

JACKSONVILLE SURVEY
COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARDS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

NCJRS
JUL 7 1978
ACQUISITIONS

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Office of Criminal Justice Planning
FOURTH DIMENSION - Crime Prevention Unit
Jacksonville, Florida
December, 1977

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING



June 14, 1978

NCJRS
Acquisition Department No. 1
Box 6000
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Gentlemen:

This is in response to the Criminal Justice activity announcement NCJ-99111 which requested materials for your information services.

Enclosed are surveys and studies on juvenile delinquency, education, recreation, senior citizens, employment, and obscenity which were initiated and completed by the FOURTH DIMENSION-Crime Prevention Unit of the Office of Criminal Justice Planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Jackson".

James C. Jackson
Crime Prevention Specialist (Team Leader)

JCJ:ja
Enclosures



COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARDS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY SURVEY

The Office of Criminal Justice Planning in Jacksonville is concerned with the national, state and local increase in juvenile delinquency. In order to properly cope with the problem, it is imperative that the community be concerned as individuals rather than "letting" governmental and private agencies solve the problem. To determine the attitudes of the citizens in Jacksonville, a survey of residences was made.

There are various available techniques for obtaining a systematic sampling of attitudes; however, each of these techniques has advantages and limitations which affect representation, feasibility and quality of results as well as cost, personnel and survey time required. After careful consideration of the above mentioned factors, it was determined that the survey team would utilize a random telephoning technique. This technique is non-threatening to respondents, can be conducted quickly, and is safe to administer. The technique allows surveyors to answer respondents questions; survey personnel are also able to screen ineligible respondents, such as those living outside the survey area, those who are too young and those classified as businesses or non-residential respondents. Some other advantages of the technique include its randomness, high response rate and relative low cost. It elicits responses from persons who are not literate, those who might not take time to complete a written questionnaire, and those who might find a personal interview to be too threatening and unconfidential.

The major limitation of surveying by means of random telephoning is that it does not reach persons without telephone service. However, telephone usage has grown to the point that more than 90 percent of the nation's households can now be reached by telephone.¹ The remaining 10 percent could constitute a distinctive sub-group and their omission could result in a biased sample; however, in a Ford Foundation survey conducted over the telephone by the Police Foundation in cooperation with the University

of Cincinnati, the telephone survey compared with a personal door-to-door canvass on a victimization study. The demographic data from the telephone survey did not differ notably from the door-to-door canvas with regard to income, age, sex, or race factors.²

The 1975 estimated population of the City of Jacksonville, excluding the Beaches area is 534,875 of which 344,306 are 18 years of age or older according to the Jacksonville Area Planning Board. There are 46 telephone exchanges which serve the entire City of Jacksonville according to a spokesman for the Southern Bell Telephone Company. Of these exchanges, eight include special exchanges and the Beaches Community which were not used in the survey.³ The September, 1976, Cross Reference Directory of Greater Jacksonville including all of Duval County, Green Cove Springs, Middleburg, Orange Park, Penny Farms and Ponte Vedra Beach has a total listing of 205,606 telephones of which 25,622 are businesses. It was estimated that 160,386 of these listings are in the 38 telephone exchanges used in the survey.

Statistical tables were consulted to determine the size of the sample to be polled by random telephoning to obtain results at the 95 percent confidence level with a high rate of reliability; an allowable error of ± 5 percent and a 50 percent expected rate of response to the questions because of the unknown frequency of response prior to the survey. The tables showed a sample of 384 would be adequate for a population of 100,000 and over. To insure that the entire City of Jacksonville was equitably surveyed, estimation per number of listings for each of the exchanges were made and a proportionate number of samples were determined for each exchange. Interviewers were provided with only numbers selected at random from each of the exchanges listed in the September, 1976, Cross Reference Directory of Greater Jacksonville. The interviewers then randomly selected from the available listings the pre-determined number of samples needed for each exchange.

