# FEMALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:

# EMPIRICAL OBSERVATIONS AND THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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## INTRODUCTION

Until fairly recently, research concerning the etiology of the female juvenile delinquent was virtually ignored. Numerous studies regarding juvenile delinquency have been conducted but they almost always studied the male delinquency population. Delinquency has traditionally had an implicit male connotation because of the higher ratio of males that commit delinquency acts as compared to females (Chesney-Lind, 1973).[1] According to Freda Adler (1975), "It is just because of the female's tendency to conform and the victimless nature of her transgressions that the study of female delinquency has been so long neglected."[2] Wallenberg and Sanders (1954) explain that girls have generally deviated from the female sex-role expectations rather than from criminal statures;[3] and as a result, investigation of male behavior seemed more urgent. Consequently, little is known about the etiology of female delinquency at a time when the number of incidents and the severity of acts are increasing dramatically. David Ward (1968) summarizes the current situation as follows: "Our knowledge of the character and causes of female criminality is at the same stage of development that characterized our knowledge of male criminality some thirty or more years ago."[4]

Section I analyzes the nature and incidence of female juvenile delinquency. The results reveal that not only has the number of female delinquents increased at an alarming rate, but girls are being arrested for crimes that up until now were considered the domain of the male delinquent. Crimes of armed



robbery, arson, assault, criminal sale of dangerous drugs, grand larceny and other similiar crimes are regularly being committed by girls. These developments indicate a somewhat dramatic change in the incidence and nature of female delinquency; and the change quite possibly is related to the change in the female sex role currently being experienced.

Freda Adler, the author of Sisters In Crime (1975), believes that there is a direct relationship between the general trend towards the emancipation of women and the increase in the proportion of female delinquency. She states that the incidence of female delinquency is even greater than reported, but there is still a "Social Resistance" to recognizing female criminality in general. Social role expectation and social behavior shape female behavior and the nature of female deviancy.[5] Ms. Adler states,

> "A girl's traditional role was restricted to the family; her chief concern was her physical appearance because through it she hoped to attract a proper male; and her prime but perishable claim to respectibility was her virginity. Determining the rules of normalcy from the exceptions of delinquency, the conventional female teen-ager of the first third of the twentieth century moved in a two-dimensional world bounded by familial fealty and sexual abstinence. The former guaranteed her present security...the latter her future prospects. From such a socially restricted habitat, there were only two directions in which she could transgress - disobedience and promiscuity. If she was a runaway she might be involved in both. ...This type of juvenile led some investigators to the conclusion that male delinquents tend to hurt others while female delinquents tend to hurt themselves."[6]

The pattern and nature of female delinquency is rapidly changing, however. The increasing antipathy which teen-age girls feel toward their traditional female roles could easily lead to their

acquisition of even more social and antisocial male behaviors. And significantly, girls are receiving different role cues from their own family units which contributes to different behavioral responses.

Nancy Wise, (1967) in her study of delinquency among middle-class girls lends additional support. Her studies reveal that modification of sex roles among middle-class adolescents challenge some of the notions about the quantity and quality of female delinquency. She found that middle-class boys and girls exposed to changing male and female role definitions are adopting similar patterns of delinquent and non-delinquent behavior. Middle-class girls now engage in a wide variety of types of behavior that were formerly "considered typically male activities".[7]

Another factor that has contributed to the increase in female delinquency is societies' response, (i.e. the police, prosecuter, Courts, Probation) to antisocial acts committed by females. A great many charges are dismissed because of unwillingness of the victim to press charges and the attitude among arresting officials that a reprimand is sufficient. This is especially true when there are dependent children involved. Bloch and Geis, (1962) submit that the disproportionate ratio of male and female offenders may be a contingency of biased Court action rather than an extension of established roles. "The subordinate role of women has generalized a norm of protectiveness."[8] But as sex role expectations have changed, so has the response of the criminal and juvenile justice agencies and society in general. Many of the acts that were overlooked or that were resolved in alternate ways are now more equally processed through the system.



In 1950, Otto Pollak challenged the basic assumptions concerning the type of female involvement in criminal behavior. In his book, The Criminality of Women,[9] Pollak argues that women's participation in crime has not been significantly lower than men's but 1) the types of crimes women commit are less likely to be detected; 2) even when detected, they are less likely to be reported - for example, shoplifting, domestic theft, and theft by prostitutes; and 3) even when their crimes are reported, women still have a much better chance than do men of avoiding arrest or conviction because of the double standard favorable to women, which is used by law enforcement officials.

Pollak also believed that even when women commit visible types of crimes, they are less likely to be apprehended because their male victims are too embarrassed to report the act or too easily manipulated. When a man and a women have teamed to commit crimes, the man is the one who is likely to get caught and punished, because he is usually the active partner. The man gets caught because he engaged in the overt act. Women usually play the role of instigator, motivator, or arranger. Chivalry prevents the man from involving his female counterpart.

Primarily then, for the three reasons cited above, Pollak contended that the greater conformity of women as opposed to men is a myth.[10] Unfortunately, Pollak's book did not motivate research in this area, and the causes and extent female criminality is largely unknown.

The etiological factors of delinquency are many and diverse. Researchers have previously tended to differentiate delinquency

between males and females as being basically different developmental processes. Previously, researchers associated much of male delinquency as a rebellion against female authority (Parsons, 1947); as a method of asserting manliness (Miller, 1958) and as a result of the lack of opportunity to pursue legitimate goals (Cloward and Ohlin, 1960). Female delinquents in contrast were felt to have resulted from a specific set of problems in their lives (broken homes, sexual involvement, school failure).[11]

Traditionally most writers on women in crime and delinquency have traced female criminality to biological and/or psychological sources with little or no discussion of such social-structural considerations as the state of the economy, occupational and education opportunities, divisions of labor based on sex roles, and differential association. Cultural, situational and motivational factors have been ignored. Freudian theory has carried considerable weight. However, with the merging of behavioral patterns along with changing sex roles, and situational or opportunity changes, many of the current theories are vigorously being challenged.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze and clearly identify the nature and scope of this phenomenon; and to evaluate the adequacy of existing theories for this sub-group. Before this analysis can begin, however, several definitions about this population must be clarified.

According to the Family Court Act of New York, (1962, 1. 1970), a "Juvenile Delinquent means a person over seven and less than sixteen years of age who does any act which, if done by an adult





would constitute a crime."[12] An important distinction must be made at this point for proper analysis of the literature. A 'juvenile delinquent' is not synonymous with a 'person in need of supervision'. Considerable confusion exists in the literature and quite often these terms are used interchangeably when describing the female juvenile delinquent. However, 'persons in need of supervision' have not committed acts of a criminal nature, whereas a juvenile delinquent has broken the law. P.I.N.S. youngsters are incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of parent or other lawful authority. These offenses are status offenses and would not be crimes if committed by an adult. The 'juvenile delinquent' and 'person in need of supervision' populations are not identical and the distinction must be clearly understood.[13] The purpose of this study is to investigate female juvenile delinquency and not those youngsters who are considered persons in need of supervision.

The overall strategy of this paper is the following: 1) to conduct an extensive review of the literature and research concerning female delinquency and criminality; 2) to empirically analyze and identify all aspects of the development of this phenomenon of female delinquency in Suffolk County; 3) to conduct an in depth analysis of ten specific cases to identify cultural, situational and motivational factors; 4) to conduct an historical overview of female delinquency theories as well as contemporary theories of juvenile delinquency; 5) to evaluate the adequacy of

these theories in view of our empirical research; and 6) to conduct an overall analysis and present the resultant conclusion of this process.

Briefly, this report attempts to identify this phenomenon and evaluate the adequacy of existing theory in coping with the emergence of female juvenile delinquency.



PART I - STATISTICAL DOCUMENTATION

A) National Trends

Juvenile delinquency has traditionally been considered a male phenomenon. In the 1900's, ratios of over fifty males to one female juvenile delinquent were common. According to more recent statistics,[14,15,16] the ratios of males to female delinquents has now been reduced to four-to-one in favor of males for most criminal activity.

According to the F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports of 1973, serious female juvenile crime has increased 306.1 percent since 1960.[17] The increase for teen-aged boys was 81.6 percent. The ration of juvenile males and females referred to court has shifted from 4 to 1 prior to 1973 to 3 to 1. Also, the number of female juvenile cases referred to court nationally doubled during 1965 - 1972 as compared to a 49 percent increase for juvenile males.[18]

Regarding adult female arrests, the F.B.I.'s Uniform Crime Reports show that female arrest rates for the majority of serious offenses are also rising much faster than male arrest rates. For the period 1960 - 1973, the arrest trends are startling. While arrests for males increases 87.9 percent during this 13 year period, arrests for females soared 277.9 percent. Current statistics show that the proportion of women in crime is higher than at any other time since the end of World War II.[7, 8, 19]

In 1953, roughly 1 in 7 arrests for larceny involved a woman; however, in 1972 the ratio was approximately 1 in 3. It seems that the tremendous increase in the serious female offenses occurred for property offenses. The proportion of females arrested for violent crimes has hardly changed over the past two decades. The greatest increases for females were for the offenses of embezzlement, fraud, forgery and counterfeiting and the increase was especially marked for the period between 1967 to 1972. If the average rate of change that occurred between this period continue, female arrest rates for larceny/theft, fraud and embezzlement will equal the male total in a short period of time.[20]

Although this trend of rising female juvenile crime and delinquency is accelerating, recognition of this phenomenon by the juvenile and criminal justice systems is almost non-existent. An analysis of female juvenile offender grants nationally from 1969 - 1975 indicates that only 5 percent of all juvenile delinquency discretionary projects were specifically female related programs. Only 6 percent of the block juvenile grants were specifically female related programs.[10,21] Therefore, few programs focus on the special needs and problems of female juveniles.

