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X JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

A PROFILE OF DELINQUENCIES

1975 - 1978

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JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Sentencing procedures are currently under careful review by all who are involved with the judicial process. At both the federal and state levels, the Congress, Legislature and Judiciary are working to implement a more equitable sentencing structure. While nearly everyone has focused on sentencing of adults, few have considered the issue as it applies to juveniles.

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has analyzed the cases of 731 randomly selected juveniles adjudicated delinquent of offenses against person, offenses against property or use of a motor vehicle without authority, in an effort to assess sentencing patterns of cases between 1975 and 1979.

This analysis of juvenile delinquencies is but one part of a larger study of sentencing patterns for criminal offenses in Massachusetts. Nearly five thousand records (4,969) were used as the basis of the aggregate study.

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation is unique in that it maintains all criminal and delinquency records statewide. Six million records, dating back to 1924, are stored in the Probation Central File in Boston.

II. METHODOLOGY

The data for the juvenile delinquencies was drawn from the sample of 4,969 records randomly selected from the Probation Central File. Stratified random sampling was undertaken throughout the alphabetized file to assure no ethnic bias.

Criteria for inclusion in the aggregate sentencing study were:

1. Case arraignment and disposition between January 1, 1975 and December 31, 1978.
2. Record showed a delinquency or conviction for qualifying offense.
3. Qualifying offense was either a crime against person or crime against property (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapters 265 and 266) or Use of a Motor Vehicle without Authority (M.G.L., C. 90, S. 24).

Records were coded to delete identifying data. The record data was entered into the Probation Central File Computer.

Juveniles constituted 14.7 percent of the total 4,969 persons in the aggregate sample. Inasmuch as some juveniles were charged with simultaneous offenses, these 731 juveniles were responsible for 1129 offenses (out of a total 7,739, 14.6 percent).

The following variables were considered in the assessment of sentencing patterns:

- A. Year of Arraignment
- B. Sex of Juveniles
- C. Age of Juveniles
- D. The Offense
- E. Category of Offense -- offenses against person, offenses against property and use of a motor vehicle without authority.
- F. Number of Prior Delinquencies
- G. Number of Prior Delinquencies in the same category as current offense.

III. JUVENILE JUSTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Since the juvenile justice process, as well as the definition of "juvenile" itself, varies from one state to another, the following is included to provide information necessary for a proper understanding of this study's findings in Massachusetts.

- A. Definition of Juvenile Offender. Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 119, Section 52) defines a juvenile offender as "...a child between seven and seventeen (7 and 17) who violates any city ordinance or town by-law or who commits any offense against a law of the Commonwealth."
- B. The Juvenile Justice Process. The basic principle behind the juvenile justice process in Massachusetts is protection and assistance, not punishment. Juveniles are not considered criminals, but delinquents; they are not convicted of crimes, but adjudicated delinquent; they are not sentenced to prison, but committed to the Department of Youth Services. These are more than semantic distinctions -- they underlie the philosophy of "Parens Patriae", upon which the juvenile justice system is based.
- C. The Court. There are a number of courts in Massachusetts devoted solely to juvenile matters. These juvenile courts are located in Boston, Worcester, Springfield, and Bristol County. Additionally, several district courts regularly

hear juvenile cases. All juvenile proceedings, regardless of where they take place, are considered non-criminal. For the purposes of this study, no distinction is made between district court juvenile hearings and juvenile court sessions.

- D. Dispositional Alternatives. At the end of a hearing, the judge technically does not sentence the juvenile; instead he is faced with a number of dispositional alternatives. The judge may:
 1. Find the juvenile not delinquent.
 2. Find the juvenile delinquent.
 3. Dismiss the case due to lack of, or faulty, evidence.
 4. File the case with no further consequences for the youth as long as s/he stays out of trouble.
 5. Continue the case without a finding -- no determination of delinquency.
 6. Bind the youth over to Superior Court, where s/he may be tried as an adult if s/he is over fourteen, was formerly committed to the Department of Youth Services, or has committed a serious crime against person.

