

# MCJC

## Official Delinquency in Des Moines in 1971

Des Moines/Polk County Metropolitan Criminal Justice Center  
Drake University  
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

25971

OFFICIAL DELINQUENCY IN DES MOINES IN 1971

A Study Conducted Under  
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This monograph contains data collected by the Metropolitan Criminal Justice Center from the Juvenile Court of Polk County on official delinquency cases in 1971. During the summer and fall of 1972, officials of the Juvenile Court permitted us access to their files in order to select a 50% systematic sample of Juvenile Court cases upon whom a delinquency petition had been filed in 1971.

These data were collected in order to obtain a more thorough grasp of delinquency in Polk County. Although the data herein are of limited utility, they do provide information on delinquency which has previously not been available in grouped form on delinquency in Polk County, and is rarely available in other jurisdictions.

Obviously there has been a delay in publishing this information. During the initial stages of this research we had hoped to develop a more sophisticated statistical analysis. When some problems arose in this analysis (cross tabulations and correlation didn't appear to yield anything meaningful), we enlisted the assistance of the Drake University Sociology Department. Ultimately the professor and student working with the data both left the University, and with them the computer print-out from which the data here were taken. At that point we abandoned all hope of a monograph such as this one; later perusal of data in our files, however, resulted in the discovery of the information which forms the core of this monograph. Other data were developed from the information found at that time.

As noted above, limitations exist in these data. Ideally, cross tabulations and correlations would be included here. This is not the case, however, because of the disappearance of the original computer print-out. Further, in collecting these data, data collectors were frequently unable to find specific information in a case file, resulting in numerous cases being classed in the "unknown" category.

Where this occurs in tables below, percentages are computed both with and without the unknown cases included. Inadequacies in these data resulting from inadequacies in juvenile court records leads us to reiterate our plea for an upgrading of records maintained within the juvenile justice system.

Even with these limitations, we are presenting this information here because we maintain a belief that it can contribute to a greater understanding of the nature of delinquency, and that the information can be used in the future by planners and grant writers. During the last three years, when outside agencies wished statistical information in preparing grant applications, they frequently came to this office. Because our termination is imminent, only through monographs such as this can we hope to continue assisting in the planning and grant writing processes. Information such as this pertaining to Polk County is typically unavailable in other offices.

The final tables contained here relate to delinquency rates within census tracts of Des Moines and Polk County. Because the information contained here is based on a sample of 1971 official delinquency (252 of 579, or 43.5%) these rates only approximate the actual delinquency rates within a given census tract. Although we considered doubling the rates presented within the appropriate table to account for those cases upon which we did not have data, we finally came to the conclusion that this would be unwarranted. Although the presence of "N" delinquencies in a given census tract within our sample suggests the presence of approximately 2N delinquencies in the total population of delinquencies, we do not feel comfortable basing delinquency rates on the 56.5% of the population which we did not study. Thus, the delinquency rates noted below are based only on the sample which we analyzed.

TABLE I

SEX AND RACE

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
WHITE	135	80.4	73	86.9	208	82.5
BLACK	29	17.3	10	11.9	39	15.5
NATIVE AMERICAN	1	0.6	0	0	1	0.4
CHICANO	1	0.6	1	1.2	2	0.8
UNKNOWN	2	1.2	0	0	2	0.8
TOTAL	168	66.7	84	33.3	252	100.0

TABLE II

AGE AT THIS REFERRAL

AGE	NUMBER	%
1-9	0	00
10	1	.4
11	0	0
12	3	1.2
13	18	7.1
14	35	13.9
15	55	21.8
16	63	25
17	75	29.8
18	2	.8
18 +	0	0
TOTAL	252	100.0%

Mean = 15.5  
 Median = 16  
 S.D. = 1.37

TABLE III

AGE AT FIRST REFERRAL

AGE	NUMBER	%
1	0	0
2	1	.4
3	0	0
4	1	.4
5	0	0
6	1	.4
7	1	.4
8	5	2.0
9	2	.8
10	5	2.0
11	7	2.8
12	15	6.0
13	40	15.9
14	38	15.1
15	57	22.6
16	39	15.5
17	27	10.7
18	1	.4
Unknown	12	4.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.2%</b>