B) Local Trends - Suffolk County

In order to analyze the increasing phenomenon of female juvenile delinquency in a suburban community, the nature and incidence of female offenders in Suffolk County were analyzed.

TABLE I: 1975 SUFFOLK COUNTY ARREST TOTALS BY SEX - BY TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP AND SEX

| J.D. OFFENSE | TOTAL | | ISLIP | | BABYLON | | HUNTINGTON | | SMITHTOWN | | BROOKHAVEN | | EAST END | | GRAND TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| Burglary | 935 | 83 | 203 | 46 | 150 | 7 | 97 | 2 | 49 | 2 | 386 | 21 | 50 | 5 | 1018 |
| Crim. Tress. | 177 | 32 | 61 | 13 | 54 | 2 | 17 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 28 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 209 |
| Petit Larceny | 336 | 176 | 88 | 43 | 74 | 28 | 37 | 25 | 11 | 3 | 112 | 66 | 14 | 11 | 512 |
| Arson | 15 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Menacing | 9 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Assault | 102 | 27 | 23 | 5 | 19 | 4 | 21 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 129 |
| Robbery | 38 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Harrassment | 25 | 19 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Narcotics Viol | 77 | 13 | 19 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 90 |
| TOTAL NO. | 1714 | 360 | 413 | 109 | 340 | 61 | 192 | 42 | 93 | 12 | 595 | 114 | 81 | 22 | 2074 |
| % | 82.6% | 17.4% | 79.1% | 20.9% | 848% | 15.2% | 82.% | 18% | 88.6% | 11.4 | 83.9% | 16.1% | 78.6% | 21.4% | 100% |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2074 | | 522 | | 401 | | 234 | | 105 | | 709 | | 103 | | 2074 |

The incidence of arrest, Family Court adjudication rates and probation supervision records were analyzed. Not only the number of incidents but the type of delinquent acts were documented.

Suffolk County is located on the eastern half of Long Island and is second in New York State for the size of its juvenile offender population according to data compiled by the New York State Division for Youth. New York City is first. The county has a combination of rural and suburban characteristics and a population slightly over 1.3 million.[22] The median age is 26.4 years and 43.5% of the population is under 25 years of age.

According to the 1970 U. S. Census figures, there are slightly more males than females in the Suffolk County juvenile population. In 1970, there were 226,781 males and 218,650 females in the 0 - 17 age group.

Analysis of the male/female juvenile delinquency statistics for Suffolk County reveals that the local trend is quite similar to the national increase. As illustrated in Tables I, II, III, IV, and V, female juvenile delinquency has increased at a much greater rate than male juvenile delinquency, although percentages of both sexes in the general population has remained relatively stable. The major findings of the 1975 Suffolk Police juvenile arrest statistics,[23] as indicated in Table I, reveal the following:

1) Of all the juvenile arrests for harassment, 43.2% were of females. (19 out of 44.)
2) Of all the arrests in 1975 in Suffolk for juvenile delinquency acts of assault, 21% were of females.



TABLE II: SUFFOLK COUNTY JUVENILE DELINQUENCY ARREST FREQUENCY BY OFFENSE AND MALE/FEMALE DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN 1956 & 1975

| J.D. OFFENSES | 1956 | | 1957 | | 1958 | | 1959 | | 1960 | | 1975 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Burglary | 88 | 2 | 127 | 2 | 139 | 2 | 104 | 0 | 150 | 2 | 935 | 83 |
| Other Larceny | 54 | 1 | 40 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 43 | 3 | 27 | 0 | 336 | 176 |
| Arson | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 3 |
| Harassment | 35 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 45 | 3 | 44 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 25 | 19 |
| Assault | 10 | 2 | 25 | 4 | 18 | 6 | 23 | 4 | 18 | 3 | 102 | 27 |
| Menacing | 15 | 0 | 22 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 1 |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 38 | 6 |
| Narcotic Viol. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 77 | 13 |
| TOTAL M/F | 205 | 5 | 260 | 8 | 251 | 15 | 236 | 12 | 246 | 6 | 1,537 | 328 |
| | 210 | | 268 | | 266 | | 248 | | 252 | | 1,865 | |

TABLE III: SUFFOLK JUVENILE ARREST PERCENTAGE BY OFFENSE AND MALE/FEMALE BREAKDOWN BETWEEN 1956 & 1975

| J.D. | 1956 | | 1957 | | 1958 | | 1959 | | 1960 | | 1975 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OFFENSES | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Burglary | 97.8% | 2.2% | 98.5% | 1.5% | 98.6% | 1.4% | 100% | 0 | 98.7% | 1.3% | 91.9% | 8.1% |
| Other Larceny | 98.2% | 1.8% | 97.6% | 2.4% | 97% | 3% | 93.5% | 6.5% | 100% | 0 | 65.6% | 34.4% |
| Arson | 100% | 0 | 100% | 0 | 100% | 0 | 80% | 20% | 75% | 25% | 83.3% | 16.7% |
| Harass-ment | 100% | 0 | 100% | 0 | 93.8% | 6.2% | 100% | 0 | 100% | 0 | 56.8% | 43.2% |
| Assault | 83.3% | 16.7% | 86.2% | 13.8% | 75% | 25% | 85.2% | 14.8% | 85.7% | 14.3% | 79.1% | 20.9% |
| Menacing | 100% | 0 | 95.2% | 4.3% | 76.9% | 23.1% | 76.9% | 23.1% | 100% | 0 | 90% | 10% |
| Robbery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100% | 0 | 88.9% | 11.1% | 100% | 0 | 86.4% | 13.6% |
| Narcotic Viol. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85.6% | 14.4% |

3) Of all the juvenile larceny arrests in the County, 34.4% (176 out of 512) were by females.

4) In the Town of Islip, 18.5% (46 out of 249) of all juvenile burglary arrests were by females.

5) Of all the arrests for narcotics violations, 17.4% were by females.

6) Of all the arson arrests, 16.7% were juvenile female offenders.

7) In the younger age group, between 0 - 12 years old, the incidence of offenses committed by females increased 260% between 1971 and 1975, while the increase in offenses by males increased only 9%.

8) In addition, 13.6% of the armed robberies and 15.3% of the charges of criminal trespass were committed by females.

However, there are significant differences between geographic areas and the type of the community in which the juveniles reside. Islip and Brookhaven, which contain some of the most chaotic environments, also have the greatest number of female juvenile delinquents (Refer to Table VI). However, Smithtown and the rural east end have relatively few cases and populations variations do not explain this difference.

As illustrated in Tables II and III, the percentage of female involvement in juvenile offenses since 1956 has increased considerably. In 1956, less than 2% of larcenies (excluding burglary) were committed by female juveniles as compared to 34.4% in 1975. Females were not even represented in the statistics for Arson, Robbery, Narcotic Violations, Menacing and



TABLE IV: FAMILY COURT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES IN SUFFOLK COUNTY BETWEEN 1965-1974 BY OFFENSE AND BY SEX

| OFFENSE | 1965 | | 1970 | | 1974 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Burglary | 239 | 7 | 286 | 3 | 798 | 16 |
| Other Larceny | 44 | 9 | 55 | 17 | 216 | 26 |
| Arson | 17 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 28 | 6 |
| Auto Theft | 70 | 6 | 114 | 2 | 174 | 7 |
| Assault | 52 | 12 | 58 | 23 | 195 | 20 |
| Stolen Property | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| Malicious Mischief | 40 | 1 | 18 | 4 | 54 | 5 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 46 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| Sex Offense | 12 | 2 | 18 | 4 | 24 | 0 |
| Dangerous Weapon | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 1 |
| Robbery | 14 | 3 | 31 | 2 | 107 | 3 |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Narcotics | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 88 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 538 | 41 | 636 | 56 | 1735 | 92 |

Harassment in 1956. However, for 1975, female juveniles committed 16.7%, 13.6%, 14.4% 10% and 43.2% respectively of these juvenile offenses. Although the numbers have increased, the percentage of female assault cases has remained relatively stable throughout the years.[24,25,26,27,28]

Although the types of incidence of female juvenile offenses has increased considerably since 1956 and 1960, female juveniles are still under-represented in Family Court juvenile delinquency proceedings. As illustrated in Table IV, most female juveniles arrested for delinquent acts (Table I) are diverted from the court system before adjudication. This diversion may take many forms at different stages of the juvenile justice system, i.e. Probation Intake, ACOD, dismissal, etc. The fact remains that in Suffolk County, although the incidence of juvenile delinquency arrests for females has increased significantly, females are not being adjudicated in Family Court for these acts. These cases are diverted at some point in the system.[29,30,31]

The research in female juvenile delinquency in Suffolk County has documented quite clearly a disproportionate increase in female delinquency as compared to male delinquency. In addition, girls are committing a wider range of offenses than in 1960. Many of these offenses such as burglary, larceny and robbery were considered the male domain.

The next section of this report will investigate the characteristics of this female delinquent sub-group.



