of violent crime has become a major topic in the press, in the political arena, in the criminal justice system and in the private conversations of the public. For the media it might be "news", for a politician it might be a "stand on an important issue", for the criminal justice system it might be an increase in needs or a reaction to public perceptions, for the public it might be "fear". When conversations focus on violence committed by juveniles the issue takes on new dimensions.

Recent media reports and political statements often contain references to increased violence by juveniles and describe this change using words such as "explosion" and "alarming". Naturally, the public has become very concerned and fearful for its personal safety. As the issue escalates so do the cries for something to be done. Very often with emotional issues we are looking for a "quick fix" and are likely to form a strong opinion on the causes of the problems and the solutions.

Violent crime and violent criminals should be a serious concern regardless of their prevalence. Certainly, these individuals must be dealt with appropriately and public safety must be a primary consideration. However, it is important to have a clear understanding of the nature and extent of the problem in order to proceed with the critical efforts of prevention and treatment. To this end, the Missouri Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

(JJAG) have undertaken a special project entitled The Serious and Violent Juvenile Offender. Our ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for all Missourians, including those in need of intervention and treatment services.

We believe that all of Missouri's children are worth saving. We believe that the juvenile justice system holds the best hope for positive outcomes. We believe that Missouri can find solutions to this problem by a greater coordination of efforts between state and local governments, between service agencies, with business and community leaders and with the community itself. We believe that we cannot meet the challenge of this problem by investing solely in the criminal justice system, but must be more proactive in preventive strategies.

The Serious and Violent Juvenile Offender Project includes the collection and review of statistical data, an opinion survey with law enforcement, juvenile courts and educators and a convening of individuals from around the state for the Missouri Select Symposium on the Serious and Violent Juvenile Offender. The results of these efforts will be presented in a final report and distributed to the Governor, legislators, juvenile courts, law enforcement, etc.

We urge you to contact us with any concerns, questions or recommendations that you might have.

THE SURVEY

AS important as statistical data are, it is equally important to know and understand the feelings of those who are working daily with our young people. Do these individuals feel there has been a change in the behavior of young people, and if so, what changes and why? To attempt to answer some of these basic questions, we distributed a simple and straightforward opinion survey to all juvenile officers and juvenile court administrators, all local law enforcement officials, and all middle and high school principals. The high response rate to our survey was gratifying. (See Table 1) Surveys were returned from every geographical location in the state and represented a cross-section of urban, suburban and rural schools, communities and jurisdictions.

Table 1
Serious and Violent Youth Offender Survey
Response Rate

| | Surveys Mailed | Surveys Returned | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| | Number | Number | Percent |
| School Officials | 768 | 507* | 66.0 |
| Law Enforcement | 550 | 290 | 52.7 |
| Juvenile Court | 45 | 33 | 73.3 |

*At least one survey came from each of Missouri's 115 counties and the city of St. Louis

The following is a compilation of the responses to specific survey questions:

Is juvenile related violence a problem?

All three surveys asked the respondent to indicate whether they believed juvenile involved violence is a problem for their school (educators), county or jurisdiction (law enforcement) or judicial circuit (juvenile court). (See Table 2)

- Nearly 81% of the responding school principals felt that student involved violence was not a problem for their school. In a separate question, school administrators were asked to report the number of student on student or student on staff assaults, students in possession of a weapon and students in possession or distribution of drugs that were recorded on or near their school grounds during the past year. There appeared to be no correlation between a yes or no response to the previous question and the number of incidents reported. For example, one individual might indicate yes, violence is a problem, and report 5 to 10 incidents while another individual might report as many as 100 incidents and indicate that violence was not a problem. The size of the school or its location within an urban or rural location also appeared not to be a factor.

- Over half of the schools responding reported no incidents of students in possession of a weapon during the past year. More than 90% indicated 3 or less incidents. (See Appendix B) The survey did not ask for types of weapons, but respondents often indicated knives as the weapon.
- Student assault upon another student was the most often reported serious or violent offense. Assaults were often described as fist fights. Only 20% of the schools reported from 1 to 16 incidents. (See Appendix B)
- Student assault upon school personnel was reported by only 13.6% of the schools (n=69). Less than 2% of the schools had more than a single incident of a student assaulting school personnel. (See Appendix B)
- More than two-thirds (67.3%) of the schools showed no incidents of students in possession of drugs. 166 schools reported from 1 to 10 incidents of students in possession of drugs. (See Appendix B)
- Law enforcement officials responded in 61% of the returned surveys that chronic juvenile offenders are a serious problem in their communities. (See Appendix B)
- A nearly equal number (60%) considered drugs a problem. (See Appendix B)
- Over one-third (34.4%) of law officers feel that juveniles and weapons are a significant problem. (See Appendix B)
- More than half, 54.9%, of the law enforcement responses indicated that they felt juvenile related violence was little or no problem in their jurisdiction. Metropolitan jurisdictions were more likely to note a problem; however size or geography did not play a significant factor in responses.
- Racial conflict and gang activities were indicated as a significant problem by law enforcement, 19% & 25%, respectively. (See Appendix B)
- More than 80% of the juvenile court personnel returning surveys feel that chronic juvenile offenders are a problem in their communities. (See Appendix B)
- Almost two-thirds of the juvenile court officers stated that drugs are a significant problem among youth in their jurisdictions. (See Appendix B)
- More than half (55.8%) of the juvenile court believe youth in possession of a weapon to be a serious problem. (See Appendix B)

- Just over half of the juvenile officers responding (51.5%) believed juvenile related violence was a significant issue for their circuit. Again, urban courts were more likely to report a problem, but small rural courts also indicated problems.
- Roughly a third of the respondents indicate that racial conflict and gang-related activities are a problem, 35.3 & 32.3% respectively. (See Appendix B)

Table 2
Is Juvenile Involved Violence a Problem?

| | School Officials (n-496) | Law Enforcement (n-279) | Juvenile Court (n-33) |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | 19.2% | 45.1% | 51.5% |
| No | 80.8% | 54.9% | 48.6% |

Has the extent of serious and violent offending by juveniles changed in the past 5 years?

Respondents were asked to indicate their answer using a scale from 1 to 10 to describe changes (in their jurisdiction or school) ranging from significant decreases to significant increases. (See Table 3)

- Over half of each of the responding groups indicated little change or significant decreases in the level of serious and violent offending by juveniles. School officials indicated this response most often (84.6%), followed by law enforcement (66.9%) and juvenile court (57.5%).
- Reports of significant increases in violent/serious offenses were indicated in nearly 43% of the responding juvenile officers.
- One-third (33.1%) of responding law enforcement officers believe their jurisdictions have seen significant increases.
- Less than 1 in 5 school officials (15.4%) reported significant changes during the past five years.

Table 3
Changes in Juvenile Related Violence

| | School Officials (n-462) | Law Enforcement (n-283) | Juvenile Court (n-33) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Significant Decrease | 14.4% | 9.6% | 3.0% |
| Little Change | 70.2% | 57.3% | 54.5% |
| Significant Increase | 15.4% | 33.1% | 42.5% |

What are the reasons for changes in the types or levels of violence committed by juveniles?

Survey recipients were asked to give an opinion as to why they feel the types or levels of violence perpetrated by juveniles has changed in recent years. This was an open ended question and the responses have been grouped into eight general categories (See Table 4). Respondents could provide more than one view.

- The cause most often cited for changes in youth violence related to a lack of or ineffective parenting. One-fourth (25.3%) of the law enforcement responses indicated this as a factor. Nearly 20% of juvenile officers and 17% of school officials also believe this to be a cause.
- School officials and juvenile officers (13.6% and 13.0% respectively) blamed violence on television, movies and in songs and violence in society (ie., domestic violence and child abuse) for greater violence committed by juveniles. This view was noted by 4.9% of the law enforcement respondents.
- 15% of juvenile officers and law enforcement officials believe that drugs have made a contribution to changes in juvenile crime. Interestingly, only 2.6% of the responses from school officials cited drugs.
- Changes in and the proliferation of gangs and gang-related violence was suggested by 11% of law enforcement and 8% of juvenile officers. Nearly 5% of school officials cited gangs as an issue.
- Stress created by poverty, low paying jobs and unemployment received an almost equal response rate from all three categories of respondents (5.2% of schools, 6.5% of juvenile courts and 6.9% of law enforcement).
- Population shifts, including inner-city youth moving to rural areas, and diversity in communities was likewise indicated by an approximately equal percentage of respondents from each group (6.1 to 8.7%).
- Almost 1 in 10 law enforcement respondents (8.9%) cited lax or ineffective laws or enforcement of laws and regulations as a factor in the spread of violent juvenile behavior.

Table 4
Why Violence by Juveniles Has Changed

| | School Officials (n=346) | Law Enforcement (n=245) | Juvenile Court (n=46) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ineffective Parenting | 17.3% | 25.3% | 19.5% |
| Violence in Media and Society | 13.6% | 4.9% | 13.0% |
| Gangs | 4.6% | 10.9% | 8.2% |
| Drugs | 2.6% | 15.2% | 15.1% |
| Availability of Weapons | 2.3% | 2.4% | 2.0% |
| Economic Stress | 5.2% | 6.9% | 6.5% |
| Shifts in Population | 6.1% | 6.5% | 8.7% |
| Ineffective Laws and/or Policies | 2.6% | 2.2% | 8.9% |

What programs or policies have been implemented to address the issues of violent or serious offending youth?

Each respondent was asked to indicate whether or not their school, court or law enforcement agency had implemented any new programs or policies during the past five years that address the violent and serious offender.

Table 5
Programs/Policies Utilized by the School

| | # of Respondents | % of all Respondents |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Immediate Suspension for Drugs | 474 | 93.5 |
| Immediate Suspension for Weapons | 465 | 91.7 |
| Expulsion for Drug Possession & Sale | 428 | 84.4 |
| Dress Codes | 350 | 69.0 |
| Peer Group Counseling | 249 | 49.1 |
| Referral to Counseling or Treatment as an Alternative to Punishment | 232 | 45.8 |
| Conflict Mediation | 153 | 30.2 |
| Multi-Cultural Education | 112 | 22.1 |
| Security Officers | 86 | 17.0 |
| Court Referral for Serious Offenses | 49 | 9.7 |
| Metal Detectors | 14 | 2.8 |

- Over 90% of all the responding school officials indicated that they had policies to immediately suspend youth found in possession of drugs or weapons.
- Expulsion from school for drug possession and sales was also indicated by a large percentage of respondents (84%).
- Dress codes for students was reported by close to three-fourths of the respondents. (Type of code was not specified)
- Peer group counseling and referral to counseling services are utilized by nearly half of the schools responding (49% and 46% respectively).
- Close to a third of the respondents indicated the use of conflict mediation.

Table 6
Top Six Law Enforcement Responses

| | # of Respondents | % of all Respondents |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| D.A.R.E. | 93 | 48.9 |
| Juvenile - Police Interaction | 18 | 9.5 |
| Gang Units & Education | 14 | 7.4 |
| Referral to Juvenile Officer | 9 | 4.7 |
| Drug/Alcohol Programs | 8 | 4.2 |
| McGruff | 6 | 3.2 |

- Nearly half (48.9%) of the responding law enforcement agencies reported using the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.
- No other single response was reported by more than 10% of the respondents.

Table 7
Top Four Juvenile Court Responses

| | # of Respondents | % of all Respondents |
|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Home Detention, Intensive Supervision & Tracking | 8 | 21.6 |
| Drug/Alcohol Education | 6 | 16.2 |
| Group Counseling | 5 | 13.5 |
| TASC (Drug Counseling) | 5 | 13.5 |

- Approximately 1 in 5 juvenile courts (21.6%) reported the use of special supervision programs (home detention, intensive supervision and tracking) for serious/violent offenders.
- Drug and alcohol education and counseling programs were indicated on sixteen of the juvenile court surveys.

Is Missouri's current system for transferring juveniles to adult court for trial and disposition adequate?

Missouri law allows that youth between the ages of 14 and 17 alleged to have committed a felony may be transferred to a court of general jurisdiction (adult court) if the juvenile court determines, in a hearing, that the juvenile is not a proper subject to be dealt with in the juvenile system. Juvenile court and law enforcement officials were asked whether they supported this system or would recommend changes.

