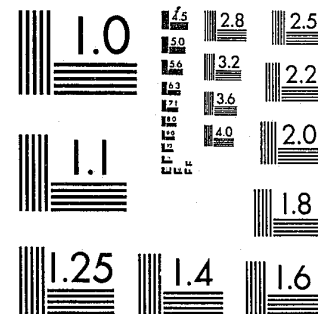


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This is an Executive Summary and does not include the individual County Summary Sheets as referred to on page 2 of the text. The individual County Summary Sheets are available upon request from the Management Information Section, S.C. Department of Youth Services.

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X  
SOUTH CAROLINA COURT REPORTS  
OF  
JUVENILES PROCESSED  
BY COUNTY

78124

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Compiled by the Division of  
Planning, Research & Grants  
S.C. Dept. of Youth Services

October, 1976

FOREWORD

The Juvenile Justice System in South Carolina has long been hampered by the paucity of reliable data on which to base positive programming to serve the needs of those youth processed through the various parts of the system. For the most part, this can be directly attributed to the fact that the segments of the "system," consisting of law enforcement, jail detention, courts and juvenile facilities, operate in a non-cohesive manner, each functioning autonomously within its own jurisdiction. Therefore, not only has data been difficult to retrieve, but analyzation of the total system impossible to attain.

Currently, however, advances have been made to increase this working base of information. Through recent innovations in data processing of the Uniform Crime Report, data has now been made readily available quarterly with regard to juveniles arrests from all reporting agencies in South Carolina in terms of the age, race, sex and offense distributions of the youths processed. The Department of Youth Services, through its data processing system, has endeavored to maintain up-to-date records of all youth processed through their facilities. In addition, this agency's Research section has been compiling detailed state-wide reports on juvenile detention in cooperation with all facilities who hold juveniles in jail. All of these processes have served to greatly broaden base line data related to "juveniles in trouble," pursuant not only to evaluating the present juvenile justice system and the correlation between its various components, but as a vital step in formulating appropriate planning.

NCJRS

MAY 7 1981

This report on juveniles processed through the courts of the various counties in South Carolina reflects a further effort toward covering another large gap of information in the state juvenile justice system and represents the most current information available to the Research section of the S. C. Department of Youth Services. It is, for the most part, a culmination of the uniform court reporting system initiated in Fiscal Year 1976 with the cooperation of most of the courts who process juveniles. Whereas previously, court data was garnered haphazardly and reports were based on random information, currently, monthly reports are submitted on DYS reporting forms to the Research section. The table of contents of this report cites the source of the data for each county and it will be noted that while several courts who did not participate contributed their own reports, only four counties did not make any information available. This DYS reporting system has been instituted again for the present fiscal year and has expanded to successfully include almost every court. All cooperating courts have been provided a copy of their individual reports, as well.

While it must be recognized that the system is recent and these monthly reports were completed by the courts themselves and involve various discrepancies inherent in individual reporting methodologies, nevertheless, it represents the first total attempt at state-wide juvenile court reporting and provides at least a reasonable estimate of the current situation. The reporting system has been more refined for this fiscal year and the reports correspondingly should reflect increased validity.

No extensive analyzation has been provided in these reports, but rather a summary and highlights of the data examined in the various tables.

General information sheets on each court have also been included after the individual court report.

A state-wide summary is also included at the end of the report for a brief general interpretation of the total data.

The project has been a mammoth manual effort on the part of all the research staff, with many long hours involved in monitoring, calculating and compiling the data, but is fully warranted by the high value of this information particularly in view of the forthcoming entry of the Department of Youth Services into the court system via intake and probation responsibilities.

Special acknowledgement should be made to Mr. Roan Garcia-Quintana who coordinated the project between the various courts and the Department of Youth Services with persistence and patience.

Barbara LaBelle

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## SUMMARY

A summary of the individual county court reports which would reflect a total state perspective obviously must be approached with some note of caution. As mentioned in the foreword, there are inconsistencies apparent in the reporting methodology of each court under the new uniform court reporting system to the Department of Youth Services. For instance, some courts accounted for neglect and abuse cases while others did not. By the same token, some courts processed juvenile traffic cases and others did not. However, it was felt that the most accurate measures of numbers of juveniles processed through all the courts could be represented by the courts' reporting data on "referrals to the court," most generally utilized by the courts as "individual persons." Another difficulty in valid state analyzation arises from the fact that less than a total year's data was reported from some courts even with constant monitoring. Therefore, the most reasonable estimate of a total year's figures was extrapolated from the available data. In addition, the court reports that were not based on the DYS uniform system are recorded for somewhat different time periods. Lastly, four courts did not submit any reports. Nevertheless, despite these apparent inconsistencies, the fact that there is available similar categorical information for a total year's processing from 33 counties and partial data from 9 counties, constitutes a base at least of reasonable interpretation upon which this summary is formulated.

Of the thirty-three (33) counties for whom total year reports are available, twenty-nine (29) were utilizing the DYS uniform

monthly court reporting form and the data reflects FY 1975-1976. Four courts, Cherokee, Chester, Lexington and Richland, submitted their own yearly reports basically for calendar year 1975. These latter counties are now participating in the uniform reporting system for FY 1976-77. Nine counties submitted reports for a portion of the year, in most cases 6 months, although Pickens reports were perpetuated for 10 months and York for 8 months. Even with persistent monitoring of the courts for the data, it was to be expected that with many pressing time and staff situations, the form completion would sometimes be neglected, particularly since participation was voluntary. The extrapolation of this partial data to represent a total year's figures is well within the limits of probability since the analyzation of full year's reports reveals that in the majority of cases, six-months' figures represent approximately 48% of total numbers.