TABLE V: INCREASE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY BETWEEN 1960 and 1975 BY MALE/FEMALE BREAKDOWN

| | 1960 | 1975 | INCREASE/DECREASE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | # | % |
| Male | 246 | 1537 | +1291 | +525% |
| Female | 6 | 328 | + 322 | +5300% |
| Total | 252 | 1865 | +1613 | +640% |

TABLE VI: 1975 FEMALE JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACCORDING TO TOWNSHIP AND FREQUENCY

| TOWNSHIP | NO. OF CASES |
|---|---|
| Brookhaven | 138 |
| Islip | 138 |
| Babylon | 84 |
| Huntington | 54 |
| Smithtown | 18 |
| East End Townships | 27 |
| TOTAL | 459 |

## PART II. CHARACTERISTICS AND PROFILE OF FEMALE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY.

### A. An Analysis of Thirty Female Delinquents Considered As a Sub-Group.

Case records of current Probation supervision cases were analyzed for female juveniles delinquents in Suffolk County. The following variables were documented for analysis: 1) age; 2) race; 3) religion; 4) intelligence quotient; 5) family structure; 6) multiple family problems; 7) psychiatric or psychological diagnosis; 8) behavioral or psychological tendencies; 9) school performance; 10) current offense(s); 11) familial criminal history; 12) financial status; 13) other noteworthy factors.

This section will present the results of analyzing this sample as a subgroup. Total incidence and percentages of this group will be tabulated. However, Part II, Section B illustrates the factors for the thirty cases individually, so that the reader can analyze multiple factors and clusters of important variables.

It must be noted that these 30 female probationers do not represent a statistical random sample of all female juvenile delinquents in Suffolk County. First of all, they are youngsters adjudicated by Family Court. Many youngsters are arrested but diverted out of the system. Secondly, many youngsters commit delinquent acts but are never apprehended. Finally, these cases were selected from existing caseloads on an available basis. If the case files were in transport or not available, they were excluded. However, the sample should be representative of the adjudicated female juvenile



delinquent in Suffolk, although a statistical random sample was not possible.

### B. Demographic, Cultural and Behavioral Characteristics

1. Age - The age distribution for these female juveniles was as follows: nineteen (19) youngsters were 15 years old; five (5) were fourteen; and six (6) were thirteen years old. The mean age was 14.4 years old for this sample.

2. Race - Distribution by race is as follows: 23 white (1 hispanic origin); and 7 black youngsters.

3. Religion - The distribution by religion is as follows: 13 Protestant juveniles, 8 Roman Catholics; 1 Jewish youth; 1 Jehovah Witness, and 7 unknowns.

4. Intelligence Quotient - The I.Q. levels of this group tested on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children is as follows: a) 4 cases below 80: (78, 58, 65, and 71); b) 5 juveniles between 80 and 89: (88, 89, 89, 85, 88); c) 4 between 90 and 99: (90, 98, 96, 98); d) 6 between 100 and 109: (103, 103, 105, 109, 105, 102); e) 6 110 I.Q. and above: (125, 118, 115, 119, 117, 119); f) 2 "average range" assessments; g) and 3 cases unknown.

The mean IQ was 97.5 if the two "average range" cases are assigned 100 I.Q. scores. It is striking that six (6) youngsters have "superior" range intelligence and an additional eight (8) youngsters with average or above average scores.

5. Family Structure - The family nucleus was analyzed according to broken/stable structures as well as cause of disintegration ie. death, desertion, separation, divorce. In addition, functional

causes of an unstable family unit were documented, ie. alcoholism, mental illness, drug addiction.

Of this sample, 24 cases or 80% had structural broken family units. Only 6 cases had both parents in the home. Of the remaining 6 cases with both parents in the home; 2 cases were diagnosed as experiencing "Marital Maladjustment"; and in 1 case the mother is alcoholic. In only 3 out of 30 or 10% did the home structure give the appearance of a stable home situation.

6. Multiple Problem Family - As illustrated in Table VII, the other family members of the female delinquents unit quite often had serious problems such as alcoholism, emotional disturbances, drugs, child abuse, criminal behavior patterns, brain damage, abortions, rapes, suicidal tendencies, etc. The most frequently identified problem is alcoholism identified in 14 or 47% of either one or both parents. The trauma of recent parental death is also clearly in evidence in 7 or 23% of the cases. For a complete analysis consult columns 6 and 7 of Table VII.

7. Psychiatric and Psychological Diagnosis - A majority of cases, 21 or 70%, were diagnosed "Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence" or "Severe Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence". The remaining nine cases were distributed as follows: 1 - "unsocialized aggressive reaction of adolescence"; 2 - "passive aggressive personalities"; 2 - "depersonalization neurosis"; 1 -"mild mental retardation"; 3 - other; and 1 - not available.

8. Behavioral or Psychological Tendencies - A varied array of psychological and behavioral tendencies are listed in Table VII.



They include assaultive tendencies, suicidal ideation and gestures, fighting, runaway activity, alcohol abuse, drugs, stealing, etc.

9. School Performance - These youngsters as a group have a dismal school record and all seem to have negative experiences in that institution. The exceptions as illustrated in Table VII are cases #12 (fair grades but cutting classes); #15 (reportedly good school performance) and #21 (very bright, 11th. grade reading leves, misses classes). Except for one case, #25, where the information was unknown, the remaining 26 cases or 87% have histories of fighting in school, or truancy, or failing grades, or combinations of negative behaviors.

10. Current Offense(s) - The distribution of offenses for the group is as follows: (a) Assault 1st. or 3rd. degree - six (6) cases; (b) Burglary 3 rd. degree and/or Grand Larceny - six (6) cases; (c) Arson - one case (1); (d) Robbery - one case (1); (e) Illegal Drug Possession - seven (7) cases; (f) Other larceny - nine (9) cases.

11. Family Members - Eight cases have family members known to the criminal justice system. Cases #'s 1, 4, 12, 23, 26, 27, 29, and 30 exhibit charges ranging from murder, arson, assault, child abuse, robbery and shoplifting.

12. Financial Status - Thirteen cases (13) are receiving welfare payments; 2 cases are on social security and unemployment; 3 cases earn $10,000 or below; 8 cases earn between $10,000 and $19,000; while 4 cases earn $20,000 or above.

13. Other Factors - Certain additional factors as documented in the last column of Table VII may have serious effects on the etiology of female juvenile delinquency for these youngsters. The most striking revelation of studying the experiences of these children is the amount of pure brutality that they have endured. The incidence of rape, child abuse and assault is staggering. The presence of suicidal tendencies in these teenagers is considerable. Drug abuse including overdoses and hospitalization is also evidenced.

Cases #5, 28 and 29 were all raped when they were twelve years old. Case #2 claims beatings and incest by her father; cases #6, 2, 12, 21 and 29 were confirmed cases of child abuse. The number of unsuccessful residential placements is also considerable.

The next section is actually a tabular presentation of each juvenile so that the reader can see the inter-relationship between variables.



PART II B): A PROFILE PRESENTATION OF EACH YOUNGSTER CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY

Table VII has been set up according to individual juvenile units so that each variable can be viewed in relation to all other variable. The previous section (Part II A) presented a group analysis, this section allows the beginning of case history analysis. Part III presents ten of these cases selected randomly according to case study, in depth format.

As indicated in Table VII, the environments that these female juvenile delinquents live in, and the negative situations that they have experienced have been quite destructive. There is not one case where the juvenile life situation can be described as stable.

The initial impression of this researcher resulting from this analysis is that many of these girls are responding appropriately to intolerable situations.

## TABLE III: DEMOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL & BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FEMALE DELINQUENTS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

| CASE NO. | AGE | RACE | REL. | I.Q. | FAMILY STRUCTURE | MULTI-PROB FAMILY | PSYCHIATRIC OR PSYCH. DIAG. | BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS | SCHOOL PERF. | CURRENT OFFENSE | FAMILY MEMBERS | FINANCIAL STATUS | OTHER FACTORS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 15 | B | PROT. | 73 | BROKEN SEPARATION | M-ALCOHOLIC + DIABETIC | ADJUSTMENT REACTION OF ADOL. (ARA) | ASSAULTIVE | TRUANT FIGHTS | Robbery 1 ASSAULT 3 RP. | (1) Burt-Robb (2) BAT-MUR (3) BURT-LAR | (DSS) Dept. of Social Service | NEGLECT PET. AGAINST MOTHER |
| 2 | 15 | HISP | JEH. WIT | 88 | BROKEN DESERTION REMARRIED | F-ALCOHOLIC M-DESERTED CHILD ABUSE SUICIDE | PASSIVE/ AGGRESSIVE PERSONALITY | ASSAULTIVE RUNAWAY SEX. ACTIVITY | FIGHTS CUTTING | ASSAULT 3 PINS UNCOOPER. | N/A | D.S.S. | SUSP. CLAIMS INCEST BY FATHER + BEATINGS |
| 3 | 15 | W | UNK | 90 | BROKEN DIVORCE | M-ALCOHOLIC DRUGS. | (ARA) | DRUGS RUNAWAY ABDUCTION | TRUANT FAILING PASSIVE | PETIT LARCENY. RUNAWAY | N/A. | $10,000+ | SIBLINGS LIVE WITH FATHER IN OKLAHOMA. |
| 4 | 15 | W | PROT | 125 | BROKEN DIVORCE REMARRIED | F-DISABILITY | (ARA) | DRUGS RUNAWAY. | TRUANT FAIR GRADES | DRUG - POSSESSION RUNAWAY | PARENTS - CHILD ABUSE. | $20,000 + | OVERDOSE ON DILANTIN IN NEW MEXICO |
| 5 | 15 | W | RC | 103 | BROKEN SEPARATION | F-EMOT. DIST HOSPITALIZ- M-MENT. ILL | (ARA) | DRUGS. ALCOHOL RUNAWAY TRUANCY | POOR | DRUG - POSS. RUNAWAY | N/A | $13,000 + | SUBJECT RAPED IN 1974 (CHECK IR (records)) |
| 6 | 15 | W | UNK | 98 | BROKEN DEATH STEP-F DESERTED | SF-ALCOHOLIC | (ARA) | STEALING RUNAWAY. INCORRIGIBLE | FIGHTS | BURGLARIES | N/A | D.S.S. | CHILD ABUSE SCARS. |
| 7 | 14 | W | PROT | 96 | BROKEN SEPARATION | F-ALCOHOLIC M-ALCOHOLIC | (ARA) | STEALING RUNAWAY | POOR | PETIT LARCENY. RUNAWAY. | N/A. | D.S.S. | RESISTANT TOWARDS TESTING. |
| 8 | 15 | B | PROT | 89 | BROKEN DEATH STEP-F DIVORCE | F-DEATH. | DEPERSONALIZATION NEUROSIS (DISTURBED) | ASSAULTIVE RUNAWAY. | FIGHTS TRUANT | ASSAULT PETIT LAR. RUNAWAY. | N/A | D.S.S. | RAPE, RAPE. FOSTER HOME. |
| 9 | 15 | W | UNK | 103 | BROKEN DIVORCE. | FALCOHOLIC M-EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS | AGGRESSIVE. SUICIDAL DRUGS. | INCORRIGIBLE RUNAWAY. STEALING SUICIDAL | FIGHTS TRUANT FAILING | ASSAULT DRUG - POSS RUNAWAY. | N/A | D.S.S. | SLIT WRIST THREE TIMES |
| 10 | 15 | B | PROT | 71 | BROKEN DIVORCE | F-DESERTION | (ARA) BORDERLINE MENTAL RETARDATION | STEALING RUNAWAY. INCORRIGIBLE | POOR FAILING CAN'T READ. | GRAND LARCENY BURGLARY 2 PINS | N/A | 13,000+ | SICKLE CELL, ANEMIA BY SUBJECT |