Total N = 252  
 Mean = 15.1  
 S.D. = 2.45  
 Median = 15

TABLE IV

SOURCE OF REFERRAL

REFERRED BY	N	%
Law Enforcement Agency	191	75.8
School	3	1.2
Social Agency	3	1.2
Probation Officer	1	.4
Parents or Relatives	40	15.9
Other Court	12	4.8
Other Source	2	.8
Unknown	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.1%</b>

TABLE V

REASON FOR REFERRAL, 1971

TYPE OF OFFENSE	OFFENSE	N	%
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0
	Manslaughter By Negligence	0	0
	Forcible Rape	0	0
	Robbery: Purse Snatching	0	0
	Robbery: All Except Purse Snatching	6	2.4
	Assault: Aggravated	2	0.8
	Assault: All Except Aggravated	12	4.8
	TOTAL	20	7.9
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	Burglary: Breaking & Entering	35	13.9
	Auto Theft: Unauthorized Use	7	2.8
	Auto Theft: All Except Unauth. Use	12	4.8
	Larceny: Shoplifting	5	2.0
	Larceny: All Except Shoplifting	14	5.6
	Vandalism	2	0.8
	TOTAL	75	29.8
PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES	Weapons: Carrying, Possession	2	0.8
	Sex Offenses (not rape)	5	2.0
	Drug Laws: Narcotic	27	10.7
	Drug Laws: Non-Narcotic	10	4.0
	Drunkenness	1	0.4
	Disorderly Conduct	0	0
	Other	18	7.1
	TOTAL	63	25.0
JUVENILE STATUS OFFENSES	Running Away	46	18.3
	Truancy	3	1.2
	Curfew Violation	0	0
	Ungovernable	36	14.3
	Drinking or Possessing Liquor	6	2.4
	Other	3	1.2
		TOTAL	94
	TOTAL	252	100.0%



TABLE VI  
PRIOR REFERRALS IN 1971

# OF REFERRALS	N	%
0	186	73.8
1	47	18.7
2	12	4.8
3	5	2.0
4	1	.4
5	0	0
Unknown	1	.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.1%</b>

TABLE VII  
CHILD'S I.Q.

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWNNS
Mental Defective (Below 69)	0	0	
Borderline (70-79)	8	3.2	5.8
Dull Normal (80-89)	35	13.9	25.5
Average (90-109)	73	29.0	53.3
Bright Normal (110-119)	13	5.2	9.5
Superior (120-129)	6	2.4	4.4
Very Superior	2	.8	1.5
Unknown	115	45.6	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.1%</b>	<b>100.0% (N = 137)</b>

TABLE VIII  
CHILD'S DISABILITIES

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWNNS
None	150	59.5	67.3
Physical Disabilities	4	1.6	1.8
Speech Impediment	0	0	
Child Unusually Small for Age	4	1.6	1.8
Child Unusually Large for Age	5	2.0	2.2
Mental Disorders	4	1.6	1.8
Emotional Disturbance	35	13.9	15.7
More Than One of Above	13	5.2	5.8
Other	8	3.2	3.6
Unknown	29	11.5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.1%</b>	<b>100.0% (N = 223)</b>

TABLE IX  
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWNNS
Satisfactory	139	55.2	62.3
One Grade Behind Age	10	4.0	4.5
Two Grades Behind Age	2	.8	0.9
Three Grades or More Behind Age	1	.4	0.4
Special Education	11	4.4	4.9
Dropped Out	56	22.2	25.1
Graduate	4	1.6	1.8
Unknown	29	11.6	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.2%</b>	<b>99.9% (N = 223)</b>

TABLE X  
END OF YEAR SCHOOL STATUS

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWNNS
Full-time	115	45.6	56.1
Part-time	1	.4	0.5
Full-time Vocational School	0	0	0
Part-time Vocational School	0	0	0
Dropped	39	15.5	19.0
Suspended	9	3.6	4.4
Institutional School	41	16.3	20.0
Unknown	47	18.7	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.1%</b>	<b>100.0% (N = 205)</b>

TABLE XI

SCHOOL DURING PREVIOUS YEAR OR LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED

