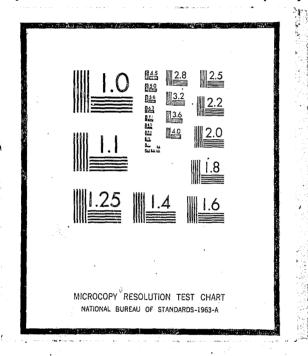# NCJRS

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

DELINQUENCY AND WELFARE

In a previous report (Research Report No. 17) it was found that high delinquency concentrated in the general Kalihi area, with geographic pockets extending to Nanakuli, Waimanalo, and Kailua-Kaneohe. It was also found that juvenile delinquents residing in high delinquency areas (defined as those census tracts with delinquency rates equal to or greater than 2 per 1,000 census tract population) are more likely to be on welfare than those from low delinquency areas.

Using the same data and definitions, this report further explores the relationship between delinquency and welfare as well as some operational implications for HYCF.

I. DELINQUENTS ON WELFARE

Are juvenile delinquents significantly more on welfare than non-delinquents? Table 1 shows that in general this is not the case. For all Oahu, 15.8% of delinquents (as of April 30, 1971) as opposed to 14.7% of non-delinquents are on welfare. But for high delinquency areas more non-delinquents are on welfare (26.8%) than delinquents (20.0%). For low delinquency area, 10.8% of delinquents are on welfare as compared with 9.6% of non-delinquents. Therefore, the proportion of delinquents and non-delinquents on welfare is approximately the same for the total Oahu population and for low delinquency areas, whereas slightly more non-delinquents than delinquents are on welfare in high delinquency areas.

High delinquency areas also show a higher proportion of both delinquents and non-delinquents on welfare than do low delinquency areas. This suggests a possible close relationship between delinquency and welfare by census tract.

II. INDEPENDENCE OF DELINQUENCY AND WELFARE

The difference between high and low delinquency areas of proportion of delinquents and non-delinquents on welfare is statistically significant. Table 2 shows that in the high delinquency areas, delinquency and welfare are not independent, whereas for low delinquency areas and for the total population, they are.

If a juvenile's residence is known and he is a delinquent, then he is more likely to be on welfare if he comes from a high delinquency area than if he comes from a low delinquency area. Similarly, if the juvenile's residence is known and he is on welfare, then he is more likely to be a delinquent if he comes from a high delinquency area than if he comes from a low delinquency area. But if the juvenile's residence is not known and he is a delinquent, then on the average he is unlikely to be on welfare.

III. CORRELATION BETWEEN DELINQUENCY AND WELFARE BY CENSUS TRACT

There is a high correlation between delinquency and welfare per census tract for all Oahu census tracts ($r = .76$). This is helpful in inferring the extent of delinquency or juvenile welfare in an area if the extent of either one is known. A geographic region on Oahu with high absolute numbers of delinquents is also highly likely to have a high number of juveniles on welfare. A scatterplot of the relationship appears in Table 3.

IV. IMPLICATIONS FOR HYCF

A previous study, "Characteristics Summary of the HYCF Population of July 1, 1974" (Research Report No. 11), noted that at HYCF approximately 45% of the residents came from families on welfare. This compares with approximately 15.8% of delinquents on welfare as a percent of total delinquents on Oahu (as of April 30, 1971). Even in high delinquency areas, only 20% of delinquents are on welfare. In low delinquency areas 10.8% of delinquents are on welfare. The proportion of delinquents on welfare is much higher at HYCF than for all Oahu or for high welfare areas. This suggests, but does not prove, that HYCF residents are likely to come from high delinquency areas which are also high welfare areas.

Table 1

COMPARISONS OF DELINQUENTS AND JUVENILE WELFARE RECIPIENTS

	All Oahu	High Delinquency Areas	Low Delinquency Areas
1. % OF JUVENILES WHO ARE DELINQUENTS*	0.5%	0.9%	0.3%
2. % OF DELINQUENTS ON WELFARE	15.8%	20.0%	10.8%
3. % OF NON-DELINQUENTS ON WELFARE	14.7%	26.8%	9.6%
4. % OF WELFARE JUVENILES WHO ARE DELINQUENTS	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%
5. % OF NON-WELFARE JUVENILES WHO ARE DELINQUENTS	0.5%	1.0%	0.3.

*Juvenile populations of approximately ½ of the census tracts are estimates. Delinquency counts refer to all juveniles under state criminal justice custody on April 30, 1971.

Table 2

TESTS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF DELINQUENCY AND WELFARE

POPULATION	OBSERVED FREQUENCIES				χ^2	SIGNIFICANCE
I. ALL OAHU	DELINQUENCY	WELFARE YES	NO	TOTAL	.842	NOT SIGNIFICANT $\hat{\alpha} > .25$
	YES	150	798	948		
	NO	27,555	159,461	187,016		
	TOTAL	27,705	160,259	187,964		
II. HIGH DELINQUENCY AREAS	DELINQUENCY	WELFARE YES	NO	TOTAL	12.140	SIGNIFICANT $\hat{\alpha} < .001$
	YES	104	416	520		
	NO	15,053	41,113	56,166		
	TOTAL	15,157	41,529	56,686		
III. LOW DELINQUENCY AREAS	DELINQUENCY	WELFARE YES	NO	TOTAL	.675	NOT SIGNIFICANT $\hat{\alpha} > .25$
	YES	46	382	428		
	NO	12,502	118,348	130,850		
	TOTAL	12,548	118,730	131,278		

Table 3

Scatterplot of Delinquency and Welfare by Census Tract

Number of Delinquents per Census Tract

Number of Juvenile Welfare Recipients per Census Tract

	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	60+	TOTAL
1500 +									2		2		2	6
1400-1499														0
1300-1399														0
1200-1299												2		2
1100-1199					1			2						3
1000-1099														0
900-999		1	1	2		2	2							8
800-899			1		1									2
700-799								2						2
600-699					1									1
500-599		1		2	2									5
400-499		4												4
300-399	1		1	2	1		2							7
200-299	1	5	1	2			2							11
100-199	2	5				1								8
0-99	27	5												32
TOTAL	31	17	8	8	6	3	6	4	2	0	2	2	2	91

r = .7605

END