During the past couple of years the Office of Criminal Justice Planning has gained confidence and expertise in conducting surveys over the telephone. The most recent

being a couple of general surveys to specific groups and a random sample survey to determine a set of prevailing attitudes. To insure that a high level of proficiency and confidence would continue, telephone interviewers were informed of survey techniques, the purpose of the study, the necessity of the screening questions, and the proper use of the telephone response sheets for each random number. The questions on the questionnaire were discussed by all of the survey team. Afterwards, a series of pilot calls were made by individuals on the team. Feedback from the pilot calls resulted in the rewording of questions and general information provided by the team.

It should be noted that no attempt was made to interview all adult members of the surveyed households; moreover, interviewers did not make a special effort to solicit responses from any particular group, such as males, but rather interviewed the respondents who answered the call. Calls were made from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, December 6-8, and on Monday-Wednesday, December 12-14. On Friday, December 9, calls were made from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The final round of call backs was completed between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 15. The calling times were scheduled to provide several opportunities to reach respondents. It was determined that an original call and five call backs at various times during the week would be attempted before a number was discarded.

The questionnaire was devised to include four screening questions. These included: verification of the telephone number; whether it was a residential or business number; a question to determine if the respondent was a resident of Jacksonville and lived within one of the 38 selected telephone exchange locations, and a question concerning age of eighteen and above for respondents. Those persons who were not eliminated in the screening process were then asked fourteen questions about their attitudes concerning juvenile delinquency and related programs. Four demographic questions concerning age, race, marital status and sex were included in the questionnaire.

A total of 389 residential telephone respondents who were 18 years of age or

older were reached in the 38 selected Jacksonville telephone exchanges of which two or 0.5% persons indicated they did not want to complete the interview because of its length.

The following is a tabulation of the 387 completed responses from adults in residence at Jacksonville to the following attitudes and demographic questions from the survey:

1. "Do you believe that juvenile delinquency is increasing or decreasing in Jacksonville?"
Increasing: 261 (67.4%) Decreasing 50 (12.9%) No Opinion 76 (19.6%)

 2. "Do you believe that there is an increase in the crimes committed by girls?"
Yes 238 (61.5%) No 62 (16%) No Opinion 87 (22.5%)

 3. "Should parents or guardians be held responsible for a crime their child commits?"
Yes 251 (64.9%) No 121 (31.3%) No Opinion 15 (3.9%)

 4. "Which of the following has the major responsibility for the prevention of juvenile delinquency:" *
Home 335 (86.6%) School 20 (5.2%) Police 5 (1.3%) Social Agencies 1 (0.3%)
Church 8 (2.1%) Other 18 (4.7%) No Opinion 9 (2.3%)
- * Several respondents gave more than one response which accounts for the 102.5% total in answers.
5. "Should the juvenile offender have his name made public?"
Yes 164 (42.4%) No 205 (52.9%) No Opinion 18 (4.7%)

6. "Are the following effective in reducing or preventing juvenile delinquency?"

Recreational Programs Yes 352 (90.9%) No 25 (6.5%) No Opinion 10 (2.6%)

Counseling Programs Yes 345 (89.1%) No 23 (5.9%) No Opinion 19 (4.9%)

Programs for School Drop-outs Yes 314(81.1%) No 45(11.8%) No Opinion 28(7.2%)

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Programs Yes 327(84.5%) No 32 (8.3%) No Opinion 28(7.2%)

State Juvenile Correction Center
(The old reform schools) Yes 229(59.2%) No 105(27.1%) No Opinion 53 (13.7%)

7. "Should running away, misconduct in school, truancy or breaking curfew give a juvenile a delinquency record?"

Yes 106 (27.4%) No 256 (66.1%) No Opinion 25 (6.5%)

8. "Should a juvenile be placed in detention facilities or released to his parents if his first offense is a violent crime?" (Rape, homicide, robbery, assault)

Detention 334 (86.3%) Parents 32 (8.3%) No Opinion 21 (5.4%)

9. "Should a juvenile be placed in detention facilities or released to his parents if his first offense is a non-violent crime?" (Auto theft, larceny, vandalism)

Detention 104 (26.9%) Parents 267 (68.9%) No Opinion 16 (4.1%)

10. "In which setting would a rehabilitative program for juvenile delinquents be the most effective?"