**Table 8
Certification of Juveniles to Adult Court**

| | Law Enforcement (n=247) | Juvenile Court (n=29) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current System is Adequate | 42.1% | 69.0% |
| Lower Minimum Age from 14 | 16.2% | 0.0% |
| All for Automatic Waiver to Adult Court | 32.8% | 20.7% |
| Other | 8.9% | 10.3% |

- Over two-thirds (69.0%) of the responding juvenile officers indicated their support for the current system of transfer, while 42% of law enforcement officials agreed.
- Nearly one-third of law enforcement officials supported the concept of establishing a system of "automatic waivers" to adult court. One-fifth (20.7%) of responding juvenile officers supported this option.
- A relatively small percentage (16.2) of law enforcement officials support lowering the age of eligibility for transfer from 14. No responding juvenile officer chose this option.
- Approximately 10% of both juvenile court and law enforcement officials selected the "other" option and most indicated a support for automatic waivers to adult court for certain violent offenses such as murder. Others indicated a support for automatic waivers, but for 16 year olds only.

SUMMARY

How big is the problem of juvenile involved violence perceived in Missouri's communities?

Can we summarize from the survey results just how big a problem violence by juveniles is in Missouri? This would be impossible using any method, primarily because of differing opinions on how to quantify this issue as either small, moderate or large. It also will be different in every community. We can see, however, that for a large majority of school officials, and for many law enforcement and juvenile court officials, violence by juveniles is not considered a significant problem in their communities and in their schools. The majority of respondents did not believe there had been a significant change in the level of violent offending during the past five years. Still, the opinion of a number of law enforcement and juvenile court officers was that violence by juveniles is a notable problem in their community and has increased significantly in the past five years.

What causes juveniles to commit violent crimes?

As for the question of why we have youth who can and do commit serious and violent crimes there are many different opinions, but several have a common theme and received a significant backing from the respondents. Issues relating to the family is where the finger of fault was most often pointed. These issues include a breakdown of the family structure, a breakdown of family values, parents unable or even unwilling to nurture and supervise their children, violence within the home (spousal and child), drug usage by parents and siblings and a variety of economic stressors. It is also a popular opinion that there is a greater display and acceptance of violence in society today.

What programs and/or policies have you implemented to address the issue of violent juvenile offenders?

Nearly all school officials reported the existence of suspension policies for drug and weapon violations. A high number also use expulsion for drug violations and have established dress codes. Peer counseling, conflict mediation and referral to outside counseling and treatment are utilized by a third or more of the schools. Less than 1 in 10 have policies for referring youth for court action for serious offenses.

The overwhelming choice of service programs for law enforcement is the D.A.R.E. program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

Only one-fifth of the responding juvenile courts reported implementing specialized supervision programs during the past five years. These programs include home detention, intensive supervision and tracking. Other support programs utilized by several courts include counseling services and counseling and education for drug and alcohol.

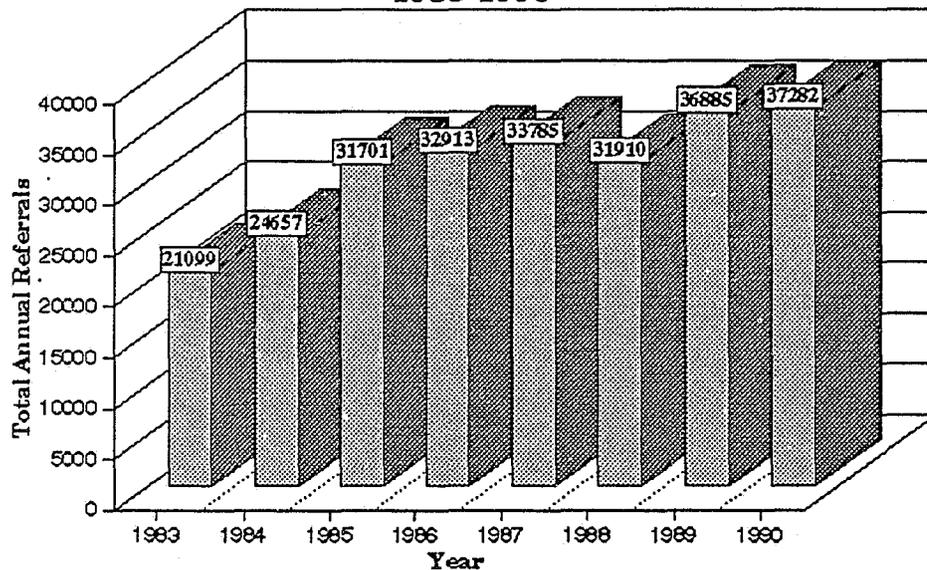
What is your opinion about Missouri's current system for transferring juveniles to adult court for prosecution?

We asked the question about the adequacy of the current system of transferring juvenile offenders to adult court because of a growing legislative interest in making changes. Much of the interest in "automatic waiver" legislation can probably be based on the belief that the juvenile court system is not capable of serving this population of offenders, that it "coddles" them and the adult system would hold them accountable. Most juvenile officers who responded and more law enforcement officers than not, support the current waiver system and do not favor "automatic" transfers.

JUVENILE COURT REFERRAL DATA

To help us understand the extent of serious and violent offending by juveniles and recent trends in offending behavior, we examined juvenile court referral data for the period 1983 - 1990. These data is reported by each of Missouri's juvenile courts to the Missouri Statewide Juvenile Information System operated under the authority of the Missouri Department of Social Services and the Division of Children and Youth Services. This reporting system captures the major allegation, detention placements, processing and adjudication and placement along with demographic information regarding the youth. When reading the statistical data that follow, please be advised that numbers represent referrals and not individuals. It is possible, and is common, for youth to have multiple referrals during the year. Therefore, the actual number of youth involved will be less than the number of referrals.

Figure 1 **Total Annual Referrals**
1983-1990



* Referral data for Jackson County was not included in the 1988 data set.

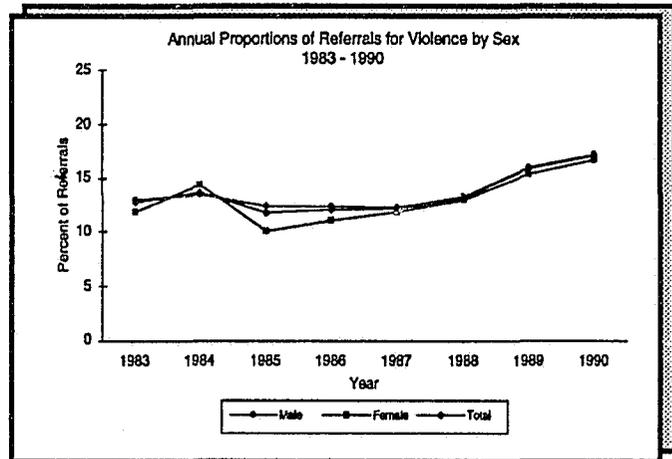
- The total number of annual referrals increased 77% during this period.
- The largest growth in referrals occurred between 1983 and 1986, up 50%. The total number of referrals to the juvenile court have increased at a steady rate of 2% - 4% since 1985.
- 1991 referral data indicate an increase in all law violations to 40,180 (a 90% increase over 1983).
- Typically, males account for two-thirds or more of all referrals with white males making up the largest percentage of all referrals. Females are approximately one-third of all referrals with white females more than double the number of black females. (Numbers not shown)

REFERRALS FOR VIOLENT OFFENSES

Figure 2

*Annual Proportions of
Referrals for Violence by Sex*

1983 - 1990



To be included in version
distributed at the seminar.

Figure 3

*Annual Proportions of Referrals
for Violence by Race*

1983 - 1990

Violent offenses discussed in this report refer to crimes against persons and include the following criminal charges: Homicide, Rape, Sexual Assault, Robbery and Felony Assault.

- During the period 1983 - 1990 violent offenses reported to the juvenile court as a percentage of all law violation referrals for delinquency rose from 12.8% to 17.1%.
- Although there has not been a large increase in the percentage of referrals for violent offenses, the actual number of referrals during this period jumped from 2,692 to 6,368, an increase well over 200%.
- Females showed the largest increase in percent of the total (11.9% to 16.7%)
- For 1990, black youth represented the largest percent of referrals for violent crimes at just over 50% of the total (n=3,191). This was true for 1989 as well, but represents a change from the previous years studied.
- Males comprise nearly 80% of the total referrals for violence (n=5,090) in 1990. This referral rate is consistent for the entire period studied.
- 59% of all violent offense referrals during the period 1983 - 1990 were reported in three judicial circuits; the 16th (Jackson County), 21st (St. Louis County) and the 22nd (St. Louis City). All three juvenile courts reported a steady increase in violent offense referrals during this period rising at a rate greater than 100% from 1983 - 1990. Jackson County recorded the greatest increase at 180%.

HOMICIDE

Figure 4
Annual Number
of Homicide
Referrals by Sex
1983 - 1990

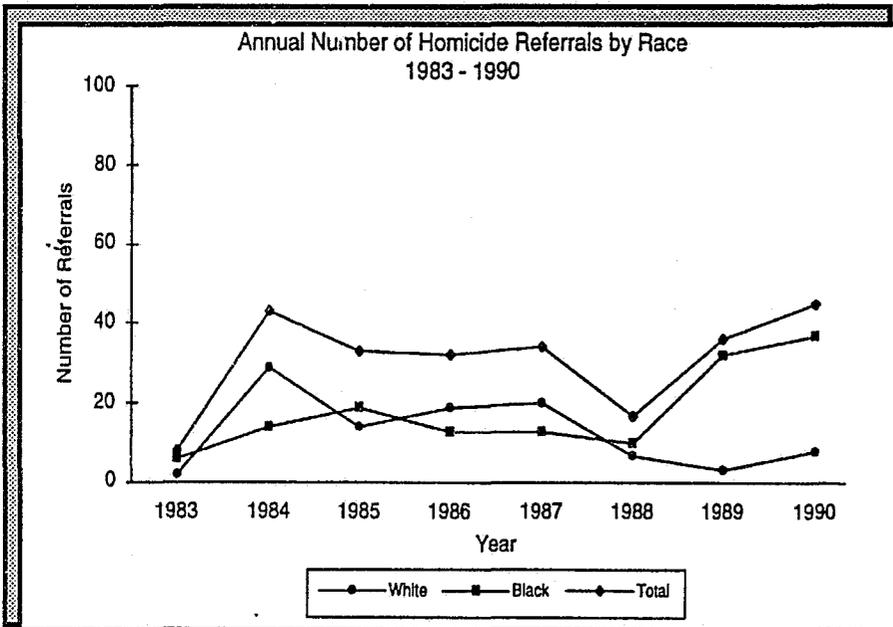
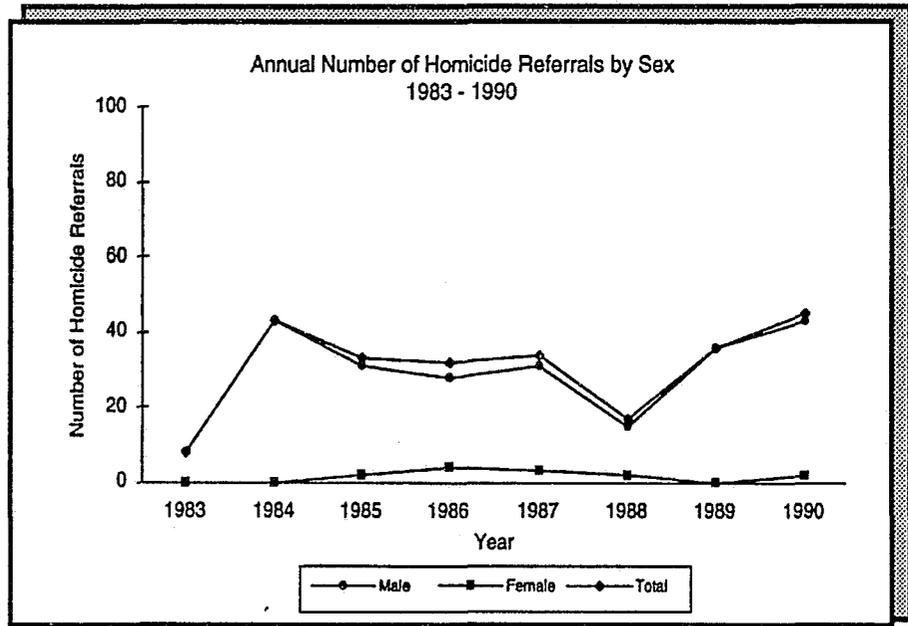


Figure 5
Annual Number of
Homicide Referrals by
Race
1983 - 1990

- Homicides account for only one-tenth of one percent of all referrals annually for law violations.
- During the period 1983 - 1990, the number of homicides committed by juveniles remained relatively the same after a jump from 8 in 1983 to 43 in 1984.
- Referral data for 1991 shows a total of 56 juvenile perpetrated homicides, a 32% increase over 1990.
- Consistently, males account for 95 - 100% of all homicide referrals.