## TABLE 1 CONTINUED.

| CASE NO | AGE | RACE | RELIG | IQ | FAMILY STRUCTURE | MULTI-PROB FAMILY | PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS | DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR | SCHOOL PROB | PRESENT OFFENSE | FAMILY MEMBERS | FINANCIAL STATUS | OTHER FACTORS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 ✓ | 15 | W | PROT | 98 | BROKEN-M DECEASED | M-CRIMINAL DISS F ALCOHOL PROB | ARA (extreme anxiety) | HOSTILE AGGRESSIVE AGGRESSIVE STEALING STEALING | N/A | ROBBERY RUNAWAY BURGLARY | SISTER | WELFARE | |
| 12. ✓ | 14 | W | RC | N/A | BROKEN-SEPARATED | F-ALCOHOLIC F-CRIM-ASSAULT | ARA. | | FAIR CUTTING | LARCENY INCORRIGIBLE | F-JAIL STABBING SUICIDE | WELFARE | |
| 13. ✓ | 13 | W | RC | 105 | BROKEN-DEATH-F SEP-SEPARAT. | SOC SECURITY DSS CATH CHARITY SE-Alcoholism | N/A | SEX ACTING OUT AT 13. SMOKES 1 PACK CIGARETTES/DAY | TRUANT POOR GRAD. | BURGLARY | N/A | SS WELFARE. | NO FAMILY SUPERVISION |
| 14 ✓ | 15 | B | BAPTIST | 58 | BROKEN-M DECEASED MANY SEP. | M-DECEASED. | MILD MENTAL RETARDATION | SEX ACTING-OUT RUNAWAY. | SPECIAL ED FOR RETAR. | PETIT LAR. RUNAWAY UNGOV. | N/A. | DSS. | 2 CHILDREN PREGNANT 2 OTHER CHILDREN |
| 15. ✓ | 15 | W | PROT. | 89 | BOTH MARRIED. | M-EMOT. DIST. | SCHIZOPHRENIA-REACTION NEUROSIS | TRUANT SEX ACTING RUNAWAY IMPAIRED REALITY TESTING | POOR GRADES LEARN. DIS | STEALING RUNAWAY | N/A. | 8000 + | FOSTER HOME 1969-1971 |
| 16. ✓ | 15 | B | PROT. | 115 | BOTH PARENTS HOME. | M-ALCOHOLI | A R A. | RUNAWAY ASSAULTS SEX A.O. | GOOD | ASSAULT UNGOV. RUNAWAY | N/A | N/A. | ADOPTED ATT. CONSID. WAS CHILD. |
| 17. | 13 | B | PROT | N/A | [illegible] | F-[illegible] TO SIBLINGS | ARA. | STEALING | POOR. | [illegible] | N/A | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 18. | 15 | W | N/A | 118 | BOTH NATURAL PARENTS IN HOME. | NOT INDICATED | ARA. (Severe) | STEALING | DROPOUT | BURGLARY 3 FORGERY etc | N/A. | 29000 + | FAMILY [illegible] |
| 19 | 13 | W. | PROT. | 85 | BOTH NATURAL PARENTS IN HOME. | NOT INDICATED | ARA | STEALING RUNAWAY SEXUAL ACTING OUT | POOR GRADES 7 GRADE LEARN. LEVEL | BURGLARY RUNAWAY | N/A. SIBLINGS IN HOME | 12000 + (7 SIBLINGS) | [illegible] |
| 20 | 13 | W | R.C. | 119 | BOTH PARENTS IN Home. | NOT AVAILABLE | UNSOCIALIZED AGGRESSIVE REACTION OF ADOLESCENCE. | [illegible] | | ASSAULT 1 | NO | 17,000 + | FAMILY [illegible] |

| CASE NUMBER | AGE | RACE | RELIG | I.Q | FAMILY STRUCTURE | MULTI-PROB FAMILY | PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS | BEHAVIORAL PSYCH. TEST | SCHOOL PERFORM. | CURRENT OFFENSE | FAMILY MEMBERS | FINANCIAL STATUS | OTHER FACTORS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 15 | W | N/A | 117 | BROKEN-SUICIDE M (1972) | MOTHER SUICIDE MOTHER-SCHIZ. | PASSIVE/AGGRESS PERSONALITY. ARA-9/76 | DRUG USE HOSTILE | V. BRIGHT IQ-READ MISSES CLASS | DRUG ASS. RUNAWAY | 3 SIBLINGS NO REPORTED PROBLEMS | 40000 + | FATHER M.D BEST DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP DRUGS |
| 22 | 15 | W | Jewish | 119 | BOTH PARENTS IN HOME | MARITAL MALADJUSTMENT | GAUCHER'S DISEASE-BLOOD DISEASE AND ARA | ANGRY + HOSTILE TO MOTHER. TRUANT RUNAWAY. | TRUANT | PETIT LARC VIOL OF PROB TRUANCY RUNAWAY | N/A | 30,000 + | GOOD REL WITH FATHER + SISTERS BOTH PARENTS WORK F/T. |
| 23 | 15 | W | RC. | 109 | BOTH PAR. IN HOME MUCH CONFL | PARENTS-DIAG MARITAL MALADJUSTMENT TWO BROTHERS IN CRIM ACT. FATHER-ALCH | ARA. | RUNAWAY, FIGHTING | FAILING TRUANT | ILLEGAL DRUGS + RUNAWAY. | F-Robb 2°; B(2) DRUGS B(1) PROB. | UNEMPLOYMENT-INSECURE SPECIFIC EMPLOY. | MOTHER/DAUGHTER CONFLICT VERY DEMANDANT |
| 24. ✓ | 13. | W | RC | 105 | BROKEN-F DECEASED | M-EMOT. DIST. ANXIETY NEUR. | ARA. NEGATIVE. SUICIDAL TENDENCIES | UNCOOPERATIVE DRUGS SMOKE ARROGANT. STEALS. SUICIDAL RUNAWAY. | POOR. | PETIT LARCENY. | N/A. | SOCIAL SECURITY + V.A. | ACCEPTED STARTED HAVING PRO WHEN FATHER DIED |
| 25 | 15 | W | RC | 102 | BROKEN-DESERTION 2 STEP-MOTHERS | M-ALCOHOLISM SFS-DRINKING + DRUG PROB | EMOTIONAL EP. LEPSY. RARE SEIZURES MEDICATION | DEPRESSED SUICIDAL SELF DESTRUCT | N/A. | PETITE LARCENY. RUNAWAY | N/A. | 15,000 + | MOTHER HAD THREE HUSBANDS BOTH M+SF WORKING OUT OF WEDLOCK CHILD |
| 26. | 14 | B | Prot. | 65 | BROKEN-SEPARATION | M-TRANQUILIZERS F-DESERTION | ARA (1/76) EVIDENCE OF ORGANIC BRAIN DYSFUNCT | PRIMARY READY DRUGS | BEH. PROB POOR GRADES | ILLEGAL DRUGS (HEROIN) RUNAWAY | BROTHER-INCEST S.SIS-SIMPLE DISPARAGEMENT | WELFARE (DSS) | FAM. NOT INVOLVED LIFE. RES. PLACEMENT |
| 27 | 15 | W | R.C. | 88 | BROKEN-DESERTION F. | PARENTS-DIVORCE BROTHER-PROB B-BRAIN DAMAGE | INADEQUATE PERSONALITY ARA-SEVERE 1974 | SUICIDAL VISIONS | ERATIC PERFORM. TRUANT | ARSON-3 | BROTHER-ARSON | WELFARE (DSS) | NUMEROUS RES. PLACES |
| 28 | 14 | W | N/A | N/A | BROKEN SEPARATION ALCOHOLISM | M-ALCOHOLIC F-ALCOHOLIC | SEVERE ARA (RAPED WHEN 12) | RUNAWAY DRUGS DEPRESSED SUICIDAL | POOR TRUANT | ILLEGAL DRUGS TRUANCY RUNAWAY | N/A | 10,000 + | RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT |
| 29. | 14 | W | N/A | "AVERAGE RANGE" | BROKEN-SEPARATION | F-ALCOHOLIC + ABUSIVE | SEVERE ARA (RAPED WHEN 12) | CONVULSIONS PS-INFANT INCORRIGIBLE BEHAVIOR RUNAWAY. | POOR DISINTERESTED | ILLEGAL DRUGS RUNAWAY. | F-CHILD ABUSE | 12,000 + | CHILD ABUSE BY F. HATRED FOR FATHER. |
| 30 | 13 | W | Prot. | "AVERAGE RANGE" | PARENTS-MARRIAGE BROKEN-SEPARATION 1972 | BROTHER PROBATION | SEVERE ARA. 11/76 "ANXIETY NEUROSIS" 12/75 | CHRONIC BRONCHITIS STOMACH TROUBLE | FAIR GRADES BUT TARDY | VD-THEFT TRUANCY (PINS) VOP. | BROTHER-PROBATION | 13000 + | OBEY STRICT FATHER |