<u>JUNIOR HIGH</u>	N	%	1971 ENROLLMENT	RATE PER 1,000 PUPILS
Brody	2	.8	763	2.62
Callanan	2	.8	542	3.69
Weeks	7	2.8	880	7.95
Wilson	10	4.0	951	10.51
Hiatt	12	4.8	637	18.84
Kurtz	2	.8	999	2.00
Franklin	2	.8	1230	1.62
Goodrell	1	.4	1114	.90
Douglas	0	0	19	0
Harding	9	3.6	918	9.80
Irving	16	6.3	407	39.31
Meredith	4	1.6	830	4.82
Merrill	0	0	649	0
Ankeny Jr. High	0	0	834	0
Bondurant Farrar	0	0		0
Urbandale Jr. High	2	.8	864	2.31
Hillside	0	0	675	0
Stillwell	3	1.2	724	4.14
<u>SENIOR HIGH</u>				
East	24	9.5	1772	13.54
Tech	23	9.1	1358	16.94
Roosevelt	16	6.3	1525	10.49
Hoover	6	2.4	1311	4.58
Dowling	1	.4		
St. Josephs	1	.4	2564**	.78
Valley	9	3.6	1866	4.82
Lincoln	15	6.0	1992	7.53
Urbandale	6	2.4	710	8.45
North	14	3.6	906	15.45
Johnston	2	.8	547*	3.66
S.E. Polk	3	2.0	1495*	2.10
Saydel	4	1.6	1127*	3.55
Greater D.M. Educational	17	6.7	150	113.33
Ankeny	4	1.6	600	6.67
Other Polk County	6	2.4		
Other Iowa	3	1.2		
Other Not in Iowa	6	2.4		
Primary School	3	1.2		
Unknown	17	6.7		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>99.0</b>		

\*Includes both Jr. High and Sr. High

\*\*Dowling and St. Joseph's Academy have been combined because our school population figures, upon which these rates are based, do not differentiate between the two.

TABLE XII

WHO CHILD LIVED WITH AT TIME OF OFFENSE

	N	%
Both Natural Parents	110	43.7%
Natural Mother, Stepfather	32	12.7
Natural Father, Stepmother	5	2.0
Natural Mother Only	66	26.2
Natural Father Only	2	.8
Older Sibling	4	1.6
Other Relatives	7	2.8
Foster Parents	7	2.8
Alone	8	3.2
Other	9	3.6
Unknown	2	.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.2%</b>

TABLE XIII

PARENTS' MARITAL SITUATION

	N	%
Legally married	162	64.3
Common law marriage	1	.4
Unmarried	3	1.2
Divorced	41	16.3
Separated	21	8.3
One Deceased	22	8.7
Both Deceased	1	.4
Unknown	1	.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

TABLE XIV

EDUCATION OF MALE PARENT IN HOME

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWN
None	0	0	0
Some Grade School	3	1.2	2.2
Finished Grade School	7	2.8	5.1
Some Jr. High (7-9th)	21	8.3	15.4
Finished Jr. High	9	3.6	6.6
Some High School (10-12th)	23	9.1	16.9
Finished High School	49	19.4	36.0
Trade School	0	0	0
Some College	17	6.7	12.5
Finished College	7	2.8	5.1
Unknown	116	46.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>99.8% (N = 136)</b>

TABLE XV

EDUCATION OF FEMALE PARENT IN HOME

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWN
None	0	0	0
Some Grade School	1	.4	.7
Finished Grade School	3	1.2	2.0
Some Jr. High (7-9th)	16	6.4	10.5
Finished Jr. High	8	3.2	5.2
Some High School (10-12th)	46	18.3	30.1
Finished High School	56	22.2	36.6
Trade School	4	1.6	2.6
Some College	12	4.8	7.8
Finished College	7	2.8	4.6
Unknown	99	39.3	
TOTAL	252	100.2%	100.1% (N = 153)

TABLE XVI

PARENTS' RELIGION

	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWN
Protestant	154	61.1	74.8
Catholic	35	13.9	17.0
Jewish	1	.4	0.5
Other	7	2.8	3.4
No evident affiliation	9	3.6	4.4
Unknown	46	18.3	
TOTAL	252	100.1%	100.1% (N = 206)

TABLE XVII

NUMBER OF SIBLINGS

	N	%
0	6	2.4
1	25	9.9
2	48	19.0
3	47	18.7
4	39	15.5
5	24	9.5
6	26	10.3
7	13	5.2
8 +	11	4.4
Unknown	13	5.2
TOTAL	252	100.1%