This study focused primarily on the second dispositional alternative -- a finding of delinquency. If this is the finding, the judge has four alternatives:

1. Impose a fine.
2. Place the youth on probation.
3. Commit the youth to the Department of Youth Services.
4. Suspend the commitment.

It should be noted again that the judge does not sentence the juvenile to a particular program; the judge can only commit the youth to the Department of Youth Services, which has the responsibility of placement and treatment.

- E. The Department of Youth Services. As one may surmise from the above information, the Department of Youth Services plays a central role in the juvenile justice process in Massachusetts. In the late 1960's the department de-institutionalized, closing its training and reform schools. Since this time, the department has moved toward community-based services ranging from alternative schools to restitution programs to small secure residential units. The court, through its probation officers, works closely with the Department of Youth Services in order to rehabilitate juvenile offenders.

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS

At the outset, the reader is advised that there are two distinct sets of numbers in this study: (1) persons/cases and (2) offenses. While the first set represents the number of persons arraigned before the court, the second set represents the total number of offenses committed. Although this study included 731 juveniles, these juveniles were adjudicated delinquent of 1,129 offenses. Most of the numbers put forth in this study represent the second set -- offenses.

Additionally, many of the figures reflect statistics for the "top twenty" offenses, i.e. those offenses with the largest samples of offenses. The "top twenty" offenses constituted nearly 90 percent (87.2) of all offenses (n=985). The "top twenty" offenses were grouped into the three categories -- (1) offenses against person, (2) property offenses and (3) use of a motor vehicle without authority -- in order to provide large enough samples to yield significant results. Property offenses represented by far the highest percentage of offenses, 76.8 percent (n=757). Offenses against person were the next highest at 13.4 percent (n=132), while use of a motor vehicle without authority offenses came in third at 9.7 percent (n=96).

(See the Appendix for the offense category breakdown, as well as the frequency distribution of offenses.)

A.) Distribution by Year of Arraignment

The cases were distributed as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1975	143	19.6
1976	159	21.8
1977	227	31.1
1978	201	27.5

While this is not an even distribution, cases in the aggregate sentencing study were chosen to provide a consistent number each year. In the aggregate study, 20 percent of the persons were arraigned in 1975; 26 percent in 1976; 27 percent in 1977; and 25 percent in 1978.

(See Table 1)

B.) Distribution by Sex

Out of 731 juveniles, 653 (89.3 percent) were male, and 78 (10.6 percent) were female.

This data was consistent with the sex distribution of the aggregate sentencing study, which found 90.2 percent male (4,483) and 9.8 percent female (486).

The ratio of males to females remained constant over all ages:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
16	278	253 (91.0%)	25 (9.0%)
15	239	208 (87.0%)	31 (13.0%)
14	122	111 (91.0%)	11 (9.0%)
7- 13	93	82 (88.2%)	11 (11.8%)

Males were responsible for 698, 92.2 percent, of the 757 property offenses, whereas females were responsible for 59 offenses, 7.8 percent. Out of 95 use of a motor vehicle without authority offenses, 82 (86.3 percent) were attributed to males and 13 (13.7 percent) to females. Females were overrepresented in offenses against person, accounting for 22, 16.7 percent, of the 132 offenses in that category. Males accounted for 110, 83.3 percent, of the offenses.

(See Table 2)

The highest female representation, in offenses with a sample of over fifty cases, occurred in Assault and Battery, Larceny and Use of a motor vehicle without authority. Instead of representing nine to ten percent of the sample, females represented nearly 21 percent (20.8) of assault and battery offenses, 20 percent of larceny offenses, and almost 14 percent (13.7) of use of a motor vehicle without authority offenses.