PART III. CASE STUDIES - TEN FEMALE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

From the files of the Suffolk County Department of Probation, ten cases of female juvenile delinquents were selected for analysis. These cases represent a random sample of the 40 cases in Section II, but do not represent a statistical random sample of the entire female juvenile delinquency population of Suffolk. Each of these ten girls were petitioned to Family Court for acts of juvenile delinquency, that is, for incidents that would be crimes if committed by adults. In addition, these juveniles were each petitioned as persons in need of supervision for acts of truancy, runaway or incorrigible behavior. Since all the information is confidential, the names were deleted and specific identifying information omitted.

The purpose of this section is to look beyond the statistics in greater detail at actual cases and concrete events. This section attempts to identify actual personality characteristics, situational factor as well as cultural and motivational condition that exist for the female delinquent. This is best achieved by analyzing concrete situations. Social-cultural backgrounds are identified, as are behavioral tendencies. The structure of the family as well as the underlying culture is documented as much as possible from existing case records. Cues regarding the psychological level of functioning are explored. Commonalities or patterns are identified.



Case #1 - Miss A is a slim, attractive, fifteen year old girl who appears her chronological age. She is the third child in a sibling group of six children. She was petitioned as a juvenile delinquent for a series of burglaries and one armed robbery. She also was petitioned as a person in need of supervision because of incorrigible and runaway behavior.

Miss A's father abandoned the family when she was very young. Her mother then entered into a common-law relationship with her current stepfather. Her mother died of cancer when Miss A was ten years old. This youngster reportedly had a close relationship with her mother and experienced a significant loss upon her death. Her stepfather heads the household but seems overwhelmed raising the children. He also apparently has a serious drinking problem.

Miss A's upper right arm is badly scarred reportedly due to boiling soup that accidently spilled on her arm when she was five years old.

On the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC), Miss A scored a full scale I.Q. of 98. It was noted that she lacked self confidence and would often prematurely verbalize her inability to complete a given task. On the Bender Gestalt there were "no indications of any neurological dysfunctions". On the Human Figure Drawings there were suggestions of an "unhappy youngster who is experiencing at least a moderate degree of underlying anger". There are also suggestions of poor inner controls

and indications of a somewhat suspicious individual who tends to "overutilize the ego-defense mechanism of projection". The Rorschach revealed a girl who is "rather anxious, defensive, and mistrustful of other individuals".

Diagnosis was, "Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence".

Case #2 - Miss B is a 14 year old, white, heavy set girl (over 200 pounds) who is the oldest of three daughters. She was petitioned for acts of larceny and for numerous runaway incidents.

Miss B was described as a "hyperactive" baby, who slept very little. She walked and talked at an early age and was toilet trained at an early age. No thumb-sucking, nightmares, sleep-walking or sleep-talking were reported.

Miss B is a product of a broken home. Her parents were separated when she was seven years old and the father never visits or pays child support. In effect, the father deserted his children because he only visited them once after the separation, five years later. Miss B was 12 years old when the father visited. Interestingly, she started acting out at this time. The father is alcoholic and a gambler, and the mother was recently diagnosed, '303.0 Episodic Excessive Drinking. The family, also has financial problems and is currently receiving public assistance.

On the W.I.S.C. Miss B scored a full scale I.Q. 96. Psychological testing reveals that this girl "was a demanding, obese, youngster who was resistive toward psychological testing". Her



behavior was characterized by inappropriate, silly laughter and by strong passive resistance. She would stare at most test stimuli given to her and not respond, even when encouraged to do so. She was afraid to reveal her innermost feelings and attitudes for fear that the test results would be used against her. "There was no indication of gross psychopathy, but it appeard that she had many adjustment problems of early adolescence."

Her responses to personality projective techniques, limited as they were, suggested that Miss B was a passive-aggressive adolescent who distrusted authority and believed that she was going to be placed in a residential setting. On the Rorschach Test, for example - she constantly saw faces and people staring at her. She indicated that she saw many monsters on the test, but she was afraid to answer most of the percepts given to her. She refused to acknowledge her feelings on the Sentence Completion Test or on the Thematic Apperception Test.

Miss B relates on a very superficial level and is very demanding and restrictive on psychological tests. She exhibits poor impulse control. This youngster also indicated that she is unable to communicate with her mother, and has a feeling of being angry towards her.

Case #3 - Miss C is a slim, pleasant looking girl of almost 15, who appears younger than her chronological age. This youngster committed the juvenile delinquency acts of assault and petit larceny. In addition, she also was petitioned as a person in need of supervision

for repeated runaway incidents and truant behavior.

Miss C was an out-of-wedlock child and is an only child who lives with her mother. Early development was described as normal. Her natural father lived with the family but died when she was very young. The mother subsequently married but divorced when this youngster was seven years old. When Miss C was ten years old, she was placed in a foster home for two years. She was also in foster care earlier in her childhood for a brief time.

On the W.I.S.C., Miss C scored a full scale I.Q. of 89. On the Wide Range Achievement Test she scored on a reading level of 4.4. On the Rorschach, Miss C's reality testing was found to be seriously impaired; the form quality of her responses were quite poor which is suggestive of an individual with very poor inner controls. "She is harboring tremendous amounts of anger and rage and there are signs that she may act these feelings in the future."

Also, on the Incomplete Sentence Blank Test, this girl "reveals feelings of remorse, fears of losing control of herself, and, in general, has a negative self image". On the Bender Gestalt "no perceptual motor deficits were noted." Each of this youngster's figure drawings depicted an individual who has "very poor controls".

The psychological tests and psychiatric evaluation desribe "a seriously disturbed adolescent girl". The diagnosis was - "Depersonalization Neurosis". This youngster appeard to have an immature quality to her and she easily became anxious, defensive and apprehensive.



Case #4 - Miss D is an attractive, fifteen year old, white girl, who appears much older than her chronological age. This youngster committed the juvenile delinquency acts of assault, illegal possession of dangerous drugs, and the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. She was also petitioned as a person in need of supervision because of runaway and incorrigible behavior.

Miss D is the oldest of three children and lives with her mother. Her parents were divorced when she was five years old. According to her mother, her natural father drank alcohol to excess, gambled, and was unfaithful. Miss D's mother has emotional problems and is undergoing therapy for her depression. The family is presently experiencing financial problems and are receiving public assistance.

On the Ammons Quick Test, Miss D scored a full score I.Q. of 103. On the Bender Gestalt, "there did not appear to be any organic brain dysfunctioning". The Rorschach revealed considerable depression, severe emotional pressure, complex feelings and feelings of unresolved conflict. Miss D "has a very poor self image. There are strong indicators of considerable guilt feelings and fears of what will happen to her. "Her guilt feelings appear to be due both to aggressive and sexual feelings." She has difficulties in impulse control. As a result she has experimented with drugs, has done a great deal of drinking and has superficially slit her wrists three times in the past year. This youngster has conflicting feelings of love and hate for her mother.

"Miss D's reality testing is firm for the most part and there is no serious pathology at present although a strong potential exists." The youngster is negativistic and withdrawn, has a poor self image, is unhappy and depressed most of the time and states that she hates herself and her mother. This child also has poor impulse control.

Case #5 - Miss E, is a comely, black, 15 year old, who appears older than her chronological age. Her right eye was shot when she was a child and she has lost the sight in that eye. She is the fifth child in a sibling group of eight children. She was petitioned as a juvenile delinquent for charges of Robbery 1st, and Assault 3rd. She had also previously been petitioned for a prior assault and for truancy as a person in need of supervision.

Miss E's father and mother separated when she was four years old. Her mother then entered into a series of common-law relationships and is reportedly a chronic alcoholic. Her mother was married at thirteen with child and is a diabetic and had T.B. The father recently died.

The family situation is in total disarray. The family receives welfare, and that is the total financial support of the family. The mother was charged with child neglect and the case is pending. At the present time, according to probation reports, there are "many males in their 20's hanging around the home, drinking, etc. with mother andsisters". This family is a multi-problem family and is receiving services from Department of Social Services, Protective



Services, Probation, Board of Cooperative Education Services, and Mental Health. The home is located in a low income area and is "filthy".

Miss E received a full scale I.Q. of 78 on the Lorge-Thorndike when she was 12 years old and an I.Q. of 80 on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (W.I.S.C.) when she was 14 years old. She is in the lowest track in school and has a poor attendance record. She is involved in numerous fights at school and is considered violent by school authorities.