TABLE XVIII

SIBLINGS' JUVENILE COURT RECORD

	N	%
None	142	56.3
One Sibling has Juvenile Court Record	49	19.4
Two Siblings have Juvenile Court Record	24	9.5
Three Siblings have Juvenile Court Record	11	4.4
Four Siblings have Juvenile Court Record	6	2.4
Five Siblings have Juvenile Court Record	4	1.6
Not applicable	1	.4
Unknown	15	6.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

TABLE XIX

TOTAL YEARS FAMILY HAS LIVED IN COUNTY

YEARS	N	%	% EXCLUDING UNKNOWNNS
0-1	9	3.6	4.2
2	7	2.8	3.2
3	11	4.4	5.1
4-5	8	3.2	3.7
6-10	9	3.6	4.2
10+	172	68.3	79.6
Unknown	36	14.3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.2%</b>	<b>100.0% (N = 216)</b>

TABLE XX

SOLITARY OR GROUP OFFENSE

	N	%
Solitary	115	45.6
Group, with other juveniles	119	47.2
Group, with other juveniles and adults	0	.0
Group, with adult	17	6.8
Unknown	1	.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

TABLE XXI  
DENIED OR ADMITTED OFFENSE AT INTAKE

	N	%
Denied	35	13.9
Admitted	195	77.4
Unknown	21	8.3
Not applicable	1	.4
TOTAL	252	100.0%

TABLE XXII  
STATUS AS OF 5/1/72

	N	%
Active/Polk County	60	23.8
Active/State Department of Social Services (Juvenile)	49	19.4
Inactive/Polk County	115	45.6
Inactive/State Department of Social Services (Juvenile)	3	1.2
Referred to Adult Court	25	9.9
TOTAL	252	99.9%

TABLE XXIII

DISPOSITION OF THIS REFERRAL

		N	%
NO JURIS- DICTION	Waived to Criminal Court	21	8.3
	Dismissal: Not proved or found not involved	23	9.1
	TOTAL WITHOUT JURISDICTION	44	17.5
NO TRANSFER OF CUSTODY	Dismissed: Warned, adjusted counselled	6	2.4
	Held open w/o further action	5	2.0
	Probation Officer to supervise	146	57.9
	Referred to other agency or individual	2	.8
	Runaway	1	.4
	Other	2	.8
	TOTAL NOT TRANSFERRED	162	64.3
TRANSFER OF CUSTODY TO:	Public institution for delinquents	33	13.1
	Other public institution	2	.8
	Public agency or department	0	
	Private agency or institution	3	1.2
	Individual	6	2.4
	Other	1	.4
	TOTAL TRANSFERRED	45	17.9
	Unknown	1	.4
	TOTAL	252	100.0%



DES MOINES OFFICIAL DELINQUENCIES,  
BY CENSUS TRACT, 1971

Census Tract	Total Youths 10-17, 1970 Census	Number Official Delinquencies	Percent of Total Delinquencies	Delinquency Rate Per 1000 Youths
001	1526	5	2.0	3.3
002	1271	12	4.8	9.4
003	551	2	0.8	3.6
004	692	3	1.2	4.3
005	743	5	2.0	6.7
006	680	3	1.2	4.4
007	2319	6	2.4	2.6
008	2004	14	5.6	7.0
009	1133	8	3.2	7.1
010	548	3	1.2	5.5
011	441	4	1.6	9.1
012	774	11	4.4	14.2
013	525	15	6.0	28.6
014	279	4	1.6	14.3
015	472	5	2.0	10.6
016	300	1	0.4	3.3
017	488	9	3.6	18.4
018	418	8	3.2	19.1
019	733	9	3.6	12.3
020	307	3	1.2	9.8
021	828	6	2.4	7.2
023	195	3	1.2	15.4
024	199	4	1.6	20.1
025	20	0		0