An overview of dispositions for all offenses revealed that females received less serious dispositions. Out of 94 total offenses attributed to females, 43.6 percent received a disposition of probation; 7.4 percent received a commitment to the Department of Youth Services; and 38.3 percent received suspended commitments.

When a similar analysis was made of male dispositions, it was found that only 23.5 percent received probation, whereas 16.6 percent -- TWICE THE PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES -- received commitments to the Department of Youth Services. Suspended commitments for males was slightly higher than for females, 44.5 percent.

(See Table 3)

This was the extent to which this study could relate sex to dispositions. Ideally, we should have gone further, holding other variables constant, to see if sex was the deciding factor; however, the size of the sample prohibited any further breakdowns.

C.) Effect of Age

The distribution of juveniles by age was as follows (male and female cases combined):

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
7-13	92	12.6
14	122	16.7
15	239	32.7
16	278	38.0

Fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year olds accounted for nearly 90 percent (87.4) of the cases.

Property offenses held by far the most prominent position -- 805 out of 1089 offenses, 73.9 percent. Offenses against person were the next most common, 17.2 percent; use of a motor vehicle without authority placed third at 8.9 percent.

(See Table 4)

Table 4 reveals that this distribution held true for most of the age groups; there were few marked trends of a particular age group being overrepresented in a particular offense category. However, the data does show that 16 year olds accounted for a somewhat higher percent of offenses against person than one might predict from their overall representation in the study. While they represented 38.0 percent of the sample, they were responsible for 43.3 percent (n=81) of the offenses against person.

(See Table 5)

An overview of dispositions by age group revealed few extraordinary patterns. The percent of 7-14 year olds who received probation was slightly higher than those of 15 and 16 year olds. At the same time, commitments to the Department of Youth Services increased for 16 year olds. Other dispositions -- Suspended Commitments, Continued without a finding, File and Dismissed -- represented consistent percentages over all age groups.

(See Table 6)

D.) Effect of Prior Delinquencies

1. AN AGGREGATE VIEW. An analysis of dispositions for all offenses (Male, Female, Prior delinquencies and no prior delinquencies) revealed that 43.9 percent (n=433) received suspended commitments to the Department of Youth Services; 25.4 percent (n=251) received probation; and 15.7 percent (n=155) received commitments to the Department of Youth Services.

While the percent of each offense receiving suspended commitments remained constant for all categories of offenses, the percent receiving probation and commitments to the Department of Youth Services varied widely. Commitments ranged from 14.3 percent of the property offenses to 20.8 percent of use of a motor vehicle without authority offenses, and 20.4 percent of offenses against person. But, it was with the probation

disposition that the greatest variation was detected. While 27.3 percent of property offenses received probation, only 18.9 percent of offenses against person received a similar disposition. Only 9.7 percent of use of a motor vehicle without authority offenses received probation.

(See Table 7)

The higher percentage of personal offenses and use of motor vehicle without authority offenses that received commitments to the Department of Youth Services, coupled with the lower percentage in these same two categories that received probation, confirmed that these offense categories are, in the court's view, more serious than property offenses.

2. NO PRIOR DELINQUENCIES. As expected, when this study investigated the effect of a "clean" record on dispositions, a sharp increase in probation, accompanied by a sharp decrease in commitments to the Department of Youth Services, was detected. Probation represented 36.1 percent of all offenses for those with no prior delinquencies, as compared to the 25.4 percent for all juveniles. Commitments to the Department of Youth Services decreased dramatically from 15.7 percent for all juveniles to 6.8 percent for those with no prior record. Suspended commitments remained constant.

An analysis of individual offense categories revealed that probation for property offenses increased almost nine percentage points (from 27.3% to 36.5%), and probation for offenses against person increased 12 percentage points (from 18.9% to 31.3%).* This increase in probation was accompanied by a decrease in commitments to the Department of Youth Services for all three categories of offenses. Commitments for property offenses fell from 14.3 percent to 6.2 percent, eight percentage points; for offenses against person, they dropped from 20.4 percent to 7.5 percent, a decrease of 13 percentage points. Suspended commitments remained constant.