State operated training schools
(The old reform schools) 68 (17.6%)

Local community based programs 283 (73.1%)

No Opinion 36 (9.3%)

11. "Are rehabilitative programs for juvenile delinquents of value?"

Yes 353 (91.2%) No 17 (4.4%) No Opinion 17 (4.4%)

12. "Who should have the major responsibility for the rehabilitation programs for juveniles?"

Local Government 208 (53.7%)

State Government 121 (31.3%)

No Opinion 32 (8.3%)

Both 26 (6.7%)

13. "At what age should a child who commits a serious crime be transferred from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to an adult court?"

12 and under	<u>39 (10.1%)</u>
14	<u>60 (15.5%)</u>
16	<u>114 (29.5%)</u>
18	<u>134 (34.6%)</u>
21	<u>15 (3.9%)</u>
No Opinion	<u>25 (6.5%)</u>

14. "What crime do you fear most from a juvenile?" *

Robbery & Theft	<u>83 (21.4%)</u>	Breaking & Entering (Burglary)	<u>46 (11.9%)</u>	Murder	<u>38 (9.8%)</u>		
Rape	<u>32 (8.3%)</u>	Vandalism	<u>32 (8.3%)</u>	Assault	<u>28 (7.2%)</u>	Mugging	<u>22 (5.7%)</u>
Drug Related Crime	12 (3.1%)	Purse Snatching	<u>6 (1.6%)</u>	Intimidation	<u>5 (1.3%)</u>		
Auto Theft	<u>3 (0.8%)</u>	Shoplifting	<u>1 (0.3%)</u>	DWI	<u>1 (0.3%)</u>	Everything	<u>5 (1.3%)</u>
No Fears	<u>64 (16.5%)</u>	No Opinion	<u>14 (3.6%)</u>				

* Several respondents gave more than one response which accounts for the 101.4% total in answers.

Although the 1970 census figures have not been updated to reflect any changes or shifts in the population of Jacksonville, the demographic data from the 1970 census is presented for comparative purposes.

COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

TABLE _____

<u>1970 Census *</u>		<u>Respondents of 1977 Survey on Juvenile Delinquency</u>	
<u>Age</u>		<u>Age</u>	
18 - 24	19.2%	18 - 24	13.9%
25 - 44	37.8%	25 - 44	39.8%
45 and over	42.9%	45 and over	46.0%
	<u>99.9%</u>		<u>99.7% **</u>
<u>Race</u>		<u>Race</u>	
White	76.1%	White	75.2%
Black	23.4%	Black	23.5%
Other	.4%	Other	1.0%
	<u>99.9%</u>		<u>99.7% **</u>
<u>Sex</u>		<u>Sex</u>	
Male	47.0%	Male	27.9%
Female	53.0%	Female	72.1%
	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>100.0%</u>
<u>Marital Status</u>		<u>Marital Status</u>	
Single	23.3%	Single	11.6%
Married	60.9%	Married	63.0%
Separated	2.9%	Separated	2.6%
Divorced	4.9%	Divorced	8.8%
Widowed	8.0%	Widowed	13.7%
	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>99.7% **</u>

* Excludes the Beaches' Communities

** The age, race and marital status of 0.3 percent of respondents were not recorded because respondents did not provide the information.

ANALYSIS OF COMPARATIVE DATA

An important point to bear in mind as one studies the results of this survey is that the major concern of the staff was to show opinion of individuals 18 years of age and older. There was no intent to try to determine a breakdown of opinion by age grouping. The comparative data was included to show that various age groups were surveyed. The age categories in the 1977 survey show a combined percentage increase in the 25-44 and 45 and over groups which is very close to the percentage decrease in the 18-24 group. The percentages of the races were remarkably similar. The sex category and the variances in the marital status categories showed marked differences in percentages, but this is probably attributable to the work habits within the residences which were contacted for the most part during the day. Based upon previous experience, it is felt that the disproportionate ratio of female to male respondents would not appreciably affect the outcome of the attitudes within individual residences had there been a converse ratio.