Census Tract	Total Youths 10-17, 1971 Census	Number Official Delinquencies	Percent of Total Delinquencies	Delinquency Rate Per 1000 Youths
026	193	5	2.0	25.9
027	428	3	1.2	7.0
028	483	3	1.2	6.2
029	455	4	1.6	8.8
30.01	453	1	0.4	2.2
30.02	784	2	0.8	2.6
031	434	1	0.4	2.3
032	338	0		0
033	89	2	0.8	22.5
034	66	4	1.6	60.6
035	1	0		0
036	172	1	0.4	5.8
037	423	6	2.4	14.2
038	240	5	2.0	20.8
039	246	3	1.2	12.2
040	665	9	3.6	13.5
041	583	4	1.6	6.9
042	405	1	0.4	2.5
043	1114	8	3.2	7.2
044	745	5	2.0	6.7
045	916	3	1.2	3.3
046	1427	5	2.0	3.5
047	1022	0		0
D.M. TOTAL	29,128	218	86.5*	7.5

\*TOTAL ADDED % = 87.2 DUE TO ROUNDING OF FIGURES

TABLE XXV  
POLK COUNTY OUTSIDE DES MOINES

Census Tract	Total Youths 10-17, 1970 Census	Number Officials Delinquencies	Percent of Total Delinquencies	Delinquency Rate Per 1000 Youths
101	537	0		0
102.01	272	0		0
102.02	1306	0		0
102.03	400	6	2.4	15.0
103	508	0		0
104.01	1306	1	0.4	0.8
104.02	950	1	0.4	1.1
104.03	426	2	0.8	4.7
104.04	564	1	0.4	1.8
105	1116	1	0.4	0.9
106	1027	0		0
107	1289	3	1.2	2.3
108	900	2	0.8	2.2
109	113	1	0.4	8.8
110	1226	4	1.6	3.3
111	1778	2	0.8	1.1
112	<u>576</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>5.2</u>
Total Unincorp.	14,294	27	10.8	1.9
Total P.C.	43,422	245	97.2*	5.6
Out County		7	2.8	