(See Table 8)

3. EFFECT OF PRIOR DELINQUENCIES. Tables 9 A, B, and C reveal the relationship between the number of prior delinquencies and the disposition received. As might be expected, as the number of prior delinquencies increased, probation decreased almost to nothing, while commitments to the Department of Youth Services increased two-and-a-half times.

Of those people with one to three prior delinquencies, 22.5 percent of the offenses received probation dispositions, and 17.5 percent received commitments. These percentages changed to 8.5 percent and 25.4 percent, respectively, for those juveniles with four to six prior delinquencies. Of those with over six prior delinquencies, only two out of 86 offenses received a probation disposition, while 37 offenses (43 percent) received commitments to the Department of Youth Services.

*Use of motor vehicle without authority offenses cannot be given valid percentages because the sample is too small.

(See Tables 9A, B, and C)

Prior delinquencies do appear to influence the seriousness of the court's disposition in these juvenile cases.

4. EFFECT OF PRIOR DELINQUENCIES IN THE SAME OFFENSE CATEGORY.

Out of a total 757 property offenses, 354 (46.8 percent) had prior property delinquencies; of 132 offenses against person, 26 (19.7 percent) had prior personal delinquencies; of 96 use of motor vehicle without authority offenses, 35 (36.5 percent) had prior delinquencies in that offense category.

(See Tables 10A, B, and C)

The fact that juveniles were previously adjudicated delinquent of offenses in the current offense category did not significantly alter the disposition distribution from what they were for prior delinquencies in any category. (See above section.)

V. SUMMARY

Data from this study reveals that sentencing for juvenile offenders follows some fairly predictable patterns.

Over 75 percent of all offenses committed by juveniles were property offenses. Offenses against person represented over 13 percent of all offenses, while use of a motor vehicle without authority offenses represented just under 10 percent of them all.

Fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year olds accounted for over 90 percent of the cases in the sample. Furthermore, there were few detectable differences in the types of offenses committed by all age groups. The only difference was a slightly higher percent of offenses against person were committed by 16 year olds.

On the whole, just under 16 percent (15.7%) of the offenses received commitments to the Department of Youth Services: 25.4 percent received probation; and 43.9 percent received suspended commitments to the Department of Youth Services.

Females received less serious dispositions than males did. Almost twice as many females received probation, and less than half as many were committed to the Department of Youth Services. Also, females were found to be overrepresented in offenses against person; while they represented 10.6 percent of the sample, they were responsible for 16.7 percent of the offenses against person.

Commitments to the Department of Youth Services were higher for the personal offense category than they were for property offenses. -- 20.4 percent versus 14.3 percent. This confirms that offenses against person are considered to be more serious than property offenses, by the court.

The commitment rate to the Department of Youth Services also ran higher for those juveniles with prior delinquencies. The commitment rate increased as the number of prior delinquencies increased. However, it made little difference if the prior delinquencies were in the same offense category as the present offense or not.

As expected, first offenders received the highest percentage of probation dispositions. While 25.4 percent of all juvenile offenders received probation, 36.1 percent of those juveniles with no prior delinquencies received a similar disposition.

TABLE 1 -- Frequency Distribution of Offenses by Year of Arraignment

OFFENSE	1975	1976	1977	1978
BENT	20	29	35	41
BEDT	21	24	45	27
LAR.	16	13	27	28
LAR. MORE	6	22	28	15
B & E & L	15	14	24	13
B & E	11	14	19	21
R. S. G.	8	6	17	11
LAR. IN BLDG.	5	12	9	13
P. B. T.	3	7	16	14
LAR. M. V.	5	6	11	9
ARSON	2	5	6	7
MAL/DES/PR	4	8	7	3
LAR. LESS	5	6	6	3
BURGLARY	1	7	2	3
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TOTAL - PROPERTY	122	173	252	208
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A & B	12	15	13	13
A & B D.W.	8	8	6	6
ARMED ROB.	8	2	4	4
ASSLT. D. W.	5	1	6	5
UNARMED ROB.	3	4	6	3
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TOTAL - PERSON	36	30	35	31
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USE WITHOUT AUTHORITY	16	15	32	33
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TOTALS	174	218	319	272