However, in the psychiatric evaluation and psychological testing conducted in 1976, she was diagnosed - "Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence". No thought disorder was apparent. Hostility and anger were prevalent.

Her family has had considerable involvement with law enforcement agencies. Her 19 year oldbrother, an epileptic, was placed on probation for shoplifting. Her 17 year old brother was convicted of murder and robbery in 1975. Her 14 year oldbrother has been charged with Robbery in the 3rd degree, and her 13 year old sister is under investigation for a number of charges. All the children in this family seem to get into trouble when they reach adolescence. Miss E was placed in a State Training School.

Case #6 - Miss F is a 15 year old Hispanic girl who is the second oldest in a sibling group of three. She was petitioned for Petit-larceny (JD) and as a Person-In-Need-Of-Supervision (PINS) for

ungovernable behavior. She had previously been petitioned for runaway behavior when she ran to Texas.

Miss F's natural mother deserted the family when the child was two years old. The father was granted a divorce one year later. The father remarried when Miss F was 6 years old. Her father was an alcoholic and was hospitalized for detoxification and rehabilitation for this condition on several occasions. The subject claimed incest by the father when she was seven years old and several beatings. Protective Services of D.S.S. investigated this allegation, but the child remained in the home setting. She lived with relatives in Puerto Rico on occasion, and with an uncle in Texas in 1975. She has been remanded to the children's shelter for runaway behavior.

Miss F received a full score I.Q. of 88 on the Wechsler (W.I.S.C.) in 1975. She is reading on an 8.5 grade level. She was diagnosed in February 1976 as - "Passive/Aggressive Personality (Aggressive Type)". She is an angry girl who lashes out frequently. However, no psychosis is present. She was recently placed in a residential treatment center.

Case #7 - Miss G is a white, 15 year old girl, who lives with her mother. She is the second child in a sibling group of four children. However, her three siblings live with their natural father. She was petitioned as a juvenile delinquent and person in need of supervision for offenses of petit larceny and for runaway behavior. She previously had been petitioned for runaway behavior.



Miss G's mother works two jobs and is rarely home. The mother reportedly has a serious drinking problem. There are no positive male relationships in Miss G's life, and she reportedly does not get along with her natural father. Miss G had an abortion in May 1976, and reports indicate that she also drinks heavily and uses drugs. This youngster has had no real supervision since she was 12 years old.

Miss G scored a 90 I.Q. on the W.I.S.C. in 1975, and reads on a 7.5 grade level. According to the psychiatric evaluations, this youngster was diagnosed - "Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence". Her mother was diagnosed - "Adjustment Reaction of Adult Life". No psychosis or neurosis was identified.

Her performance in school was poor. She cut class frequently and was truant. Her grades were failings and she was described as "passive" by the school authorities.

Case #8 - Miss H is a 15 year old, white, protestant girl, who lives with her father and stepmother. She is the second child in a sibling group of three children. She was charged with PINS-runaway, and J.D.-Possession of Dangerous Drugs. She had been previously petitioned for runaway behavior and for a violation of probation charge.

Miss H's parents were divorced, and the father remarried and kept custody of the children. This youngster lived briefly with her natural mother in New York City in 1974 but returned to live with the father. The father is a disabled fireman on disability. Child

abuse charges against him and the stepmother were dropped in 1975. The home is a clean, attractive house in a 'good' neighborhood.

On the W.I.S.C., Miss H scored in the superior range with a full score I.Q. of 125 in 1976. She reads on the 10.8 grade level. According to a 1976 psychiatric and psychological evaluation, she was diagnosed - "Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence". Although she complains of headaches and eye pain, tests proved negative. No thought disorder was identified. This youngster is described as extremely manipulative. It should also be noted that she required hospitalization in New Mexico in 1976 because of an overdose of dilantin.

Case #9 - Miss I is a 13 year old, white, Roman Catholic girl, who lives with her mother and younger brother. She is an adopted child as is her brother. Miss I was charged with offenses of stealing and (PINS) truancy. She had prior status offenses of runaway and truancy established.

Miss I's father died when she was 8 years old and the family is receiving veterans benefits and supplemental welfare payments. Her father had a heart attack in 1970, and also had cancer. Her mother is a housewife who stays at home and cares for the two children. However, her mother was diagnosed by the psychiatric unit as "Anxiety Neurosis" in 1976. In 1974, Miss I's younger brother was the cause of the house burning down.

In 1976, Miss I scored a full scale I.Q. of 105 on the W.I.S.C.



She also has a 7.5 reading level. The psychiatric/psychological evaluation diagnosed Miss I as "Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence." However, the psychiatrist noted that the subject was extremely negative and hostile. Between 1970 and 1971, Miss I was placed in a residential treatment center, but problems were reported. This youngster was extremely disruptive. In 1975, her jaw was broken "by a friend" in a fight. Her mouth had to be wired for 4 months. She did well on home tutoring.

Case #10 - Miss J is a 15 year old, white, Roman Catholic, girl, who is the oldest in a sibling group of 5 children. She committed the offenses of illegal drug possession and runaway behavior. She previously had been petitioned for truancy.

Miss J's parents were separated in 1970. Both parents had histories of being neglected and abused as children themselves. Her father was seriously emotionally disturbed and required hospitalization on numerous occasions. Miss J was abused by her father constantly and during one of his breakdowns, dragged the subject through the streets in her nightgown. This occurred in 1970. Her mother was diagnosed - "Anxiety Neurosis" in 1975.

In 1974, this youngster was raped by one of the neighbors and relives the rape. She is undergoing therapy at the mental health clinic. The subject reportedly is a very heavy user of alcohol and drugs.

On the W.I.S.C. Intelligence Test, Miss J scored a full scale I.Q. of 83 in December, 1975. The psychological evaluations indicate-

"Adjustment Reaction of Adolescence". Her school record was poor due to numerous absences. In September 1976, this juvenile was removed from the home and placed in a local residential treatment center.



Observations-

Each of these case studies share certain commonalities that should be analyzed.The presentation of these case studies is an attempt to provide an indepth look at the sequences of events in each youngsters life.

Each juvenile comes from a broken home or unstable home environment. For example, MissA's father deserted the family when she was very young and her mother died when she was ten years old. Miss B's parents were separated when she was seven years old and her father severed relationships with the family completely. Miss C's father died when she was very young and her mother divorced her second husband when this child was ten years old. Miss D;s parents were divorced when she was five years old.Her father was alcoholic and her mother was seriously emotionally disturbed. It should be noted that the lives' of these girls were disrupted when they were very young.

the parent-child relationships also seem to be negative in most of these cases. For example, in Miss B's case it was reported that she has conflicting feelings of love and hate for her mother. She stated that she hated both herself and her mother. Miss A's father abandoned the family, and her mother died of cancer when she was ten years old. Reportedly, she had a close relationship with her mother and suffered a significant loss when her mother died. Her step-father who is raising her is an alcoholic and Miss A constantly fights with him. Miss B indicates that she is unable to communicate

with her mother and her father in effect has deserted the family. Parent-child relationships are poor and Miss B states that she has a feeling of being always angry at him.

The self-esteem of these girls is extremely low. Their self-concepts are severe and destructive.Miss C's psychological report reveal that she has feelings of remorse, a feeling of losing control of herself, and in general has a negative self-image. Miss D is "negative and withdrawn, has a poor self-image, is unhappy and depressed most of the time." This girl cut her wrists three times in suiscidal gestures." Miss B is an obese , demanding girl who has a very poor self-image.

Other commonalities are noted in many of the lives of these girls. The incidence of the disruption and trauma caused by familial alcoholism is great. The anxiety! fear, sense of instability and actual abuse that this condition causes can be significant. Miss A's step-father, Miss B's mother and father, Miss D's father, Miss E's mother, Miss F's father, and Miss G's mother are all alcoholics.

The personalities of the female delinquents in the case studies also exhibited anger and most were characterized as having poor inner or impulse controls.

And finally, these cases shared similiar behavioral outcomes regardless of etiological factors. Each of the girls commited acts that would have been serious crimes if committed by an adult.The behavioral responses to their situations in terms of delinquent behavior reflect the



expanded social role of the female in society as pointed out by Frieda. Adler (1975). These girls reflect the new patterns emerging in female delinquency today.

Part IV - EXPLANATIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND THEORIES OF FEMALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

A) Environment and Situational Explanations

Delinquency occurs at a greater rate in deteriorated neighborhoods near the center of large cities (Glueck and Glueck, 1956).[32] These areas are characterized by general disorganization, economic privation, and rapid population turnover and delinquency is often an approved tradition. According to Empey (1967), there are also more opportunities for learning antisocial behavior from delinquent peers in these areas than in more stable areas.[33] And yet not all youngsters who grow up in these areas become delinquent. In fact, in the less severely deprived and more stable environments, where delinquency pressures are supposedly less extreme, delinquency is expanding at an even greater rate. These facts have led a number of investigators to examine the youngster's individual personality characteristics and parent-child relationships.

In this section we will analyze the family structure, parent-child relationships, intelligence, self-concept, and physical health of the female delinquent.