\*TOTAL ADDED % = 98.0 DUE TO ROUNDING OF FIGURES

TABLE XXVI  
POLK COUNTY DELINQUENCY RATES PER 1000 YOUTHS

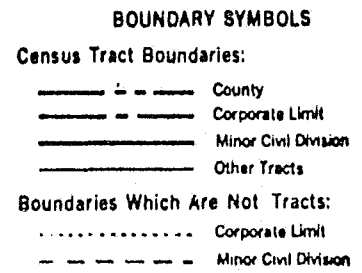
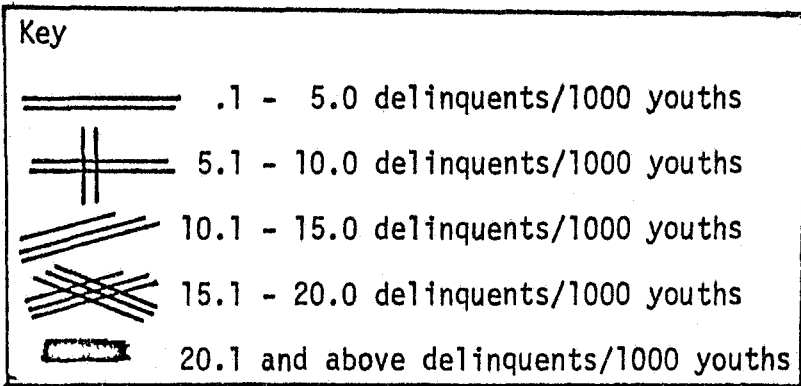
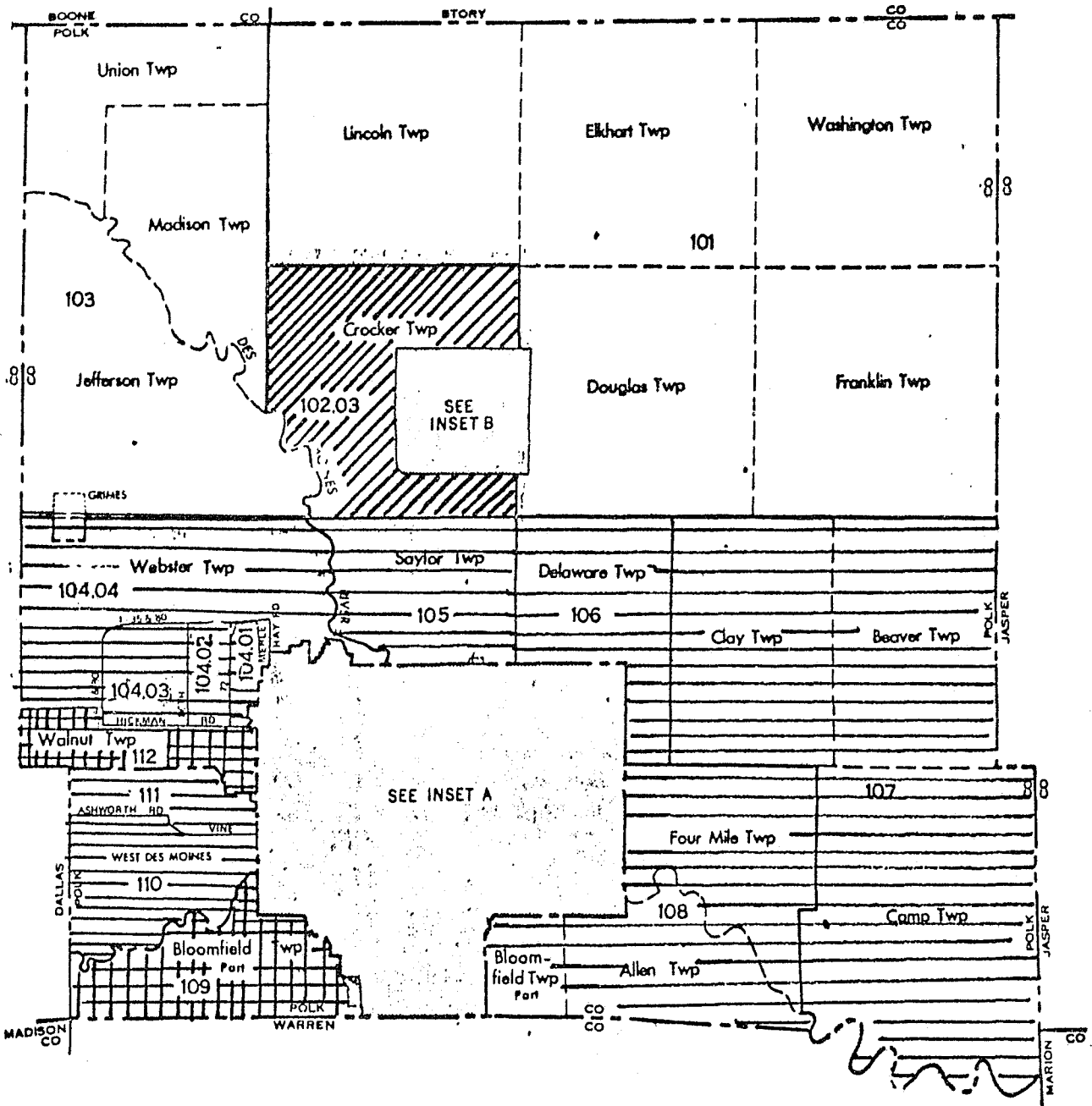