**The reason for the discrepancy between the row of numbers just above and the distribution given in the text of the report is attributable to the persons who committed a crime in more than one offense category. In this chart, double and triple counting are occurring.

Table 2 -- Sex Distribution by Offense

Offense	Number	Males	Females
1.) Breaking and Entering in the Nighttime	125	118	7
2.) Breaking and Entering in the Daytime	117	109	8
3.) Use Without Authority (114A)	96	82	14
4.) Larceny	85	68	17
5.) Larceny Over \$100	71	67	4
6.) Breaking and Entering and Larceny	66	63	3
7.) Breaking and Entering	68	65	3
8.) Assault and Battery	53	42	11
9.) Receiving Stolen Goods	42	38	4
10.) Larceny in a Building	39	36	3
11.) Possession of Burglary Tools	40	38	2
12.) Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon	28	22	6
13.) Larceny of a Motor Vehicle	31	29	2
14.) Arson	21	21	0
15.) Malicious Destruction of Property	22	21	1
16.) Larceny Under \$100	20	16	4
17.) Armed Robbery	18	17	1
18.) Assault with Dangerous Weapon	17	16	1
19.) Unarmed Robbery	16	13	3
20.) Burglary	13	12	1

Table 3 -- Disposition Distribution by Sex

MALES -- Dispositions by Offense Category

OFFENSE CATEGORY	PROB	DYSS	DYS	CWOF	FILE	DISM	DEF	OTHER	TOTAL
Property	176	309	106	54	32	14	4	MCIC, FINE, DEL	698
Person	21	48	24	7	5	3	2	MCIW	111
114A	13	40	18	5	3	1	1	SS	82
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Totals	210	397	148	66	40	18	7	5	891
Percentages	23.5	44.5	16.6	7.4	4.5	2.0			

FEMALES -- Dispositions by Offense Category

OFFENSE CATEGORY	PROB	DYSS	DYS	CWOF	FILE	DISM	DEF	OTHER	TOTAL
Property	31	19	2	5	1	1	0	0	59
Person	4	11	3	0	2	1	0	0	21
114A	6	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
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Totals	41	36	7	5	3	2	0	0	94
Percentages	43.6	38.3	7.4	5.3	3.2	2.1			

Table 4 -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Juveniles, by age and by offense category

AGE	TOTAL	PROPERTY OFFENSES	OFFENSES AGAINST PERSON	USE WITHOUT AUTHORITY
7-13	139 (100%)	102 (73.4%)	25 (17.9%)	12 (8.6%)
14	186 (100%)	142 (76.3%)	31 (16.7%)	13 (6.9%)
15	353 (100%)	268 (75.9%)	50 (14.2%)	35 (9.9%)
16	411 (100%)	293 (71.3%)	81 (19.7%)	37 (9.0%)
All Juveniles	1089 (100%)	805 (73.9%)	187 (17.2%)	97 (8.9%)

Table 5 -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Juveniles, by offense category and age

AGE	TOTAL	PROPERTY OFFENSES	OFFENSES AGAINST PERSON	USE WITHOUT AUTHORITY
7-13	139 (12.8%)	102 (12.7%)	25 (13.4%)	12 (12.4%)
14	186 (17.1%)	142 (17.6%)	31 (16.6%)	13 (13.4%)
15	353 (32.4%)	268 (33.3%)	50 (26.7%)	35 (36.1%)
16	411 (37.7%)	293 (36.4%)	81 (43.3%)	37 (38.1%)
All Juveniles	1089 (100.0%)	805 (100.0%)	187 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)