- The number of homicide referrals for whites declined during this period, while referrals for black youth increased (from 14 in 1984 to 37 in 1990).
- 191 (77%) of the reported juvenile perpetrated homicides occurred in the metropolitan areas of Kansas City, St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Kansas City, even with 1988 data missing, recorded the most homicides with a total of 102. St. Louis City followed with 65 and St. Louis County reported 24 homicides.

ASSAULT

Figure 6
Annual Proportions
of Referrals for
Assault by Sex
1983 - 1990

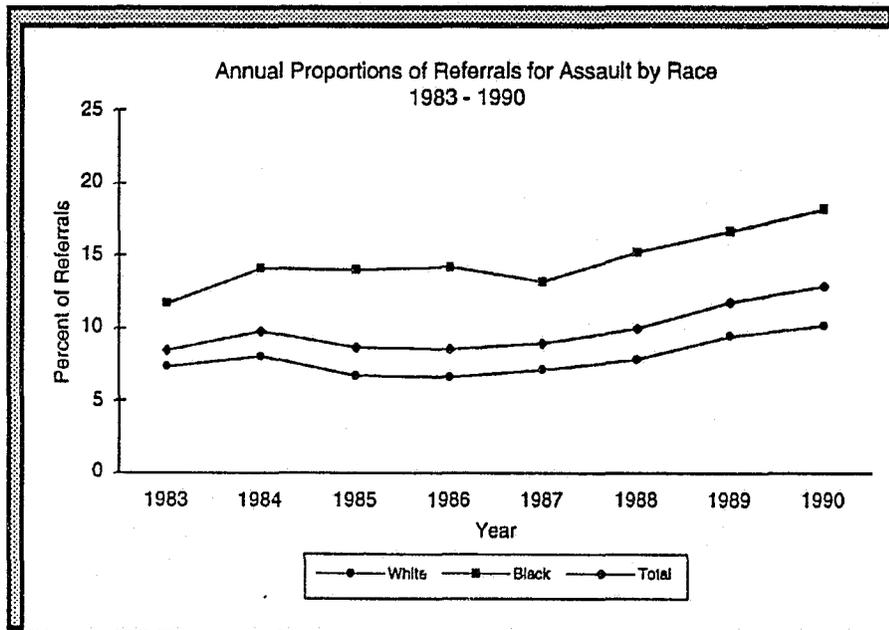
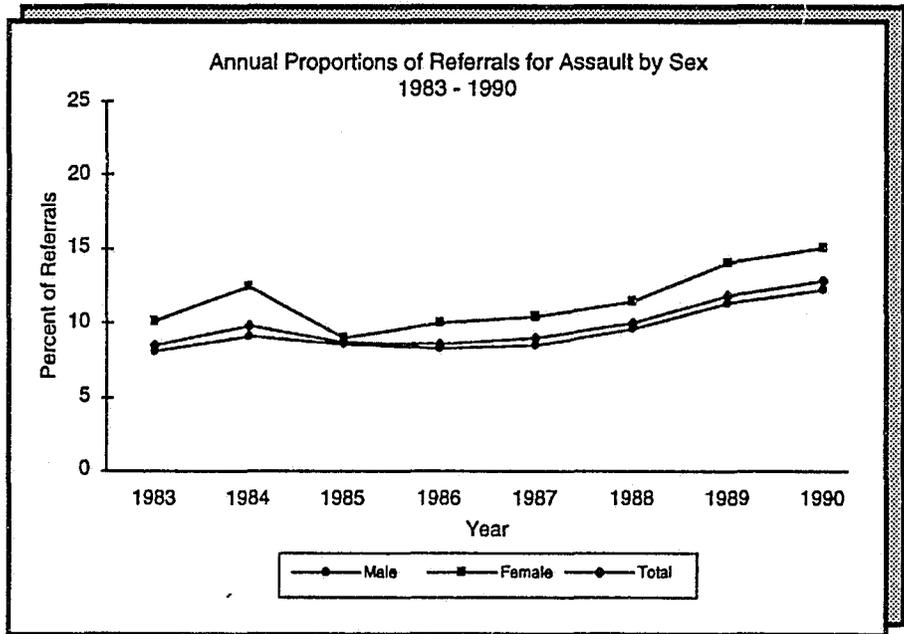


Figure 7
Annual Proportions
of Referrals for
Assault by Race
1983 - 1990

- Referrals for assault rose steadily during this period, with assaults accounting for 12.9% of all referrals in 1990 (n=4,810) up from 8.5% in 1983.
- 74 - 77% of assault referrals during this period involved males.
- The percent of total assault referrals for black youth increased from 36% in 1983 to 47% in 1990.
- White youth account for the largest actual number of assault referrals for any one year during this period (2,494 in 1990).

**SEXUAL
ASSAULT**

Figure 8
Annual Proportion of Referrals for Sexual Assault by Sex
1983 - 1990

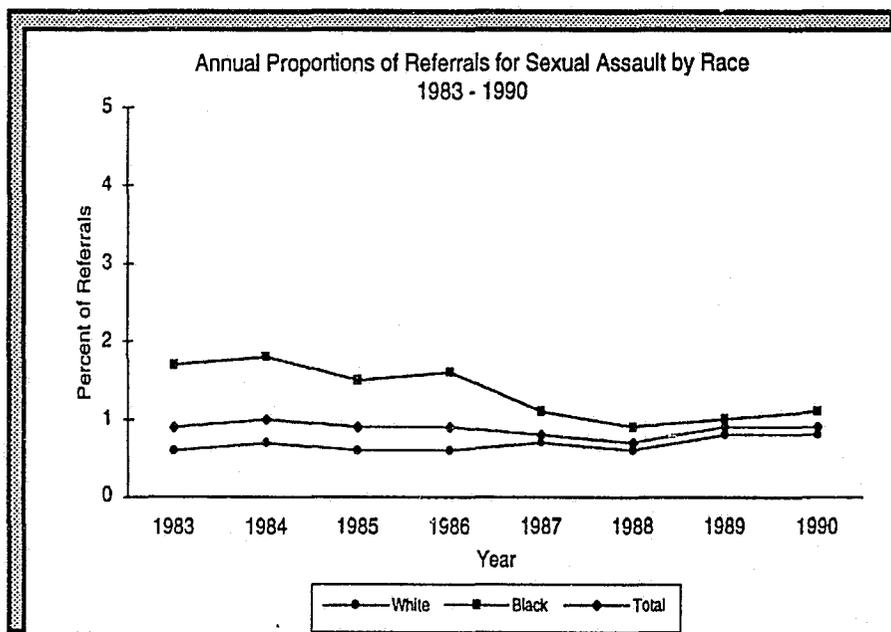
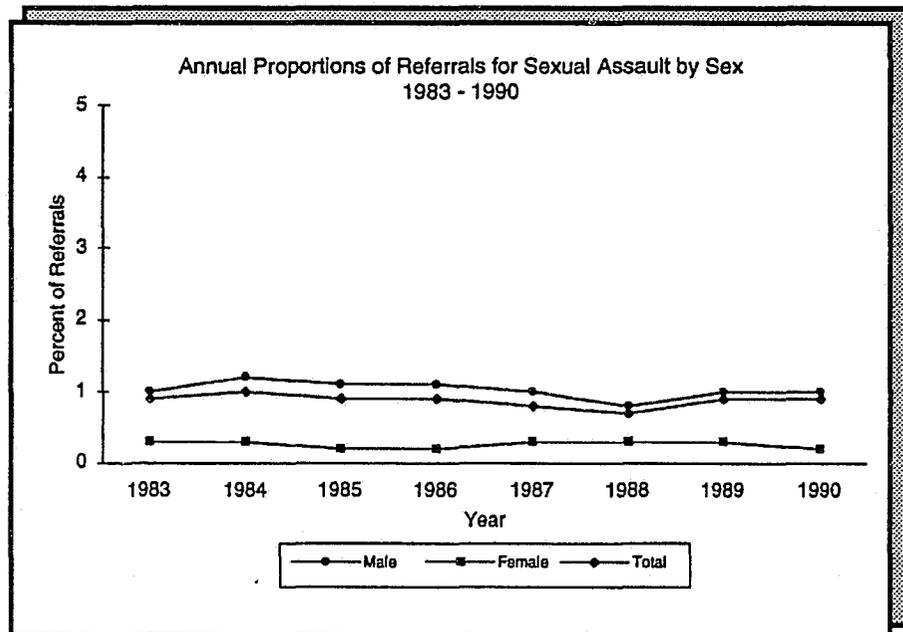


Figure 9
Annual Proportion of Referrals for Sexual Assault by Race
1983 - 1990

- The percent of annual referrals for sexual assault remained unchanged during this period, but the actual number of referrals increased from 189 in '83 to 322 in '90.
- Males account for well over 90% of all sexual assault referrals during this period.
- The proportion of referrals for black youth declined during this period.
- 1991 juvenile court data reported 379 referrals for sexual assault.

THEFT

Figure 10
Annual Proportions of Referrals for Theft by Sex
 1983 - 1990

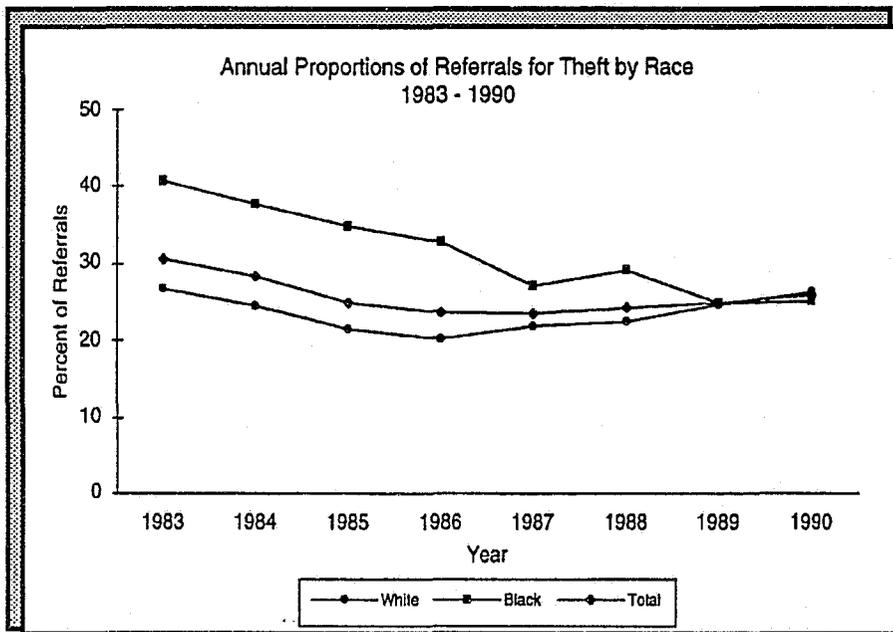
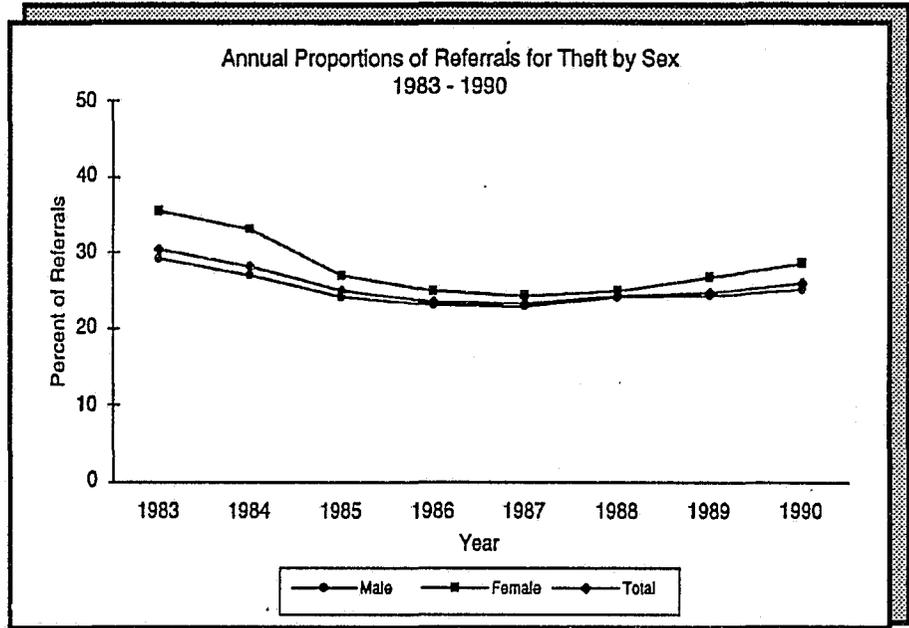