LIMITATIONS

When only a small percentage of the population units are included in the sample, there is some skepticism about the accuracy of inferences made. However, there has been significant progress in sampling so that private pollsters are hired to sample people's attitudes toward candidate choice prior to election, their television show preferences, and many other areas of public concern. Because of cost, personnel, and time constraints, a sample is generally used. Edward Lakner, in his book entitled "A Manual of Statistical Sampling Methods For Corrections Planners", includes a discussion on precision of sample results. He states: ⁴

In most situations a sample precision for proportions of two to four percent at the 95 percent confidence level should suffice to meet planning purposes. In many instances, somewhat larger confidence limits might be tolerable. No absolute criteria can be laid down for the precision of estimates of means and total values in the population, but 95 percent of the obtained sample findings do not seem unreasonable as a working standard.

FOOTNOTES

1. Alfred J. Tuchgarber and William R. Klecka - "Random Digit Dialing -- Lowering The Cost Of Victimization Surveys". (Police Foundation, 1976)
P 20
2. Ibid, p 43
3. Southern Bell Telephone Company - Jacksonville Office (1977)
The following telephone exchanges will not be used in the survey:
 - 241 - Jacksonville Beach
 - 246 - Jacksonville Beach
 - 249 - Jacksonville Beach
 - 350 - Southern Bell Telephone Company
 - 632 - Blackstone Building
 - 633 - City of Jacksonville Centrix
 - 646 - Florida Junior College
 - University of North Florida
 - 791 - U.S. Government Offices
4. Edward Lakner, "A Manual of Statistical Sampling Methods for Corrections Planners (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois -- National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice Planning and Architecture, 1976), p 57

Office of Criminal Justice Planning
FOURTH DIMENSION-Crime Prevention Unit
Jacksonville, Florida
December, 1977

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARD JUVENILE DELINQUENCY SURVEY IN THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AND THEIR RELATION TO FLORIDA'S STANDARDS AND GOALS FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

1. "Do you believe that juvenile delinquency is increasing or decreasing in Jacksonville?"

Increasing 261 (67.4%) Decreasing 50 (12.9%) No Opinion 76 (19.6%)

(Statistical)

2. "Do you believe that there is an increase in the crimes committed by girls?"

Yes 238 (61.5%) No 62 (16%) No Opinion 87 (22.5%)

(Statistical)

3. "Should parents or guardians be held responsible for a crime their child commits?"

Yes 251 (64.9%) No 121 (31.3%) No Opinion 15 (3.9%)

(JD 21.01 Disposition - Predispositional Release Plan)

4. "Which of the following has the major responsibility for the prevention of juvenile delinquency:" *

Home 335 (86.6%)

(JD 1.06 Schools - The Home as a Learning Environment)
(JD 7.01 Family Programs - Involving the Family in Delinquency Prevention/Rehabilitation)

School 20 (5.2%)

(JD 1.02 Schools - Supportive Programs)
(JD 1.03 Schools - Alternative Educational Experiences)
(JD 3.01 Mental Health/General Health-Prevention)

Police 5 (1.3%)

(JD 11.01 Police/Juvenile Programs - Specialized Juvenile Units)
(JD 11.03 Police/Juvenile Programs - Police Diversionary Programs)

Social Agencies 1 (0.3%)

(JD 2.05 Work Study and Employment - Community Action Agencies and Urban League)

Church 8 (2.1%)

(JD 5.01 Religion - Informed Constituencies)

Other 18 (4.7%)

(Statistical)

No Opinion 9 (2.3%)

(Statistical)

* Several respondents gave more than one response which accounts for the 102.5% total in answers.

5. "Should the juvenile offender have his name made public?"