Table 6 -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by age

AGE	TOTAL	PROB	DYSS	DYS	CWOF	FILE	DISM
7-13	142 (100%)	39 (27.5%)	59 (41.5%)	18 (12.7%)	14 (9.8%)	7 (4.9%)	2
14	190 (100%)	54 (28.4%)	70 (36.8%)	29 (15.3%)	18 (9.5%)	8 (4.2%)	7 (3.7%)
15	371 (100%)	85 (22.9%)	169 (45.5%)	53 (14.9%)	27 (7.3%)	20 (5.4%)	8 (1.1%)
16	426 (100%)	96 (22.5%)	175 (41.1%)	80 (18.8%)	21 (4.9%)	22 (5.2%)	12 (2.8%)
All Juveniles	1129 (100%)	274 (24.3%)	473 (41.8%)	180 (15.9%)	80 (7.1%)	57 (5.0%)	29 (2.6%)

Table 7 -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category

OFFENSE	TOTAL	PROB	DYSS	DYS	CWOF	FILE	DISM
PROPERTY	756 (100%)	207 (27.3%)	328 (43.3%)	108 (14.3%)	59 (7.8%)	33 (4.4%)	15 (2.0%)
PERSON	132 (100%)	25 (18.9%)	59 (44.7%)	27 (20.4%)	7 (5.3%)	7 (5.3%)	4 (3.0%)
USE W/O AUTH.	96 (100%)	19 (9.7%)	46 (47.9%)	20 (20.8%)	5 (5.2%)	3	1
TOTALS	984 (100%)	251 (25.4%)	433 (43.9%)	155 (15.7%)	71 (7.2%)	43 (4.4%)	20 (2.0%)

Table 8 -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with no prior record.

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	323(100%)	118(36.5%)	138(42.7%)	20(6.2%)	36(11.1%)	7(2.1%)	4
PERSON	67(100%)	21(31.3%)	30(44.8%)	5(7.5%)	6(8.9%)	4(6.0%)	1
USE W/O AUTH.	23(100%)	10(43.5%)	9(39.0%)	3(13%)	1	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>413(100%)</u>	<u>149(36.1%)</u>	<u>177(42.8%)</u>	<u>28(6.8%)</u>	<u>43(10.4%)</u>	<u>11(2.7%)</u>	<u>5</u>

Table 9A -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with 1-3 prior delinquencies

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	242(100%)	64(26.4%)	110(45.4%)	35(14.5%)	16(6.6%)	10	7
PERSON	34(100%)	3(8.8%)	16(47.0%)	12(35.3%)	0	1	0
USE W/O AUTH.	39(100%)	4(10.2%)	22(56.4%)	8(20.5%)	3	1	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>315(100%)</u>	<u>71(22.5%)</u>	<u>148(46.9%)</u>	<u>55(17.5%)</u>	<u>19(6.0%)</u>	<u>12(3.8%)</u>	<u>10</u>

Table 9B -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with 4-6 prior delinquencies

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	97(100%)	9(9.3%)	49(50.5%)	25(25.8%)	5	6	0
PERSON	12(100%)	1(8.3%)	5(41.7%)	2(16.7%)	1	1	2
USE W/O AUTH.	9(100%)	0	5(55.5%)	3(33.3%)	1	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>118(100%)</u>	<u>10(8.5%)</u>	<u>59(50.0%)</u>	<u>30(25.4%)</u>	<u>7(5.9%)</u>	<u>7(5.9%)</u>	<u>5</u>

Table 9C -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with 7 or more prior delinquencies

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	61(100%)	2(3.3%)	19(31.1%)	27(44.3%)	1	9	3
PERSON	10	0	4	5	1	0	0
USE W/O AUTH.	15	0	7	5	2	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>86(100%)</u>	<u>2(2.3%)</u>	<u>30(34.9%)</u>	<u>37(43.0%)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>