Figure 11
Annual Proportions of Referrals for Theft by Race
 1983 - 1990

- For this reporting period, and including 1991, theft is the most frequent law violation reported, ranging from 23.4 % to 30.5% of all law violation referrals. This is true also for either gender or race.
- Theft actually saw a slight decline (4.5%) in its percent of all referrals during this period even though the actual number of referrals increased from 6,431 in 1983 to 9,694 in 1990.
- The percent of theft referrals for white youth remained relatively the same, while referrals for black youth declined.
- The percent of referrals for males and females remained comparable during this period, with the female rate slightly higher.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Figure 12
Annual Proportions of Referrals for Property Damage by Sex
 1983 - 1990

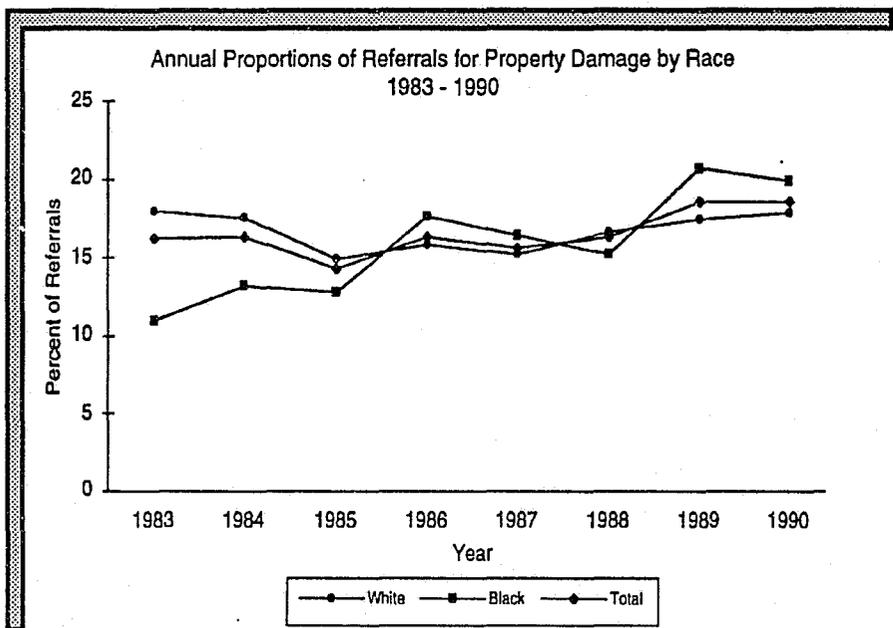
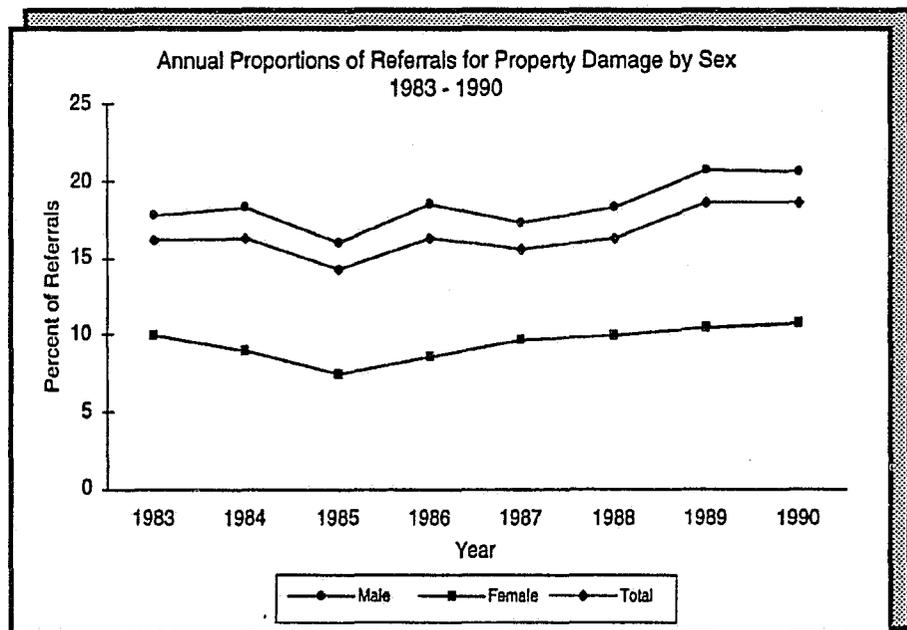


Figure 13
Annual Proportions of Referrals for Property Damage by Race
 1983 - 199

- Property damage was consistently 16-18% of all referrals during this period.
- The actual number of referrals for property damage increased by 103% during this period.
- Females had less involvement than males in property damage with approximately 10% of their referrals in this category.
- The proportion of property damage by black youth increased from 11% to 20%, while white youth remain relatively constant at 18%.
- 1991 data recorded a 25% decrease in the actual number of referrals for this offense.

BURGLARY

Figure 14
Annual Proportions of Referrals for Burglary by Sex
 1983 - 1990

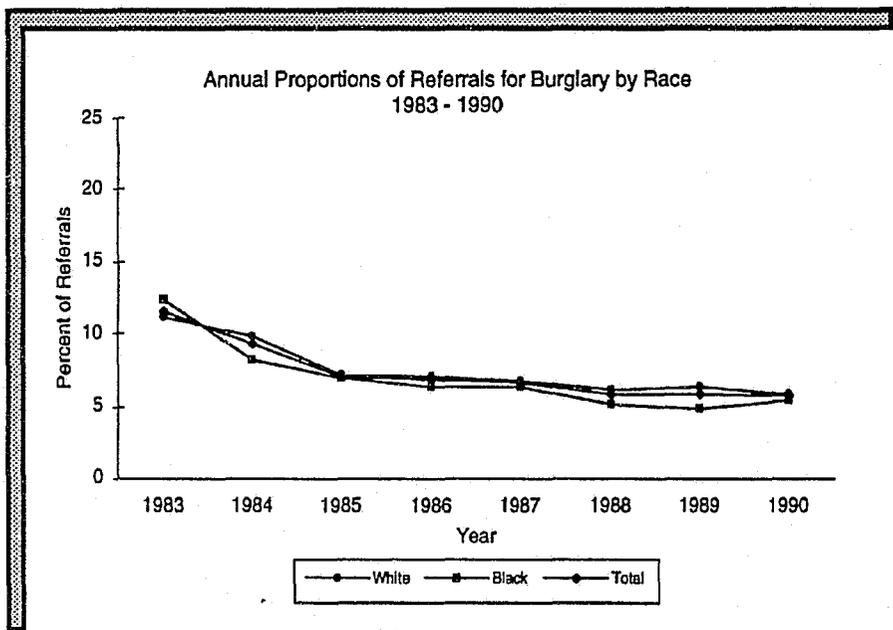
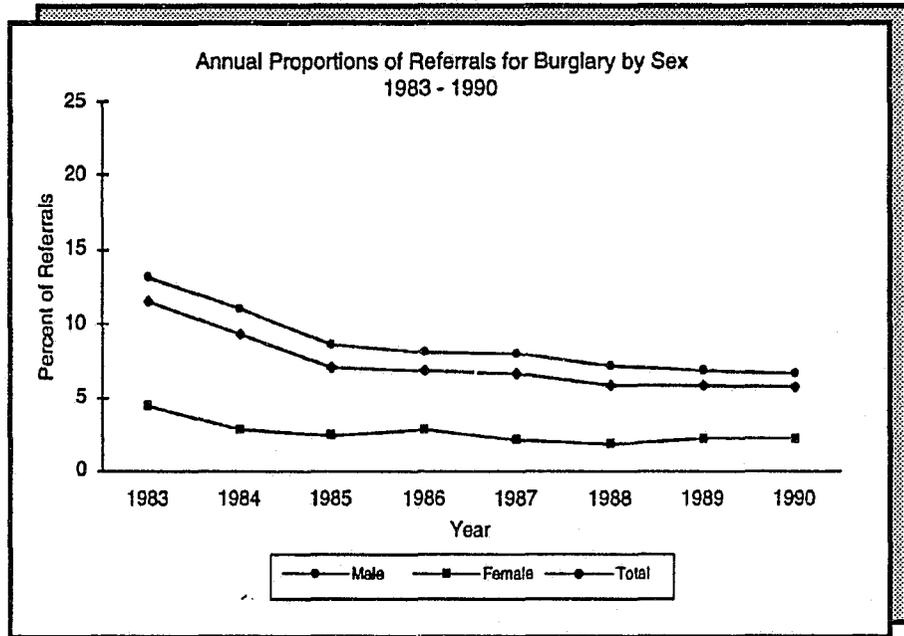


Figure 15
Annual Proportions of Referrals for Burglary by Race
 1983 - 1990

- Burglary is the only other category of offense that accounted for more than 4% of the total law violations during this period.
- Referrals for burglary declined as both a percent of referrals and as an actual number from 1983 - 1990. In 1983, burglary accounted for 11.5% (n=2,418), in 1990 it represented 5.8% of referrals (n=2,145).
- The decline in burglary referrals was evident for males, females, blacks and whites.

OTHER REFERRALS

Other categories of offenses examined in these data research included drug-related referrals, robbery and weapons violations. Each of these categories of offenses accounts for less than 4% of all referrals for law violations. (Figures not shown) (See Appendix A)

DRUG OFFENSES

- Referrals for drug offenses peaked in 1985 (n=1,046) and sharply declined through 1988. 1989 saw an increase in these referrals to a total of 950. Referral data for 1991 show a decrease to 840 referrals. (Data for 1990 were not available)
- White youth were referred for drug offenses more often than were blacks and males more often than females.

WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

- Weapons violations, as a percent of all referrals, remained consistent during this period. Actual number of referrals increased by 107% from 1983 - 1990 (358 to 740). Total number of referrals for weapons violations increased to 931 in 1991 representing an increase of 160% over 1983.
- Males were referred more often for weapons violations than were females. For 1990, males were referred at a rate of nearly 9 times that of females.
- From 1983 through 1986, white youth were more often referred for weapons violations. Beginning in 1987 black youth had a slightly higher referral rate than whites for weapons.

ROBBERY

- As a percent of total referrals, robbery remained relatively unchanged at approximately 1% during this period and including data for 1991. The total actual number of robbery referrals reached a high of 454 in 1991.
- Males were much more often referred for robbery than were females during this reporting period.

- Referrals for robbery were significantly higher (nearly 5X) for black youth than white youth during this period.
- Nearly all robbery referrals came from the three metropolitan areas of Kansas City, St. Louis City and St. Louis County. As an example, 92% of robberies in 1990 were reported from these three jurisdictions.

DISPOSITIONS/OUTCOMES

Upon receiving a referral for a violation of Missouri law, the juvenile court must assess whether there is sufficient information and evidence to proceed; if not, the referral will be rejected. For those cases that proceed, the juvenile court will determine whether to handle the case informally or to file a petition with the Circuit Court and have a formal hearing. Numerous dispositional options are available to the juvenile court after adjudication, including the ordering of supervision by the juvenile officer with the child remaining in his/her own home or commitment to an out-of-home placement, either public or private.

If a youth is between the ages of 14 and 17 and is alleged to have committed a felony law violation, the juvenile court has the option to transfer the case to the court of general jurisdiction for proceedings. This process is typically referred to as "waiver" or "certification" to adult court. This is a legal proceeding wherein the juvenile, the juveniles custodian and legal representation for the juvenile appear before the judge of the juvenile court. Testimony is prepared and presented by the juvenile officer or his/her legal counsel that claims the juvenile is not a "proper" subject to be dealt with by the juvenile court and the petition seeks a transfer of the referral to the prosecutor for further proceedings. This hearing will only determine whether jurisdiction remains with the juvenile court or is transferred and does not receive evidence or make a determination as to the guilt or innocence of the juvenile.

The following is a look at some of the outcomes of the referrals between 1983 and 1990:

**TABLE 9
Juvenile Cases Transferred to Adult Court**

| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988* | 1989 | 1990 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Total | 107 | 104 | 82 | 87 | 90 | 106 | 161 | 190 |

** Referral data for Jackson County was not included in the 1988 data set.*

- The number of cases transferred from juvenile court to adult court increased by 77% from 1983 to 1990. This rate of increase is consistent with the rate of increase in total law violation referrals (76.7%) from these two years. (Refer to Figure 1)
- 1991 data submitted to the Statewide Juvenile Information System shows an increase in transfers to a total of 231.
- The largest percentage of transfers to adult court resulted from referrals for homicide, assault, burglary, robbery, property damage and dangerous drugs during the entire period examined. 1983 to 1990 saw an increase in transfers for property damage and dangerous drugs and a decrease for robbery.