A) Family Structure - With the establishment of juvenile courts in the United States and the compilation of social statistics on juvenile delinquents, researchers were startled by the high rate of delinquent children who came from broken homes. It is generally accepted, according to John Conger (1973), and many others that well



played parental roles as well as a stable home environment are necessary factors of good personality in children.[34]

In a study of female offenders, Drs. Cloninger and Guze, (1970), documented that 65% of the females reported at least one parent absent from the household before the girl was eighteen years old.[35] The Gluecks (1956), conducted research in this area and found that only 50% of the delinquent population had been living with their own parents as compared to 71% of the normal population.[36] The Suffolk County Department of Probation conducted a study of personality characteristics of delinquency, (Golbin, 1975) and found that 57.9% of the juvenile delinquency population and 71.8% of the person in need of supervision population came from broken homes.[37] Munroe and Griffiths (1969), conclude that disturbances in early upbringing may predispose to such abnormalities as psychopathy, delinquency and suicidal tendencies.[38] J. Bowlby's influential work (1957), stated that there were permanent effects on personality development following the specific loss of mother or substitute at a critical early stage of development. Delinquent character formation with a personality prone to anxiety states or depression was considered to follow this loss.[39] There is some disagreement regarding the permanency of the effect on personality development, but the influence is significant nonetheless. K. M. Koller (1970), tested Bowlby's theory and found that 61.5% of the delinquent girls examined reported parental loss or deprivation. This compared to 13% from the population at large in this study. Fine and Fishman (1968), indicate that four-fifths of the girls in

their study of institutionalized female delinquents "come from homes graded as poor, deplorable or impossible". Many other studies support this finding.[41]

2. Parent-Child Relationships - Carl R. Rogers (1951) maintains that everyone has within himself the potentiality for growth in positive directions. When the individual is placed in a permissive, accepting environment, the process of Self-actualization occurs.

> "One of the first and most important aspects of the self-experience of the ordinary child is that he (or she) is loved by his (or her) parents. He perceives himself as loveable, worthy of love, and his relationship to his parents is one of affection. He experiences all this with satisfaction.[42] This is a significant and core element of the structure of self as it begins to form."

Parent-child relationships of delinquents are far more likely than non-delinquents to be characterized by parental rejection, lack of family cohesiveness, mutual hostility, indifference, dissension, or apathy (Conger, 1973).[43] The early disciplinary techniques of parents of delinquents are likely to be lax, overly strict or erratic, according to Conger. The parents are more likely to resort to physical punishment rather than reasoning with the child about misconduct.

As Toby (1962) notes, the more integrated the family the more successful it is as a defense against anti-social influences in the neighborhood. Also, the protection afforded by stable family situations seems to be greater for girls than boys.[44] Konopka (1966), states that the father

is the chief source of security for the girl and if his love is perceived as deficient or missing, the girl is likely to feel a lack of security as well.[45]

Fathers of delinquents are more likely to be cruel, neglecting and inclined to ridicule their children and less likely to be warm, affectionate or passive, according to Conger (1973).[46] The delinquents are likely to have few close ties to their fathers compared to the normal population. Mothers of delinquents are more likely to be careless or inadequate in child supervision and more likely to be hostile or indifferent. Female delinquents, especially recidivists more frequently acknowledge hostility to their mothers and report that their mothers spent less time with them.

Other investigators have found that feelings of rejection or not being loved leads to aggressive behavior which may lead to delinquency in an attempt to re-establish self-esteem (Riege, 1972).[47] The effects of the parent-child relationship can be considerable, according to Riege. Her studies of female delinquent's personality revealed that the female delinquent is generally lonely, has low self-esteem, estrangement from adults and incapacity for friendships with contemporaries.[48]

As we saw in Section III A, a broken home was found to be significantly associated with a higher incidence of delinquent behavior. However, a recent investigation by Ahlstrom (1971) has shown that the likelihood of delinquency is far higher in a nonbroken home characterized by mutual hostility, indifference or apath, and a lack of cohesiveness

than in broken homes characterized by mutual affection, support, and cohesiveness.[49] What this finding reveals is that the degree of stability and amount of nurturance available is more important that the structural composition of the family unit.

3. Self-Concept- Delinquents of both sexes exhibit a somewhat more negative evaluation of self than their respective non-delinquent counterparts ( Datesman,Scarpetti & Stephenson,1975).[50] Two other investigators, Ahlstrom (1971),[51] and Conger (1966)[52] separately found that delinquents are more likely to be defiant, ambivalent to authority, resentful, hostile, suspicious, destructive, impulsive, and lacking in self control. Conger (1973), also states that " many of these traits appear defensive, reflecting impaired self-concepts and feelings of inadequacy, emotional and frustration of needs for self-expression."[53]

Regarding self-perception, Ahlstrom (1971), found that delinquents were significantly more likely to perceive themselves as "lazy", "bad", "sad", and "ignorant".[54] Conger (1973), reports that delinquents see themselves as undesirable people and do not like, value or respect themselves. In addition, he states that "their self concepts are confused, conflicted, contradictory, uncertain and variable."[55]

4. Intelligence- There is a wide range of intelligence in the female delinquent group. A 1975 study by the author[56] documented full scale I.Q.'s ranging between 64 and 129. In this current study of female delinquents ,I.Q.'s



range between 58 and 125. Full scale I.Q.'s of 138 and above have previously been recorded. THe average delinquent, however, does score somewhat lower on tests of intelligence and there is a slightly greater incidence of mental retardation among delinquents than the population at large. (Conger,1973).[57] Most delinquents are of average intelligence, according to Prentice and Kelly (1963).[58]

Although the intelligence of delinquents as a group is in the normal range, the female delinquent has a greater incidence of educational retardation. The existence of educational dysfunctions is a result of neglect rather than intellectual deficiencies.

5. Age- Most research agrees that females begin their delinquent careers around the age of 12 or 13 as documented by Vedder and Sommerville (1970).[59] This age corresponds with the average age of menarche in our society (Novak et al., 1965).[60]

6. Physical Health- William Healy and Augusta Bronner (1936), found some remarkable differences in the physical health and general developmental history of delinquents as compared with non-delinquents.[61] Liebert, Poulos and Strauss (1974), verified the earlier study and state there is a uniform and striking pattern of poor physical health among the delinquents both through development and at the time of delinquency.[62] These investigators do not believe that you can establish a causal relationship from such data but suspect that poor medical history might provide

frustration and impediments in a youngster's life which might lead to delinquent behavior. THere is also the possibility that certain kinds of delinquent behavior might be linked to physical defects through some genetic factor.

Part IV B). Developmental Pathways of Female Delinquency.

This section will explore, Felice and Offord's(1972) theory of etiological groupings of female juvenile delinquency. These researchers report that they have identified three different types (etiological types) of fremale delinquents. They explain that all three groups of girls manifest similiar forms of antisocial behavior, but the etiological factors are distinctly different.[63]

The typical girl from GroupI comes from a small, lower class family living in a large town or a small city and she has an above normal I.Q. The girl's parents are likely to have severe psychosocial pathology, making it impossible to maintain a stable marriage and provide a stable home environment. This results in parental separation, divorce, imprisonment, or hospitalization.As a result the child experiences multiple changes in guardianship, sometimes with foster homes or institutional placement. Also, because of the family disintegration and break up, multiple school changes occur. Because of their parents psychosocial difficulties, these girls experience severe social dislocation.

The Model II Group girl comes from a small town, a poor family of approximately four children, and she has an I.Q. that is slightly below normal. There is a good



chance that the parents are living together but in almost half the cases one of her parents (usually the father) is an an alcoholic. This youngster has a 50% chance of having a sibling with psychosocial difficulty.

The Model III Group girl scores low on I.Q. tests, comes from a very large, very poor family and lives in a ghetto environment.More likely than not she is illegitimate and is commonly raised by her mother alone, or by other relatives.In a majority of cases, there will be another disturbed sibling (s) in the family.Felice and Offord[64], (1972) state that these GroupIII girls are suffering from "community delinquency" Here one is impressed not so much with the disturbance of the family as with the disturbance in the community. These girls live in an environment where anti-social behavior is more widely accepted as a mode of acting.Obviously community pressures alone are not enough to explain delinquency but, "one would not need to find as much psychopathy in the parent to explain their anti-social behavior".

Part IV

B) Major Theories of Female Criminality and Delinquency

This section presents the major theories of female criminality including Caesar Lombrozo, Sigmund Freud, Eric Erikson, Eleanor and Sheldon Glueck:,Otto Pollak, and Sutherland and Cressey. The lack of cultural and social considerations will be discussed in the next section. This section attempts to give the reader an overview of the state of criminological theory for the female offender.

Caesar Lombrozo was one of the earliest criminologists to theorize about why females commit crimes or delinquent acts. Lombrozo concluded that individuals develop differentially within sexual and racial limitations and they differ hierachically from the most highly developed, the white man, to the most primitive, the nonwhite woman. According to Lombrozo:

> Women have many traits in common with children: their moral sense is deficit; they are revengeful, jealous....In ordinary cases these defects are neutralized by piety, maternity, want of passion, sexual coldness, weakness, and an undeveloped intelligence.

Lombrozo asserted that the only reason that women have participated in a smaller portion of crime, is because of their lack of intelligence. According to Klein (1973), Lombrozo also believed that the women who do engage in crime are more masculine than their conformist sisters. Lombrozo stated that

> the anomolies of skill, physiognomy, and training capacity of female criminals more closely approximate that of the man, normal or criminal, than do those of the normal women.[66]



Freudian theory affirms that women who are not passive, who are not satified with their roles as wifes and mothers are maladjusted. The source of their maladjustment is penis envy.According to Kate Millet (1968): "Freud's entire psychology of women, from which all of modern psychology and psychoanalysis derives heavily, is built upon an original tragic experience- born female. To be born female is to be born castrated."[67] Thus, anatomy is destiny according to Freud.