Yes 164 (42.4%) No 205 (52.9%) No Opinion 18 (4.7%)

(JD 12.01 Juvenile Records - General Access to Records)

6. "Are the following effective in reducing or preventing juvenile delinquency?"

Recreational Programs Yes 352 (90.9%) No 25 (6.5%) No Opinion 10 (2.6%)

(JD 4.01 Recreation - Recreation for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention)

Counseling Programs Yes 345 (89.1%) No 23 (5.9%) No Opinion 19 (4.9%)

(JD 3.01 Mental Health/General Health-Prevention)

(JD 7.01 Family Programs - Involving the Family in Delinquency Prevention/
Rehabilitation)

Programs for School Drop-Outs Yes 314 (81.1%) No 45 (11.8%) No Opinion 28 (7.2%)

(JD 2.01 Work Study and Employment - Dept of HRS Responsibilities with Regard to
Employment and Training of Youth)

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs Yes 327 (84.5%) No 32 (8.3%) No Opinion 28 (7.2%)

(JD 13.01 Youth Services System - Purposes, Goals, and Objectives)

(JD 14.05 Youth Services Bureau - Target Group)

State Juvenile Correction Center Yes 229 (59.2%) No 105 (27.1%) No Opinion 53 (13.7%)
(The old reform schools)

(JD 24.01 Training Schools - Training School Program Organization)

(JD 24.02 Training Schools - Rules of Conduct)

7. "Should running away, misconduct in school, truancy or breaking curfew give a juvenile a delinquency record?"

Yes 106 (27.4%) No 256 (66.1%) No Opinion 25 (6.5%)

(JD 9.01 Status Offenders - Definition of Dependency)

(JD 9.06 Status Offenders - Institutionalization)

8. "Should a juvenile be placed in detention facilities or released to his parents if his first offense is a violent crime?" (Rape, homicide, robbery, assault)

Detention 334 (86.3%) Parents 32 (8.3%) No Opinion 21 (5.4%)

(JD 16.08 Intake - Screening for Legal Sufficiency in Delinquency Cases)

9. "Should a juvenile be placed in detention facilities or released to his parents if his first offense is a non-violent crime?" (Auto theft, larceny, vandalism)

Detention 104 (26.9%) Parents 267 (68.9%) No Opinion 16 (4.1%)

(JD 16.08 Intake - Screening for Legal Sufficiency in Delinquency Cases)

10. "In which setting would a rehabilitative program for juvenile delinquents be the most effective?"

State operated training schools
(The old reform schools) 68 (17.6%)

(JD 24.01 Training Schools - Training School Program Organization)

Local Community Based Programs 283 (73.1%)

(JD 23.01 Community Residential Centers - Organization and Operating Procedures)

No Opinion 36 (9.3%)

(Statistical)

11. "Are rehabilitative programs for juvenile delinquents of value?"

Yes 353 (91.2%) No 17 (4.4%) No Opinion 17 (4.4%)

(JD 24.09 Training Schools - Rehabilitative Programs)
(JD 23.05 Community Residential Centers - Counseling Services)

12. "Who should have the major responsibility for the rehabilitation programs for juveniles?"

Local Government 203 (53.7%)

(JD 23 Community Residential Centers - Rationale)

State Government 121 (31.3%)

(JD 24 Training Schools - Rationale)

No Opinion 32 (8.3%)

(Statistical)

Both 26 (6.7%)

(Statistical)

13. "At what age should a child who commits a serious crime be transferred from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to an adult court?"