TABLE 11
Commitments to the Custody of the Division of Youth Services

| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988* | 1989 | 1990 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Total | 531 | 629 | 659 | 757 | 751 | 681 | 810 | 892 |

** Referral data for Jackson County was not included in the 1988 data set.*

- Commitments to the custody of the Division of Youth Services increased by 68% from 1983 to 1990. Again, this rate of increase is similar to the increase in total referrals during this period. (Refer to Figure 1)
- The Division of Youth Services FY-92 Statistical Report shows commitments for fiscal year 1992 (July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992) at 952, continuing the upward trend.

TABLE 12
Youth Referred for Out-of-Home Services

| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988* | 1989 | 1990 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 1,042 | 1,227 | 1,287 | 1,691 | 1,747 | 1,152 | 1,542 | 1,630 |

** Referral data for Jackson County was not included in the 1988 data set.*

Note: Out-of-home referrals include Division of Youth Services, Division of Family Services, Dept. of Mental Health, relative placements, private non-profit residential services and court residential services.

- Out-of-home placements during this period of study rose by 56% from 1983 to 1990.
- The largest percentage increase in out-of-home placements occurred between 1983 and 1987. After 1987, the total number of out-of-home placements have remained fairly stable.

SUMMARY

Has violent crime committed by juveniles increased during the past 9 years?

According to actual numbers of referrals to juvenile court during the period 1983-1990, violent incidents increased by over 200%. However, the total number of all law violations referred to the juvenile court increased as well, although at a lower rate (77%). As a percentage of the total law violations reported, referrals for violent offenses increased from 12.8% to 17.1%. There also appears to have been an increase in violent offenses committed by females and by black youth. By any measure, reported juvenile violent crime has increased, but does not appear to have "exploded".

Has there been a change in the types of serious and/or violent crimes committed by youth over the past nine years?

The number of juvenile perpetrated homicides remained fairly stable until 1991 when a 32% increase was recorded. (*Even with this increase, homicides account for less than 1% of all criminal referrals.*) Referrals for assault, property damage and weapon violations increased during this period either as a percent or as an actual number.

Burglary and theft referrals decreased during this period. Burglary declined as an actual number as well as a percent of total.

Drug offenses fluctuated but reached a peak in 1985.

What is the violent offense for which youth are most often referred to the juvenile court?

During any given year, assault is the violent offense for which youth are most often referred to the juvenile court.

Who is committing serious and violent offenses?

Males make up the majority of serious and violent offense referrals as a total and for each individual offense category. Females, however, showed the largest percent increase in referrals for violent offenses.

Black youth had increased referrals for homicide, assault and weapons violations and were referred for robbery at a rate five times greater than white youth. Black youth did record a decline in the percentage of referrals for theft.

White youth account for a majority of the actual number of referrals for drug violations, theft, burglary, property damage, assault and sexual assault.

Black youth had more actual referrals for weapons violations, robbery and homicides. Weapons violations and homicide referrals for blacks have increased since 1985. Prior to that time, white youth accounted for the greatest actual number of referrals for these offenses.

Where are the highest incidents of juvenile perpetrated violence reported?

Nearly 60% of all violent crime reported during this period occurred in three of Missouri's forty-five judicial circuits - Kansas City, St. Louis City and St. Louis County. All three recorded increases in actual referrals at a rate greater than 100% with Kansas City reporting the largest increase.

Over 3/4 of the homicides reported during this period occurred in Kansas City, St. Louis City or St. Louis County. Kansas City recorded the most homicides.

What is happening to youth who are referred to the juvenile court for a serious or violent offense?

While this report did not examine all outcome possibilities, it did look at waivers to adult court, commitments to the custody of the Division of Youth Services and other out-of-home referrals. For each of these outcomes, the annual number of cases increased by at least 55%. Waivers to adult court had the largest percentage increase (77%), while referrals to out-of-home services had the largest actual number (e.g. 1,630 in 1990). The Division of Children and Youth Services also reported significant increases in annual commitments.

CENSUS AND DEMOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF MISSOURI'S AT-RISK YOUTH POPULATION

When analyzing the issue of the serious and violent juvenile offender in Missouri it is also important to look at other factors that may or may not be impacting on the problem. Two such factors to review are census figures and demographic characteristics of the juvenile age population. Census data helps us to determine if changes in offender rates can be explained in part by natural factors such as fertility rates or migration patterns in and out of the state. Demographic factors are important to review as they are often mentioned as contributing factors in any rise in offender behavior. This type of data also provides some insight into the general condition of our youth population in Missouri.

YOUTH CENSUS DATA

Missouri's juvenile age population in 1990 was recorded at 1.2 million, which represents 24% of Missouri's total population of 5.1 million. Of all juveniles, 48.7% are female and 51.3% are male, 84.5% are white, 13.6% are black and the remaining 1.9% are of other races. The major metropolitan areas of Jackson County, St. Louis County and St. Louis City are home to 38% of Missouri's youth, and have 80.5% of the minority youth population.

For purposes of our review of the serious and violent juvenile offender in Missouri we have defined an "At-Risk" juvenile population to include youth ages 10 years through 16 years. For any given year, youth over the age of ten years account for more than 95% of violent youth crime, with youth between the ages of 13 and 16 accounting for 80% of that total.

When we compare census data from 1980 to 1990 for the at-risk juvenile age population in Missouri we find that the total number of juveniles between the age of 10 and 16 years declined by approximately 62,000 youth or 11 percent. Census projections through the year 2010 forecast continued decreases in juvenile age population through that period. The juvenile age population is estimated to decline approximately another 1% by 1995, 3% by the year 2000, and 11% by the year 2010.

YOUTH DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Change in Family Structure

The number of one parent families has increased 71 percent since 1970, despite a 15% decline in the total number of children. Among whites, divorced mothers constitute the largest group of single parents; whereas, among blacks, never-married mothers make up the largest portion. During the five year period 1985 to 1989, 91,432 babies were born into a single parent family, the equivalent of one out of every four children born. In 1980 only ten counties in Missouri had more than 18% of all households headed by a single parent. In 1990, 64 counties had that distinction. In Missouri, 16% of girls will be pregnant before they graduate from high school, 80 percent of those girls will drop out of school and over 90% of those mothers will live in poverty.

Economic Well-Being of Children

The number and percentage of Missouri's children living below the poverty line has increased from 195,837 (14.6%) in 1979 to 224,532 (17.4%) in 1989. Counties with more than 25% of their children living below the poverty level increased 40% from 20 to 35 between the years 1979 and 1989. In St. Louis City 40% of all children live below the poverty level. The number of counties with less than a 15% poverty rate decreased by almost 50% during that same 10 year period. In 1989, 40% of children in poverty were less than 6 years old, a 5% increase since 1979. Of the children living in poverty 66% are white, although, 41% of all black children live below the poverty level, compared to 14% of white children. The poverty rate among white female headed households is over one-third (36.8%), while the poverty rate for black, female headed households is over 51%.

School Performance

Studies consistently show the benefits of quality preschool programs for disadvantaged youth in reducing the number youth subsequently on welfare, dropping out of school or being arrested by age 19. Youth who attend quality preschool programs are much more likely to attend college or job training courses, be employed or support themselves by their own earnings. Headstart programs in Missouri do not reach the majority of children eligible for the service. Well over half of Missouri's counties served less than 33% of the estimated 3 and 4 year olds eligible for services and almost a third served less than 25%. Missouri's persistence to graduation rate has been declining each of the last six years from a rate of 77.3% in 1984 to a rate of 72.5% in 1991. School districts with more than 20% of their families receiving AFDC have an average persistence to graduation rate of only 63%. In rural areas where graduation rates are generally higher, there is an almost one in two chance that if a child's parents have not graduated high school that the child is living in poverty.

Child Abuse and Neglect -

Since 1976 there has been a 226% increase in the number of abuse or neglect reports nationally. In Missouri there has been a 12% rise in the number of reports since 1984. Each year in Missouri tens of thousands of cases of child abuse and neglect are reported to the Division of Family Services. In 1991 there were 45,000 reports of child abuse/neglect in Missouri resulting in 10,641 substantiated cases ("Reason to Suspect") and 16,951 substantiated victims. Of the substantiated cases of abuse, 2,617 (14%) of the cases were for sexual abuse, 3,329 (18%) were for physical abuse, and 9,899 (54%) were for neglect. Victims of child abuse were 68% white and 30% black, with less than 2% from other racial categories. Slightly over half of the victims were female (53%), however, 81% of victims of sexual abuse were female. Fatalities resulting from child abuse or neglect reached 31 in 1991, the highest number in eight years. Each of the victims was under five years of age and represented an even number of between boys and girls. The majority died at the hands of their natural parents. Of the substantiated cases of abuse/neglect 73% were perpetrated by the natural parents. Step-parents and paramours accounted for approximately 6% of the substantiated cases each.

Drug Use Among Adolescents

One of the most common responses from the public and professionals concerning issues underlying recent trends in juvenile crime is the issue of drug use in our society. A 1989 Gallop poll showed that 58% of respondents felt that drugs are the factor most responsible for crime in the United States compared to 13% in 1981. The most frequent response in 1981 was unemployment. That same group of respondents was asked "What is the most important thing that can be done to reduce crime?", to which the two most frequent responses were to "cut the drug supply" (25%), and "use harsher penalties for drug use" (24%). In 1981, 3% mentioned the drug supply and 38% mentioned harsher penalties.

A 1990 Bureau of Justice Statistics Survey of high school seniors showed marijuana use (the most common non alcoholic drug used by adolescents) had fallen to 27%, the lowest percentage since 1975. Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985 and has decreased each year (a 60% decrease) to its lowest point since 1975. Reported use of marijuana and cocaine by college students has also shown substantial and steady decreases since 1981. Reported deaths related to drug abuse and drug related emergency room episodes also fell dramatically between 1989 and 1990, by 20% and 13% respectively. A review of self reported data on drug use by race and by urban versus suburban areas shows only marginal differences in the rates.

The percentage of referrals to the juvenile court in Missouri specifically for drug related offenses continues to remain very low. Drug related referrals in Missouri peaked in 1983 at 3.9% of the referral population and then decreased to a low of 1.7 % in 1987. Drug related referrals increased slightly in 1989 to 2.6% of the total referrals. Tests of juveniles admitted into detention in Kansas City and St. Louis City in 1990 through the National Institute of Justice, Drug Use Forecasting Program, show 10% of male juveniles detained in Kansas City, and 12% in St. Louis, tested positive for any drug. In Kansas City, 8% tested positive for marijuana and 1% positive for cocaine. In St. Louis 5% tested positive for marijuana and 7% for cocaine. Approximately 30% of those testing positive in Kansas City were charged with crimes against persons or weapons charges as compared to 37% in St. Louis. These numbers are small in comparison to the percentage of adult arrestees that tested positive in those same communities. In St. Louis 54% of male arrestees tested positive for some type of drug use while 45% of males tested positive in Kansas City.

SUMMARY

Can some of the increase in juvenile related violence be attributed to changes in the size of the juvenile "at-risk" population?

The juvenile age population in Missouri has been declining since the 1980s, and will continue to decline through the year 2000. The decrease in population has not translated into a decrease in violent offense rates for youth, in fact, violence has increased during the later part of the 1980s.

To what extent might various social issues impact on the problem of serious and violent offender youth?

The American society has seen significant and widespread changes in the structure of the family unit. These changes are most visible in Missouri when looking at the increase in single parent families and the rise in numbers of children and families living below the poverty level. What is most startling is the rise in children living under the poverty level and the overrepresentation of black children in this category. It is probably safe to say that these factors are not having a positive effect on the lives of children and that there is a strong cause and effect relationship between these factors and increases in crime rates. If so, to tackle the problem of violent crime we must address these social issues in our planning.

Is there a correlation between drug use by youth and recent upturns in violent crime?

Good question! Self report studies of youth show substantial reductions in the number of youth who report using controlled substances. In Missouri we have very little data which can give us a clear picture of the relationship between drug use or trafficking and recent trends in violent and serious crime. Referrals to juvenile authorities and testing done in urban juvenile detention programs would not reflect a substantial problem in drug related cases in the juvenile courts. This is contrary to what is reflected in the adult crime data and in adult facility drug screening.

Sources:

- The State of Missouri's Families and Youth, Missouri Youth Initiative Youth Data Base Report, University Extension -- Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis.
- The State of Juvenile Justice, Issues and Priorities for Missouri's Juvenile Justice System, 1991, Missouri Department of Public Safety and State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.
- Drugs and Crime Facts, 1991 U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics
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CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION AND THE YOUTH POPULATION NATIONAL DATA

In studying the issue of the serious and violent juvenile offender it is important to consider the victim and issues around victimization that may provide clues into the nature of this problem. The following is a brief synopsis of national data which is designed to help us understand crime rates and victimization patterns associated with violence and personal crime.