Given this basic assumption, Freud explains deviance in women as the presence of a "masculinity complex". Evidence of this complex is manifest by the woman's pursuit of masculine goals; namely success, recognition, power and money. Since the penis is the symbol of power, the women:'s penis envy can be interpreted as the envy of power, as well.

According to Freud, all women experience penis envy to some degree. But the difference between the "adjusted" from the "maladjusted" woman is that the adjusted woman seeks to compensate for the lack of a penis through the sex act and through motherhood. The maladjusted woman , not able to accept her role and position, will join feminist movements, attend universities or commit crimes. Thus, female delinquents or criminals turn to criminal acts as a form of rebellion against their natural feminine roles. Women who cannot overcome their sense of loss in not having a penis, and who therefore cannot deal with their feelings of inferiority, are traumatized. They grow up envious, resentful and in search of revenge.[68]

These feelings more often than not become translated into antisocial acts. But the root of all these behaviors and desires is the longing to compensate for the lack of a penis.

Freud and the Freudians have argued that sexual temperament is a function primarily of biology and genetics. Sex roles are fixed entities with their related statuses. Culture is based on anatomy.

Freud's influence upon the explanations of female crime and delinquency has been considerable right up to the present day. Almost all theories up to the 1960's were based at least in part upon Freud's assertions. The structural functionalists of the 1960's in their treatment of the nuclear family, sex roles, or socialization have conclusions consistent with Freud. The origin of these roles may be explained differently, but Freud's influence is clearly recognized.

Erik Erikson, a respected neo-Freudian , accepts the basic Freudian view of the female as being biologically inferior, incomplete and suffering. He states that he wants to help her avoid he inevitable disappointments that would arise should she make the mistake of trying to compete in activities that are traditionally male.[69]

In 1934, Eleanor and Sheldon Glueck'presented their results of a study of five hundred delinquent women in Massachusetts. Their findings and recommendations continued the theme of the women offender as a pathetic creature. They stated:

> The women are themselves on the whole a sorry lot.



> The major problem involved in the delinquency and criminality of our girls is their lack of control of their sexual impulses. Illicit sex practices are extremely common among them, beginning surprisingly early, and carry in them brain disease, illegitimacy and unhappy matrimony.. When we consider the family background of our women we should rather marvel that a sizeable faction of them, by one influence or another, abandoned their misbehavior, than that so many of them continued their delinquencies.[70]

Because of this view of the female delinquent, the Glueck's advocated voluntary sterilization as an advisable and possible mode of preventative treatment and an extention of the juvenile court philosophy. They felt that, "these types of women need just as much protection and salvation as children: many of them are, in fact, psychologically children in their capacity for assuming social responsibilities."

Otto Pollak's book, The Criminality of Women, was an important event in 1950. Basically Pollak contradicted the prevelant attitudes about female criminals or delinquents,and asserted that female involvement in crime is much greater than official documentation reveals. As stated in the introduction, Pollak felt that women were receiving preferential treatment by the criminal justice system , and the greater conformity of women over men is a total myth. Woman's involvement in crime has been less visile, and less likely of detection. Also, the woman is less likely to be the active partner in crime, the man is. The female is more likely to be the instigator, motivator, or arranger.[71]

Pollak's work was largely ignored when published. No new wave of female criminality reasearch evolved from this work.

Talcott Parsons (1949) presented the theory that girls are less delinquent than boys because the girls receive an apprenticeship training from their mothers for the careers or roles into which they would enter, while boys remain isolated from the occupational activities of their fathers. The isolation and subsequent confusion leads to frustration of the boys and consequent delinquent. However, Toby (1957)[73] challenged this hypothesis. He stated that if Parsons was correct ,the delinquency rates of the two sexes should be more nearly alike in rural areas where both boys and girls receive apprenticeship training that is very similiar. But Toby showed that the delinquency rates are more similiar in the urban areas, where the training differs more widely.

Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressey in their book, Criminology, (1970), offer their explanation for the wide discrepancy between juvenile delinquency rates between boys and girls. They explain that since both sexes live in the same homes, in equal poverty, and with equally ignorant parents, and live in the same environments (neighborhoods), these social conditions cannot be considered as causes of delinquency. The chief difference , according to Sutherland and Cressey is in the social positions of the girls and women as compared to the boys and men. The difference in social positions either determines the frequency and intensity of the associations leading to delinquency or positive behavior, or determines the frequency of opportunities to commit the crimes.

The social activities, and the social life of the female delinquent are not known. In fact, the questions have not been asked. The socialization processes involved are not known.The relationships between social structure, culture, and personality for this subgroup have yet to be defined.

The relationship between the female juvenile delinquent, the courts, the community and other social institutions is an area where research is desperately needed. The role of the female in our society , as any role has a sophisticated network of behavior patterns established. Since the norms are changing, that is, since the types of behaviors of females are changing so must be the definitions of acceptable behavior for the female in these subgroups. By understanding and articulating the dynamics at work, we will be better able to unravel some of the etiological factors and design relevant programs for this population.

The one solid conclusion that we can make from this research is that we know very little about the female juvenile delinquent. Also, our studies in Suffolk confirm that this subgroup is truly increasing at an alarming rate.

No longer can theories and empirical investigation of delinquency neglect the female. One cannot take a myopic view of female delinquency as being predominately resultant from one factor such as family disorganization and its consequences. Continued investigation will have to be conducted to determine how the growing female delinquent

Part VI- Discussion and Conclusion

This investigation has attempted to identify and document the extent of the growing female juvenile delinquency problem; and assess the adequacy of existing theory in explaning this phenomenon .An exhaustive search of the literature revealed that very little attention has been given to the study of female juvenile delinquency. The gaps in our understanding are considerable.

Female offenders have been ignored because they did not present much of a threat to society. They were underrepreseted in the juvenile justice system, and their offenses seemed to be minor or self destructive, However, the results of the empirical research conducted for this study , indicate that females are now committing crimes and delinquent acts that were traditionally considered to be in the male domain. Robberies, burglaries, assaults, larcenies, arson, etc. are all being committed by females; and at an ever increasing rate. The trend is similiar nationally.

In analyzing the nature and scope of the increase of female delinquency in Suffolk, several observations are especially worthy of note. The amount of female delinquency varied under different conditions in different Townships. Part I reveals that in some Townships , such as Smithtown, a relatively stable, middle to upper-middle class community the percentage of juvenile delinquency was only 11.4%. However,in Islip, an area with a great deal more culture conflict, poverty, housing problems, and general deteriorat-



-ion etc. the rate was almost doubled. Also, the rate of female delinquency varied with age, culture, family cohesion, social deterioration, and the quality of the existing social institutions.

National , as well as our local research, clearly document the fact that female delinquency is growing at a much faster rate than male delinquency. However, we know very little about the problem. In Part II, an attempt was made to find out exactly who comprised this subgroup. Just who is the female juvenile delinquent? What socio-economic cultural, familial background does she come from? Is there a particular personality type? Or as psychiatric theory suggests," Are all these youngsters misfits and emotionally disturbed?"

Our research reveals that most of the adjudicated female delinquents are youngsters that had experienced or were experiencing destructive environments. As Part II, A&B reveal, many of these youngsters were responding appropriately (in this authors opinion) to intolerable situations. The profile of the female juvenile delinquent is not of a severely emotionally disturbed youngster, but of an angry, desperate individual devoid of appropriate ways of responding.The lack of stability in the immediate life situations; and the presence of trauma ,(child abuse, rape, alcoholism, parental mental illness) must interrelate in some way to cause delinquency.

This researcher , quite frankly does not know the cause or causes of female juvenile delinquency as a result of this current investigation. Many youngsters in identical or similiar situations do not commit delinquent acts. What is needed is additional investigation into the cultural, motivational, personality , environmental, perceptual and situational factors of these female offenders.

It must be remembered that this study analyzed a biased population. First of all, many girls who commit delinquent acts are never caught. Secondly, as Pollak asserted, and as our research supported (refer to Table IV), there is a selection bias in favor of the female in the juvenile justice system. Therefore, we have only studied a small sample of the female juvenile delinquent population. Our group may be the most severe, and the most powerless of the total population.

The contemporary theories of female juvenile delinquency seem totally inadequate to explain this problem. It was not within the scope of this paper to cover in depth, the theories of Durkheim, Merton, Sellin, Shaw& McKay, Radzinowicz, or the different schools of criminology. However, it can generally be stated that there is a glaring lackof attempt to explain female delinquency according to social and cultural factors. There has been little attention given to the correlation between changing woman roles and statuses ; and increased criminality.

According to these authors, the most important difference is that the girls are supervised more closely . Also, from infancy girls are taught that they must be nice whereas, boys are taught the importance of being rugged and tough. The difference in care is probably based on the fact that females become pregnant. The necessity of avoiding the social and familial consequences of illicit pregnancy led to the special protection of the girl, not only in regard to sex behavior , but also in regard to social codes in general.[74]

Grosser has shown that stealing has a different functional significance for boys and girls; it can be integrated with and can express features of the masculine adolescent role, but it cannot do so for the basic features of the feminine role.[75]

The next section will present an analysis of female delinquency theory. The adequacy of current theory will be discussed. One obvious observation is that there is a remarkable absense of any comprehensive attempt to explain female criminality according to social and cultural factors. Tha social factors are not articulated.There is a strange lack of social-cultural theory in examining the female offender in terms of their social life and social activity.

activity is related to the newly emerging female sex role, which encourages direct competition with men in the worlds of work, education, social activity and sports. "Research is needed to determine how the daily social and cultural activities of our society are related to the growing rate of delinquent activity among females."[76]

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