Table 10A -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with 1-3 priors in the same offense category

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	237(100%)	59(24.9%)	116(48.9%)	31(13.1%)	16(6.7%)	9(3.8%)	4(1.7%)
PERSON	23(100%)	1	9(39.1%)	10(43.5%)	0	2	0
USE W/O AUTH.	29(100%)	4(13.8%)	14(48.3%)	8(27.6%)	2	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>289(100%)</u>	<u>64(22.1%)</u>	<u>139(48.1%)</u>	<u>49(16.9%)</u>	<u>18(6.2%)</u>	<u>11(3.8%)</u>	<u>4(1.4%)</u>

Table 10B -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with 4-6 priors in the same offense category

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	71(100%)	7(9.8%)	25(35.2%)	26(36.6%)	5(7.0%)	5(7.0%)	1
PERSON	6	0	2	3	0	0	1
USE W/O AUTH.	4	0	1	2	0	1	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>81(100%)</u>	<u>7(8.6%)</u>	<u>28(34.6%)</u>	<u>31(38.3%)</u>	<u>5(6.2%)</u>	<u>6(7.4%)</u>	<u>2(2.5%)</u>

Table 10C -- Frequency and Percent Distribution of Dispositions, by offense category, of those juveniles with 7 and more prior delinquencies in the same offense category

<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROB</u>	<u>DYSS</u>	<u>DYS</u>	<u>CWOF</u>	<u>FILE</u>	<u>DISM</u>
PROPERTY	47(100%)	2(4.2%)	11(23.4%)	24(51.0%)	0	8(17.0%)	2
PERSON	2*		1				
USE W/O AUTH.	2 **			1			
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>51(100%)</u>	<u>2(3.9%)</u>	<u>12(23.5%)</u>	<u>25(49.0%)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8(15.7%)</u>	<u>2</u>

* The other disposition was to the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Walpole. This case was one of very few juveniles who were tried as adults.

** The other disposition was to the House of Correction, Suspended. (Another juvenile tried as an adult.)

APPENDIX

OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY

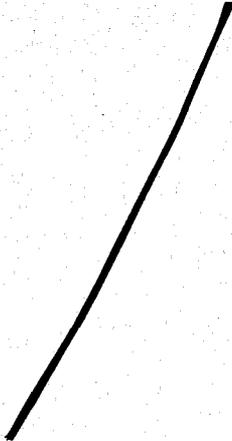
ARSON	21	
BREAKING AND ENTERING	68	B & E
BREAKING AND ENTERING AND LARCENY	66	B & E & L
BREAKING AND ENTERING IN THE DAYTIME	117	B & E DT
BREAKING AND ENTERING IN THE NIGHTTIME	125	B & E NT
BURGLARY	13	BURG
LARCENY	71	LAR.
LARCENY UNDER \$100	20	LAR. LESS
LARCENY OVER \$100	71	LAR. MORE
LARCENY IN A BUILDING	39	LAR IN BLDG
LARCENY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	31	LAR. M.V.
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY	22	MAL/DES/PR.
POSSESSION OF BURGLARY TOOLS	40	P.B.T.
RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS	42	R.S.G.

OFFENSES AGAINST PERSON

ASSAULT AND BATTERY	53	A & B
ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON	28	A & B D.W.
ARMED ROBBERY	18	ARM.ROB.
ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON	17	ASSLT. D.W.
UNARMED ROBBERY	16	UNARM. ROB.
	122	
<u>USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT AUTHORITY</u>	96	USE W/O AUTH.

DISPOSITION ABBREVIATIONS

Probation -- PROB
Commitment to the Department of Youth Services -- DYS
Suspended Commitment -- DYSS
Continued without a finding -- CWOF
Dismissed -- DISM
File -- FILE



END