In general, crime rates have been declining consistently in most major crime categories since 1973. Since 1981, the peak year for victimizations, crime levels have dropped overall nationally. The National Crime Victimization Survey measured at least 18% fewer household crimes and personal thefts and 8% fewer violent crimes in 1990 than in 1981. A review of crime rates between 1989 and 1990 showed personal and household crime declined significantly for that period. Individual regions of the country showed decreases in crime rates or remained relatively stable with the exception of the midwest which had some evidence of an increase in violent crime over 1989, mostly in the area of assault. Violent crime increased almost 2% from 1990 to 1991, from 34.4 million to 35.1 million, but was still well below (16%) the figure of 41.5 million in 1981. Violent crime as measured by the survey accounts for 17% of all crime reported. Approximately 40% of the violent crime reported in the survey were completed offenses.

Characteristics of Victims of Personal Crime

Personal crimes are crimes involving contact with the offender and include rape, robbery, assault and personal larceny. Murder and kidnapping are not included in the survey of personal crimes. Below are some facts concerning the characteristics of victims of violent personal crime. Data below relates to all victims of personal crime not just victims of juvenile committed personal crime. Specific national data on juvenile crime rates is found elsewhere in this report.

Sex, Age, and Race

- Rates of violent crime are significantly higher for males than for females.
- Persons under the age of 25 are the most likely to be victims of violent crime.
- Youth age 12 to 15, are the second most likely age group to be the victim of a violent crime, second most likely to have that crime completed, and most likely to be assaulted.
- Persons 16 to 24 had the highest rate of theft.
- For persons over 25, as age increased, the likelihood of being a victim decreased.
- Persons over the age of 65 were least likely to be the victim of a violent crime and were victimized at a rate of 3.5 per 1,000 persons as opposed to a teenager who is victimized at a rate of approximately 70 per 1,000 persons, or twenty times that of the elderly.
- Blacks had significantly higher rates of robbery almost (3 to 1) and higher rates of aggravated assault.
- Black males had the highest rate of violent crime victimization overall, 33% higher than white males. There were not significant differences between black and white males or females in rates of personal theft.

Income and Education

- Persons from households earning less than \$7,500 a year had the highest rate of violent crime. Families over \$25,000 had the lowest violent crime rates.
- Theft rates are not significantly different for families earning less than \$7,500 from that of families earning over \$25,000.
- Individuals with only an elementary school level of education are most likely to be victims of violent crime while individuals with a college education are least likely.
- As education increases, so does the likelihood of being a victim of a theft.

Locality of Residence

- Rates of violent crime were consistent for suburban and non-metropolitan areas. Residents of central cities were almost twice as likely to be victimized by violent crime as the other two categories.
- Black males from central cities experience higher rates of violence than do white males in the same areas.
- There were no differences between black and white female victimization rates for violent crimes based on the location of the residence.
- City residents were more than five times as likely to defend themselves with a gun than were rural residents.

Victimization Rates for Students

The following figures come from a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted of young people from January to June of 1989.

- An estimated 9% of all students ages 12 to 19 were the victims of a crime in or around their schools over the 6 months surveyed. 2% were victims of violent crimes.
- Public school students were more likely to be victims than private school students. Students of central city schools were more likely to fear attack at school and avoid certain places.
- Almost one in four black students in central cities and one in five white students feared being attacked going to and from school. In suburban cities, 15% of black students and 12% of white students had fear of attack.
- Students from lower income families feared attack more than other groups but, violent crime victimization rates showed no relationship to family income levels.
- 6% of students said they avoided some place in or around a school because they feared attack. School restrooms were most often cited as the place to avoid.
- Overall, 14% of white students, 20% of black students, and 32% of hispanic students said they were in gangs in their schools. Students who indicated gang activity in their schools were twice as likely to be afraid of attack both at school or on the way to or from school.

The first National Adolescent Student Health Survey, conducted in 1987, reported the following results from a survey of 11,000 eight and tenth graders from 20 states.

- More than a third reported being threatened with violence during the past school year, 14% had been robbed, and 13% were the actual victims of some type of assault on the bus or at school at least once during the preceding school year.
- Four out of ten boys and one in four girls reported that they could obtain a handgun. Three percent of the boys had brought a gun to school and almost a quarter had carried a knife to school during the past school year.

Victimization of Children

The relationship between being a victim of child abuse/neglect and subsequent criminal behavior and violence, the so called "cycle of violence", has real implications when looking at the issue of youth violence. Research sponsored by the National Institute of Justice studied a group of 908 substantiated cases of childhood abuse or neglect processed by the courts between 1967 and 1971, and tracked them through official court records over the next 15 to 20 years. At the same time they also tracked a matched group of children from similar background and with similar characteristics, that had no history of abuse or neglect. The following is a synopsis of their findings:

- While most members of both groups had no juvenile or adult criminal records, being abused or neglected as a child increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 53%, as an adult by 38% and for a violent crime by 38%.
- Abused or neglected children were on average one year younger at time of first arrest, committed twice as many offenses, and were arrested more frequently.
- Females who were victims of abuse/neglect were 77% more likely to be arrested than their female counterparts. Females were less likely to be arrested for street violence than males but were more likely to be involved in violence in the home.
- Both black and white abused/neglected children were more likely to be arrested than comparison children, however the difference between whites was not as great as with black youth. White youth showed no increase in violent crimes over their comparison group, whereas black children in the sample showed significant increases in the likelihood of arrest for a violent crime over their comparison group.
- Notably, childhood abuse or neglect had no apparent effect on the movement of juvenile offenders toward adult criminal activity. In both groups, an equal proportion of children with juvenile arrests also had adult arrests.
- Physically abused children were the most likely to be arrested later for a violent crime, although, neglected youth were a close second.
- Children placed outside of the home because of abuse or neglect showed little or no difference from those remaining at home in future arrest records. Children moved three or more times did show significantly higher arrest records. This contrasts sharply with the out of home placement of delinquent youth and the high rates of future arrest.

SUMMARY

Who is most likely to be a victim of violent crimes?

In general, victimization rates for personal crimes of violence are relatively high for people who are male, black, poor, young or single. This is the same general profile of persons who are most likely to be a violent offender. Victimization rates for crimes of theft tend to be higher for people who are male, wealthy, young or single.

Is youth violence strictly an inner-city problem?

Interestingly, rates of victimization for violent crime are consistent between suburban and non-metropolitan areas. Rural residents are least likely to be the victim of a violent act. Residents of the inner city, however, find themselves the victims of crime at an alarming 2 to 1 rate over other sectors of our society. Black males have higher rates of victimization than whites in the inner city, but were no more likely than whites to be victimized in other areas.

Has youth violence increased in the last ten years?

Estimated crime victimizations for violent crime declined by 16% between 1981 and 1990. In general, violent crime rates, as defined by reports of victimization, have remained fairly stable over the last 7 years. This is in contrast to national arrest data that shows increases in arrests for violent crime, committed by both youth and adults, in the later part of the 1980s.

Does being victimized as a child have an impact on future violent behavior?

In general childhood victimization increases the likelihood of delinquency, adult criminality, and violent criminal behavior. In addition, victims of childhood abuse/neglect face a higher risk of poor school performance, health problems, and generally lower levels of personal and family achievement.

Sources:

- Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1973-88 Trends, A National Crime Survey Report, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, July 1991
- Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1990
- Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Update, January, 1992, Vol.I, No.3
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- Student and Staff Victimization, National School Safety Center Resource Paper, 1989

YOUTH COMMITTED VIOLENT CRIME NATIONAL CRIME RATES

National arrest data, when analyzed by age, are separated by offenders under the age of 18 and those that are 18 years of age and older. In Missouri the upper limit of juvenile age jurisdiction is 17 years. In this report, unless otherwise noted, we are referring to youth as someone under the age of 18 years and not necessarily a juvenile as determined by juvenile court jurisdiction. Violent crime is defined to include: murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Property crimes are defined to include: burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

In 1990, there were an estimated 2.2 million arrests of persons under the age of 18 in the United States. According to the FBI this represented 16% of all arrestee in the U.S., involving 14% of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter arrests, 15% of forcible rape, 24% of robberies, 14% of aggravated assaults, 33% of auto thefts, and 7% of drug abuse arrests.

Race and Gender Distribution of Youth Arrests

Nationally, our youth population is evenly divided between male and female. White youth account for 80% of our total population, 16% are black and 4% of other races. Below are some interesting figures concerning youth crime.

- Seventy-one percent of the youth arrested for all offenses were white, 26% were black and 3% were of other races. Males represented 77% of all youth arrested.
- In 1980, the rate of arrest for drug abuse for black and white youth was very equal. Black arrest rates remained constant through 1984 then increased by 200% by 1989. During that same period white arrest rates for drug abuse fell 33%. Black youth are now five times as likely to be arrested for a drug offense as a white youth.
- Black youth are greatly overrepresented in the arrest categories of gambling, robbery, murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, drug abuse, forcible rape, and aggravated assault. White youth are overrepresented only in the alcohol related crimes of liquor law violations, driving under the influence and drunkenness.
- For crimes like murder, weapons and aggravated assault the arrest rates for whites and other race youth remained constant over the period from 1981 to 1990. For blacks, the murder rate more than doubled and the weapons and aggravated assault rates almost doubled.
- Black youth are more than 8 times as likely to be arrested for murder and four times as likely to be arrested for aggravated assault.
- Females are under represented in all categories except runaway and prostitution/vice.
- Females accounted for only 12% of all violent crime in 1990 with their largest representation in the area of aggravated assault (15%0).

Adult Versus Youth Arrest Rates

In 1989 adults accounted for 85% of all crime in the United States. Of the youth age crime, 90% is committed by youth age 13 to 17 years. Seventeen year olds alone account for over 25% of all youth age arrests for violent crime.

- In 1990 violent adult crime (18 years and older) increased by 11% while violent crime committed by youth increased 16%.
- In reviewing arrest data for a ten year period 1981 to 1990, we see that violent crime arrests for youth increased by 29% for that period while violent crime arrests for adults increased a substantial 49%.
- Between 1981 and 1990, property crime arrests for youth actually decreased by 5% while adult property crime increased 25%.
- In total the crime index for youth decreased by 1% (effected mostly by the decline in property crime) while the crime index for adults increased by 30%.

A review of individual offense categories shows a great variance in the arrest trends between youth and adults.

- Youth arrests for murder and nonnegligent manslaughter increased 60% between 1981 and 1990 while adult arrest increased by only 5%.
- Aggravated assault increased by 57% for youth and 69% for adults while weapons violations increased 41% for youth and only 18% for adults. Nonaggravated assault for youth and adult went up 72% and 104% respectively.
- Drug abuse violations for youth decreased by 27% while those same violations increased for adults by 90%.

In reviewing youth arrest rates over an extended period of time (1965 to 1989) two distinct trends develop between property and violent offense categories. Youth arrest rates for violent crime grew considerably during the mid 60s through the mid 70s then leveled off to the mid 80s. In the late 1980s the rate began to climb reaching its highest rate in the 25 year period (388 per 100,000 youth in 1989). During this same time period the property crime rate for youth climbed during the 60s and 70s before starting a decline into the mid 80s. The 1989 property crime rate is now below that of the rate found in the mid 70s. Within the violent category, offenses such as murder, rape, aggravated assault, and nonnegligent manslaughter have generally increased over the last 25 years, while robbery rates, after doubling through the 60s and 70s, have declined significantly into the late 1980s.

SUMMARY

What is the overall picture of youth violent crime rates in the U.S.?

After remaining fairly constant since the mid 70s, violent crime rates have increased fairly significantly since the late 1980s. The overall rate of violent youth crime has risen at a slightly faster pace than that of adult violent crime in the last few years. For the 10 year period ending 1990, adult committed violent crime still rose at a rate 41% higher than youth crime.

Does national data show significant differences in arrest rates by race?