12 and under	<u>39 (10.1%)</u>
14	<u>60 (15.5%)</u>
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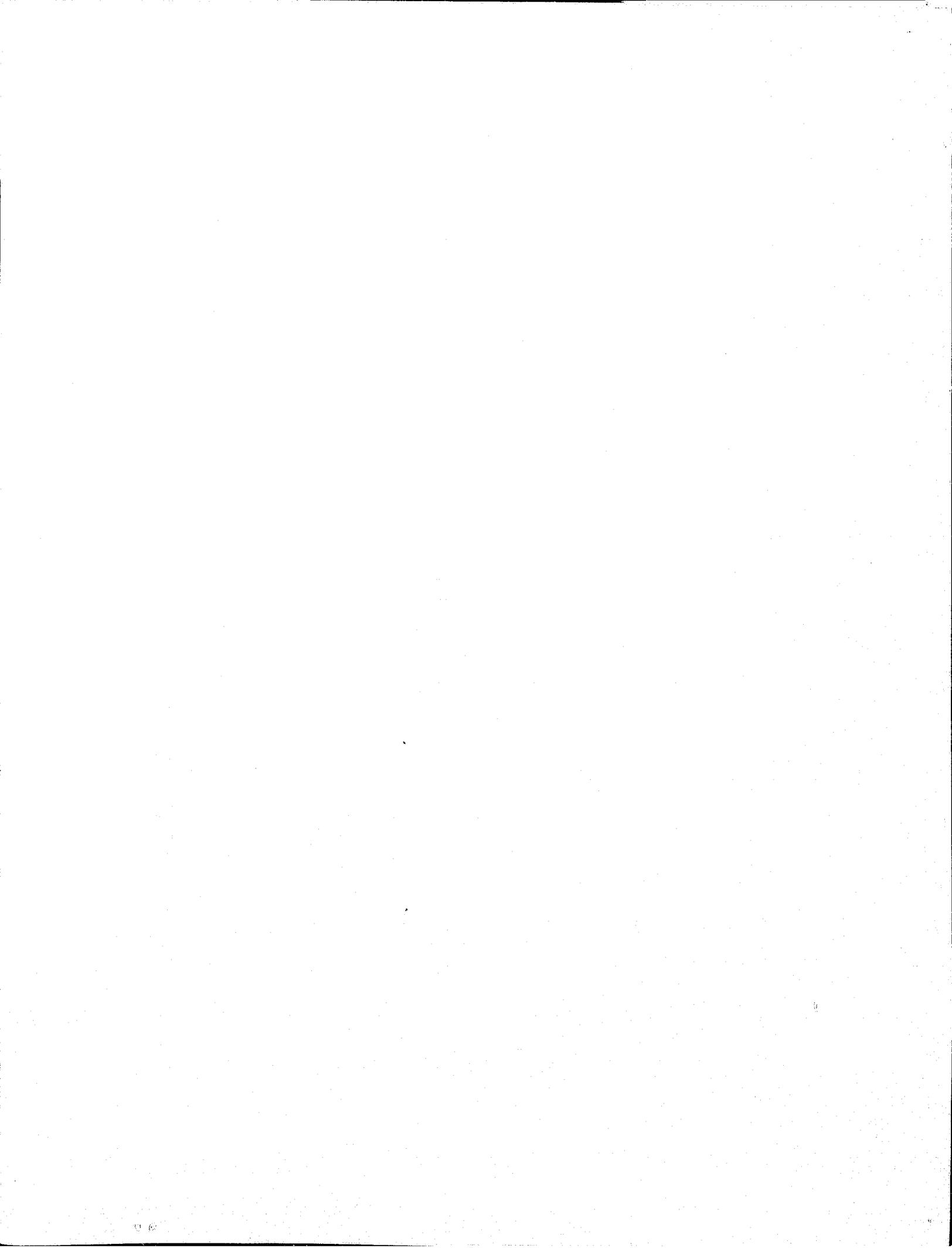
(JD 15.06 Family Court Organization and Jurisdiction - Age Jurisdiction)

14. "What crime do you fear most from a juvenile?" *

Robbery & Theft	<u>83 (21.4%)</u>	Breaking & Entering	<u>46 (11.9%)</u>	Murder	<u>38 (9.8%)</u>		
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No Fears	<u>64 (16.5%)</u>	No Opinion	<u>14 (3.6%)</u>				

* Several respondents gave more than one response which accounts for the 101.4% total in answers.

(Statistical)



END