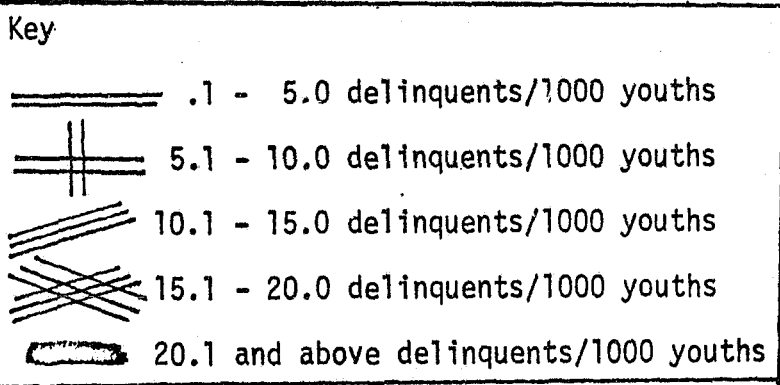
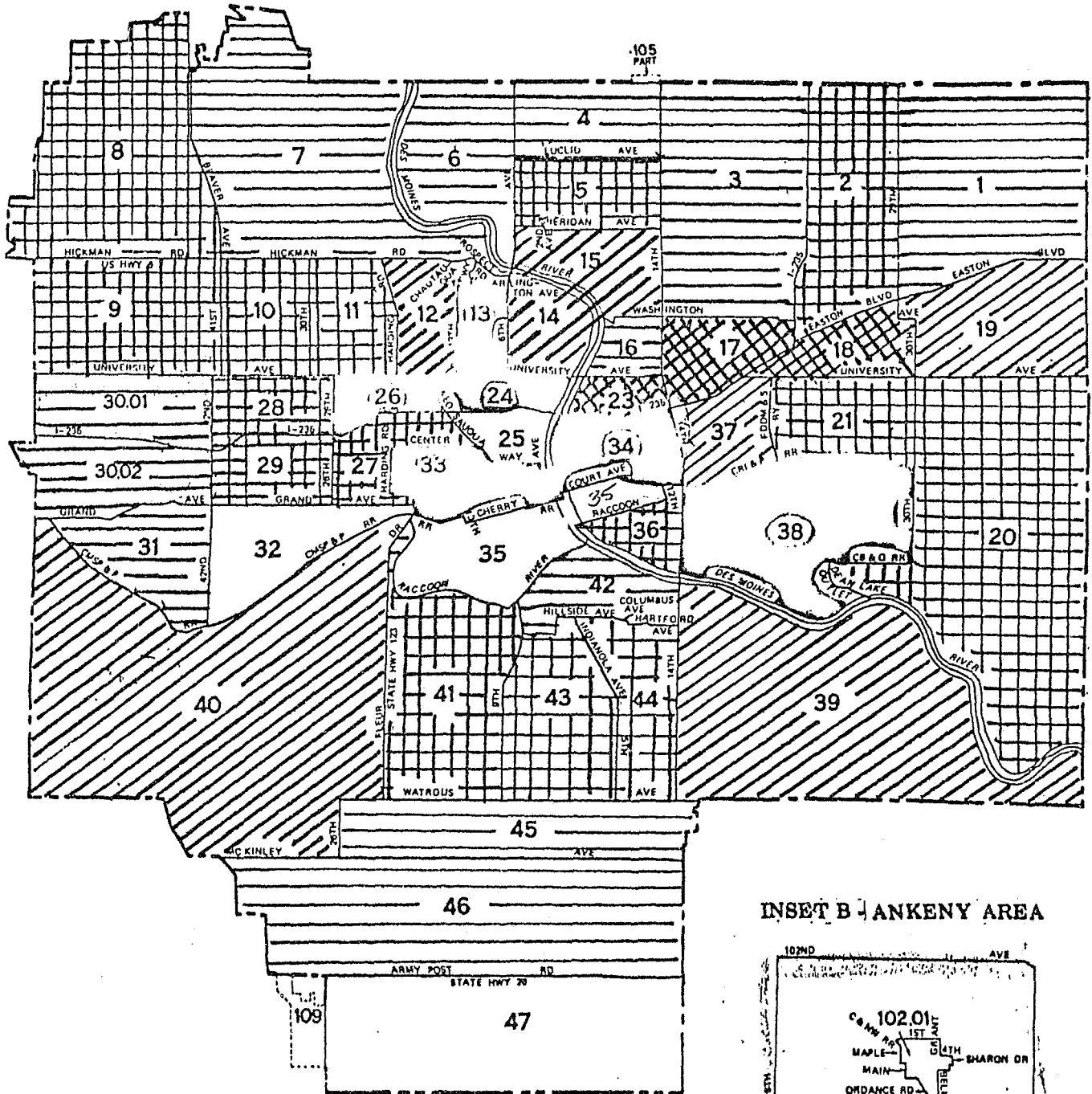
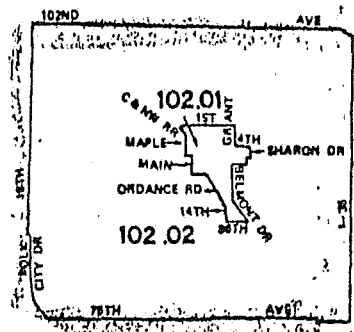


TABLE XXVII  
DES MOINES DELINQUENCY RATES PER 1000 YOUTHS



INSET B - ANKENY AREA



**END**

7 ables/more