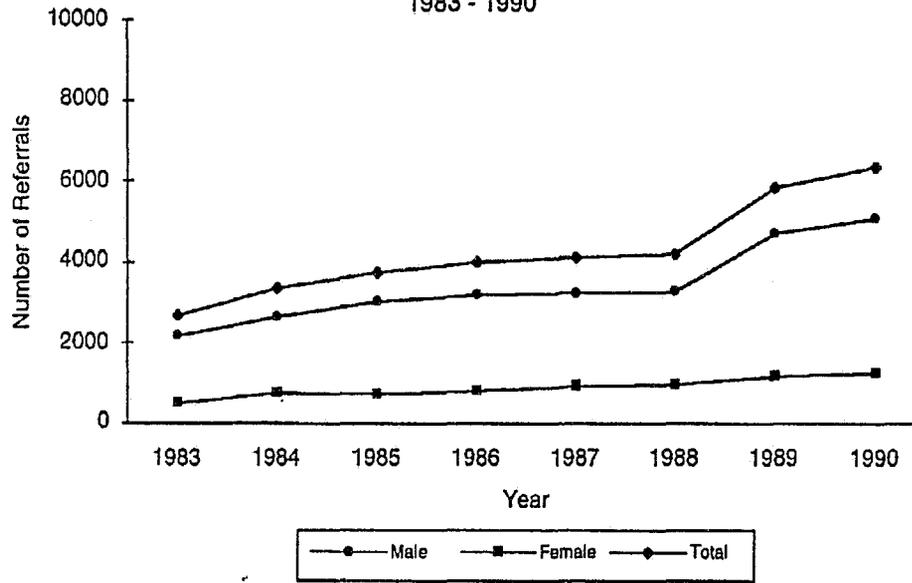
Very large differences exist in the arrest rates between black youth and youth of other races. Black youth are greatly overrepresented in several violent offense categories including murder and aggravated assault. Black youth have also seen significant increases in the number of weapons related arrests as opposed to other races. White youth and youth from other races are represented fairly evenly in their arrest rates for violent offenses. Only in the area of robbery has there been a marked narrowing of the discrepancy between black arrests and that of other racial groups (from 12 times greater to 10 times greater for blacks than whites).

Sources:

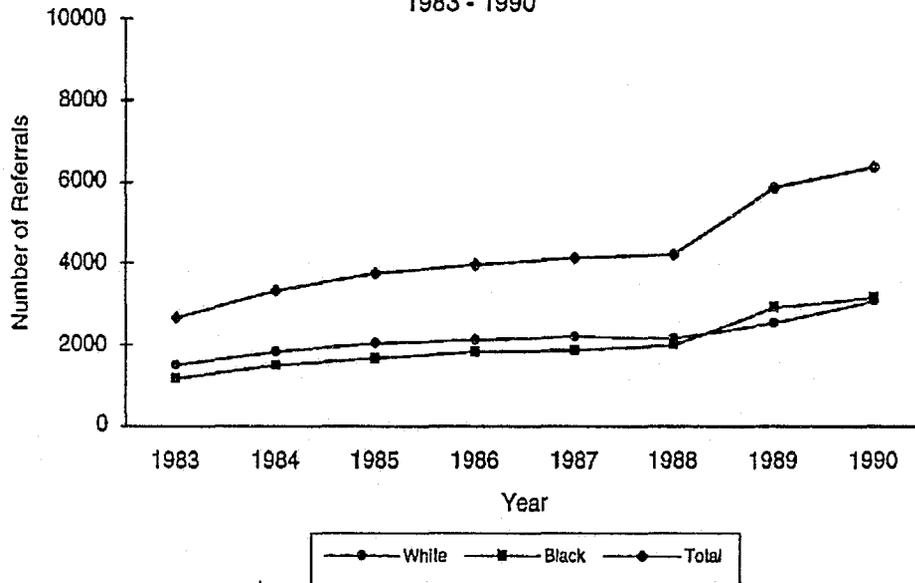
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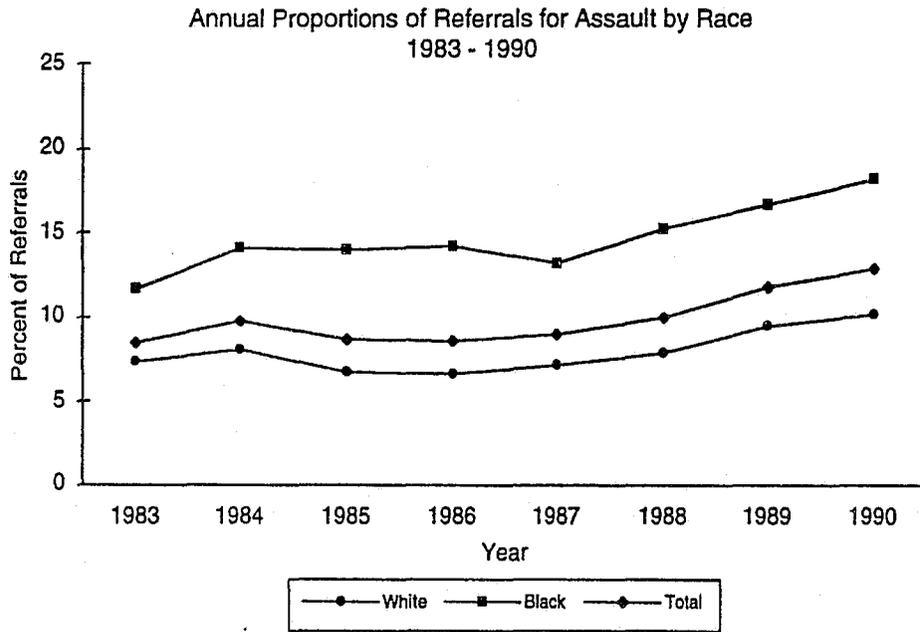
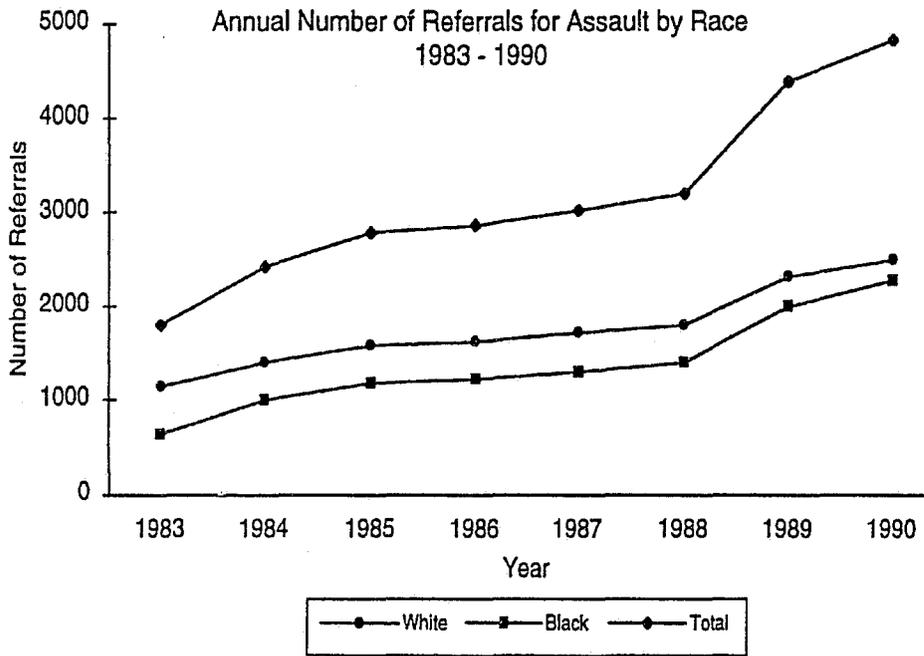
APPENDIX A

Annual Number of Referrals for Violence by Sex
1983 - 1990

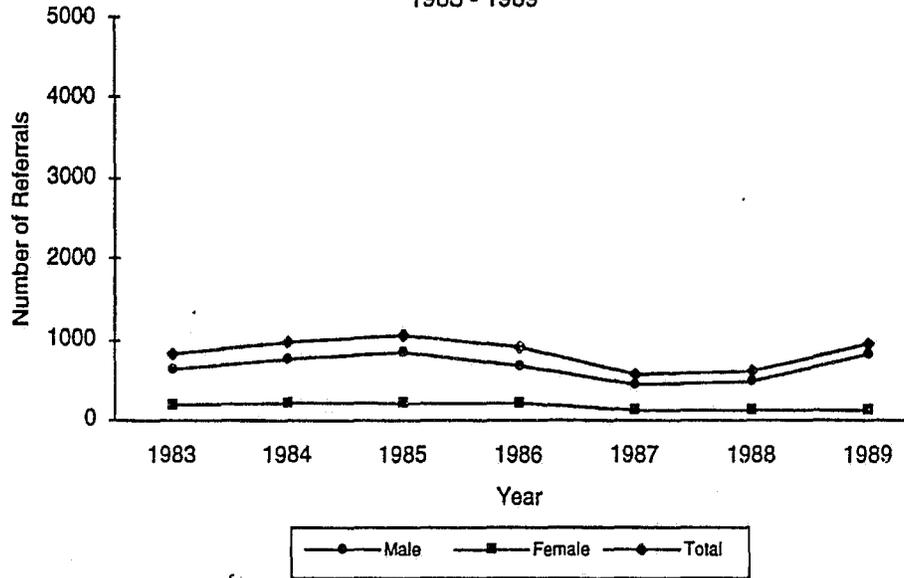


Annual Number of Referrals for Violence by Race
1983 - 1990

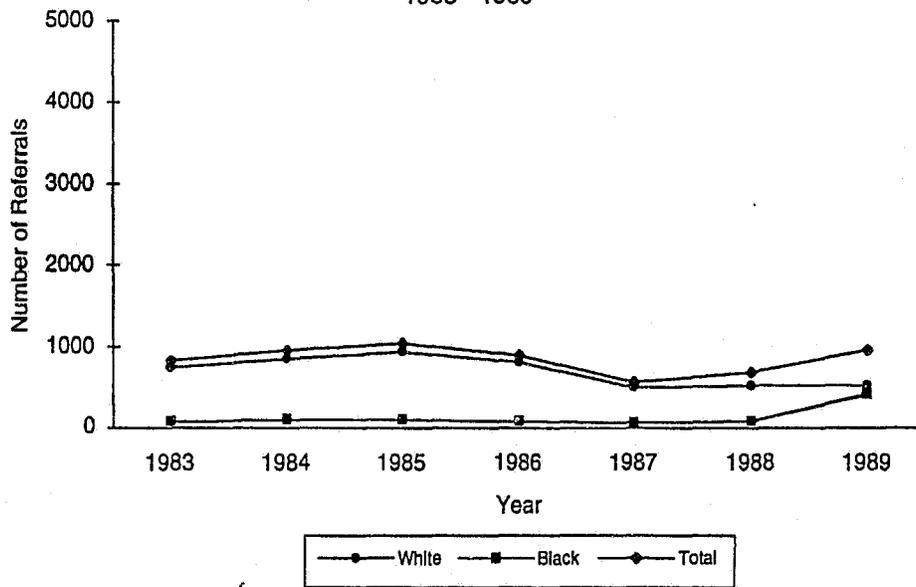




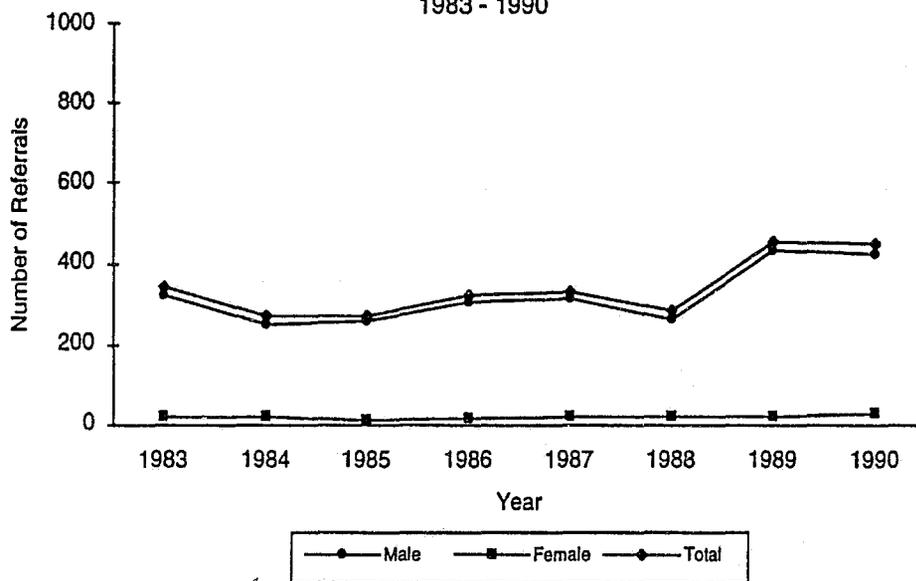
Annual Number of Drug-Related Referrals by Sex
1983 - 1989



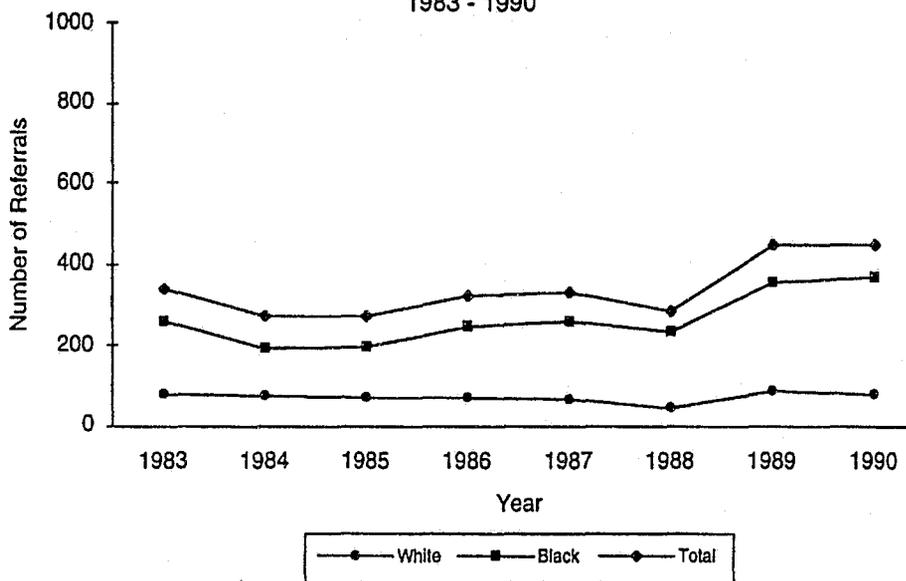
Annual Number of Drug-Related Referrals by Race
1983 - 1989



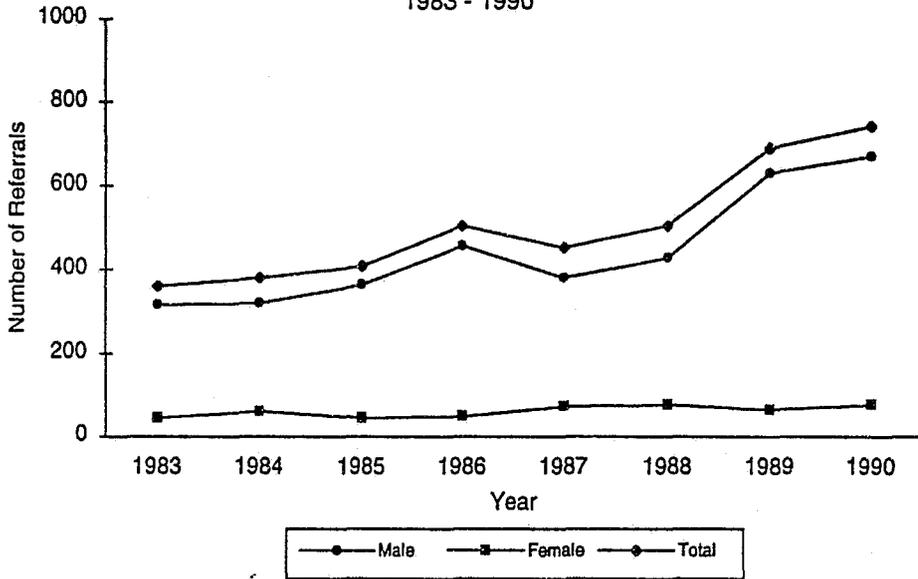
Annual Number of Referrals for Robbery by Sex
1983 - 1990



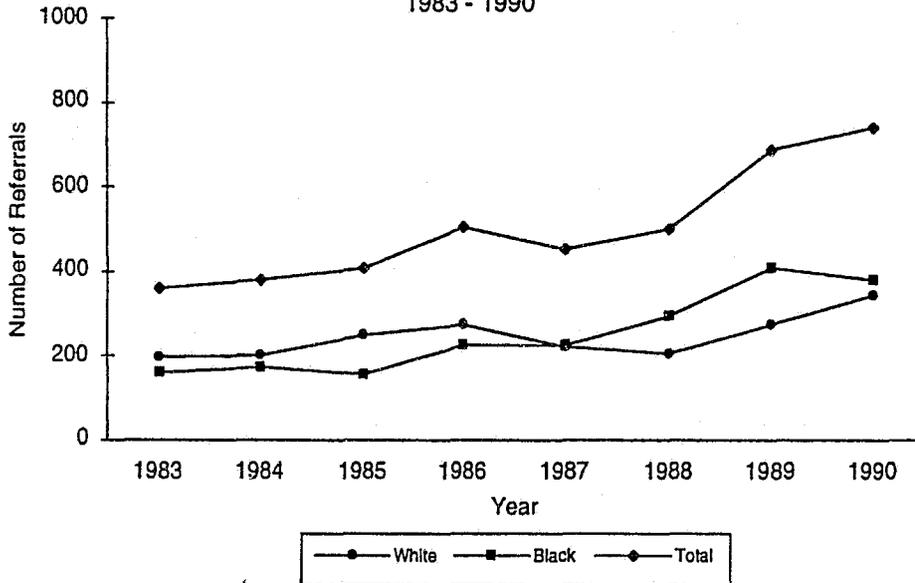
Annual Number of Referrals for Robbery by Race
1983 - 1990



Annual Number of Referrals for Weapons by Sex
1983 - 1990



Annual Number of Referrals for Weapons by Race
1983 - 1990



APPENDIX B

Juvenile Court Responses

What is the extent of racial conflict among youth in your circuit?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 7 | 20.6 | 21.9 | 21.9 |
| | 1 | 5 | 14.7 | 15.6 | 37.5 |
| | 2 | 4 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 50.0 |
| | 3 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 56.3 |
| | 4 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 62.5 |
| | 6 | 7 | 20.6 | 21.9 | 84.4 |
| | 7 | 5 | 14.7 | 15.6 | 100.0 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| No Opinion | 5 | 2 | 5.9 | Missing | |
| | Total | 34 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 32 Missing Cases 2

What is the extent of chronic juvenile offenders in your circuit?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 1 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| | 2 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 6.3 |
| | 3 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 12.5 |
| | 4 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 15.6 |
| | 6 | 9 | 26.5 | 28.1 | 43.8 |
| | 7 | 11 | 32.4 | 34.4 | 78.1 |
| | 8 | 4 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 90.6 |
| | 9 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 96.9 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 100.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | 2 | 5.9 | Missing | |
| | Total | 34 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 32 Missing Cases 2

What is the extent of drug use among youth in your circuit?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 2 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| | 3 | 3 | 8.8 | 9.7 | 12.9 |
| | 4 | 5 | 14.7 | 16.1 | 29.0 |
| | 6 | 8 | 23.5 | 25.8 | 54.8 |
| | 7 | 5 | 14.7 | 16.1 | 71.0 |
| | 8 | 6 | 17.6 | 19.4 | 90.3 |
| | 9 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 93.5 |
| | Serious Problem | 10 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.5 |
| No Opinion | 5 | <u>3</u> | <u>8.8</u> | <u>Missing</u> | |
| Total | | 34 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 31 Missing Cases 3

To what extent are gang-related activities among youth a problem in your circuit?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 6 | 17.6 | 18.8 | 18.8 |
| | 1 | 8 | 23.5 | 25.0 | 43.8 |
| | 2 | 4 | 11.8 | 12.5 | 56.3 |
| | 3 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 62.5 |
| | 4 | 3 | 8.8 | 9.4 | 71.9 |
| | 6 | 3 | 8.8 | 9.4 | 81.8 |
| | 7 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 87.5 |
| | 8 | 3 | 8.8 | 9.4 | 96.9 |
| | 9 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 100.0 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| No Opinion | 5 | <u>2</u> | <u>5.9</u> | <u>Missing</u> | |
| Total | | 34 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 32 Missing Cases 2

To what extent is weapons possession among youth a problem in your circuit?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.1 |
| | 2 | 5 | 14.7 | 15.2 | 21.2 |
| | 3 | 6 | 17.6 | 18.2 | 39.4 |
| | 4 | 2 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 45.5 |
| | 6 | 7 | 20.6 | 21.2 | 66.7 |
| | 7 | 4 | 11.8 | 12.1 | 78.8 |
| | 8 | 5 | 14.7 | 15.2 | 93.9 |
| | 9 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 97.0 |
| | Serious Problem | 10 | 1 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | 1 | 2.9 | Missing | |
| | Total | 34 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 33 Missing Cases 1

Law Enforcement Responses

To what extent is racial conflict among youth a problem in your jurisdiction?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 108 | 37.2 | 39.9 | 39.9 |
| | 1 | 46 | 15.9 | 17.0 | 56.8 |
| | 2 | 29 | 10.0 | 10.7 | 67.5 |
| | 3 | 17 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 73.8 |
| | 4 | 17 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 80.1 |
| | 6 | 24 | 8.3 | 8.9 | 88.9 |
| | 7 | 14 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 94.1 |
| | 8 | 12 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 98.5 |
| | 9 | 4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 100.0 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| No Opinion | 5 | 19 | 6.6 | Missing | |
| Total | | 290 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 271 Missing Cases 19

To what extent is the chronic juvenile offender a problem in your jurisdiction?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 24 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| | 1 | 35 | 12.1 | 12.7 | 21.4 |
| | 2 | 22 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 29.3 |
| | 3 | 14 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 34.4 |
| | 4 | 15 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 39.9 |
| | 6 | 45 | 15.5 | 16.3 | 56.2 |
| | 7 | 46 | 15.9 | 16.7 | 72.8 |
| | 8 | 40 | 13.8 | 14.5 | 87.3 |
| | 9 | 14 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 92.4 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 21 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 100.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | 14 | 4.8 | Missing | |
| Total | | 290 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 276 Missing Cases 14

To what extent is drug use among youth a problem in your jurisdiction?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 16 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| | 1 | 18 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 12.7 |
| | 2 | 23 | 7.9 | 8.6 | 21.3 |
| | 3 | 22 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 29.5 |
| | 4 | 14 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 34.7 |
| | 6 | 42 | 14.5 | 15.7 | 50.4 |
| | 7 | 47 | 16.2 | 17.5 | 67.9 |
| | 8 | 41 | 14.1 | 15.3 | 83.2 |
| | 9 | 20 | 6.9 | 7.5 | 90.7 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 25 | 8.6 | 9.3 | 100.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | 22 | 7.6 | <u>Missing</u> | |
| Total | | 290 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 268 Missing Cases 22

To what extent is gang-related activities among youth a problem in your jurisdiction?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 106 | 36.6 | 38.3 | 38.3 |
| | 1 | 44 | 15.2 | 15.9 | 54.2 |
| | 2 | 22 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 62.1 |
| | 3 | 16 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 67.9 |
| | 4 | 16 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 73.6 |
| | 6 | 19 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 80.5 |
| | 7 | 18 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 87.0 |
| | 8 | 23 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 95.3 |
| | 9 | 7 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 97.8 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 6 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 100.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | 13 | 4.5 | <u>Missing</u> | |
| Total | | 290 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 277 Missing Cases 13

To what extent is possession of weapons among youth a problem in your jurisdiction?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 63 | 21.7 | 22.8 | 22.8 |
| | 1 | 48 | 16.6 | 17.4 | 40.2 |
| | 2 | 28 | 9.7 | 10.1 | 50.4 |
| | 3 | 20 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 57.6 |
| | 4 | 17 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 63.8 |
| | 6 | 34 | 11.7 | 12.3 | 76.1 |
| | 7 | 24 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 84.8 |
| | 8 | 25 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 93.8 |
| | 9 | 12 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 98.2 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 5 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 100.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | <u>14</u> | <u>4.8</u> | <u>Missing</u> | |
| Total | | 290 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 276 Missing Cases 14

To what extent is youth violence within schools a problem in your jurisdiction?

| | Value | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cum Percent |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| No Problem | 0 | 57 | 19.7 | 21.9 | 21.9 |
| | 1 | 33 | 11.4 | 12.7 | 34.6 |
| | 2 | 38 | 13.1 | 14.6 | 49.2 |
| | 3 | 23 | 7.9 | 8.8 | 58.1 |
| | 4 | 18 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 65.0 |
| | 6 | 29 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 76.2 |
| | 7 | 35 | 12.1 | 13.5 | 89.6 |
| | 8 | 18 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 96.5 |
| | 9 | 6 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 98.8 |
| Serious Problem | 10 | 3 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 100.0 |
| No Opinion | 5 | <u>30</u> | <u>10.3</u> | <u>Missing</u> | |
| Total | | 290 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Valid cases 260 Missing Cases 30