Within this framework, therefore, it can be estimated as a reasonable approximation that 17,000 juveniles were referred to the courts of South Carolina over the last year (excluding 4 unreporting counties). The heaviest concentrations appears to be in Charleston, Greenville, Spartanburg, Richland, Lexington and Anderson, respectively, since these are major population areas. However, it will be noted that this does not correspond to those areas referring to court the largest segments of their juvenile population--Clarendon, Chester, Kershaw, and Beaufort. The percentage of juvenile population referred to court for the state from these counties averages about 3.43%. (See Table I)

As mentioned previously, an examination of the frequency of referrals by month reveals that generally more referrals are perpetuated during the first six months of the year for most counties, although the two six-month periods differ cumulatively very little. February and March reflect the heaviest loads with October accounting also for a sizeable number.

The data on "Source of Referral" for the state indicates that with few exceptions, Law Enforcement agencies were by far the most frequent referring agency to the court, averaging for all counties about 57% of all referrals. In four counties--Allendale, Barnwell, Lancaster, and Williamsburg--parents and family were the most frequent source, in Oconee and Pickens, the school accounted for the largest number and in Richland, individual referrals. (See Table II)

The distribution of status and non-status offenses for the state as a whole can only be estimated roughly due to mere partial year reports from some courts. However, by extrapolation methodology again, an approximation of 29% status offenses for the state can be inferred from the data available. This figure is based on approximately 11,300 offenses recorded of which 3,222 were status offenses. The most frequent status offense by individual county's percentage was truancy, followed by ungovernable and runaway. (See Table III) In total numbers for the entire state, this same pattern was indicated, by noting actual recorded figures for these offenses for 40 counties, including some partial year's totals. (See Table IV)

Non-status offenses generally accounted for an average 71% of offenses on an individual county base. The most frequent offenses were Breaking & Entering and Larceny. (See Table III)

Thirty-eight (38) counties provided data on age, race and sex distributions. Of this base of 10,008 youth reported, 6047 or 60% were white and 3961 or 40%, black. This corresponds closely to most individual county percentages as well. In terms of sex, 7566 or about 75% were male and 2442 or 25% female. This percentage varied from 60% to 90% in individual counties. With respect to age, ages 15 and 16 accounted for 56% of all those recorded with age 16 representing 31% of that figure. (See Table V)

The statewide court data also provides information on "Action Taken at Intake." In the vast majority of cases, petitions were filed for adjudication. Data is also provided here in the tables on the age, race and sex of those adjudicated, and it is apparent that the distributions closely conform to the similar tables for referrals.

An examination of dispositions of adjudications reveals that probation was the leading disposition of those 8840 recorded, accounting for almost 33% of all dispositions state-wide. These percentages varied extremely from county to county on an individual basis. Commitments to R&E represented over 12% of those dispositions recorded and 484 or 5.5% were committed to DYS Training Schools. These figures also varied county-wide. Referrals to social agencies constituted almost 10% of the dispositions with a varied span of agencies. Other frequent dispositions included continued and dismissed. (See Table VI)

Only ten (10) counties provided recidivist data considered to be valid. This 25% sample suggests that the recidivism rate appears

to approximate 28%. More emphasis has been exerted this fiscal year toward refining and collecting this categorical data for more valid conclusions. (See Table VII)

The foregoing analyzation has attempted to provide a description of the state-wide characteristics of juveniles processed through the courts. It constitutes a starting point at which to formulate some evaluation and appropriate planning fundamental not only to new programming for the courts eminent in the near future, but to serve the entire juvenile justice system.

With the expectation of a more discriminative data base in this fiscal year, hopefully, increasingly precise interpretations will be effected.

TABLE I  
One-Year Referrals  
By County

County	No. Referrals	% of Juv. Pop.
Abbeville	97	2.56
Aiken	597	2.69
Allendale	33	1.7
Anderson	928 (464--6 mo.)	4.36
Bamberg	46 (23--6 mo.)	1.4
Barnwell	42 (21--6 mo.)	1.2
Beaufort	588	6.0
Berkeley	308	2.05
Charleston	2214 (1107--6mo.)	4.04
Cherokee	169	2.37
Chester	451	7.75
Chesterfield	119	1.69
Clarendon	606 (303--6 mo.)	10.3
Darlington	174	1.57
Dillon	5	.08
Dorchester	125	1.7
Edgefield	77	2.31
Fairfield	90	2.12
Florence	490	2.67
Georgetown	85	1.15
Greenville	1737	3.83
Greenwood	368	3.92
Hampton	18	.56
Horry	317	2.26
Kershaw	493	7.13
Lancaster	506 (253--6 mo.)	5.8
Laurens	358	3.95
Lee	69	.28
Lexington	990	5.35
McCormick	38	2.16
Marion	36	.6
Marlboro	4	.07
Newberry	90	1.78
Oconee	299	3.88
Orangeburg	336	2.28
Pickens	150 (126--10 mo.)	1.47
Richland	1222	3.11
Saluda	80	2.92
Spartanburg	1640 (820--6 mo.)	5.06
Sumter	441	2.48
Williamsburg	71	.92
York	538 (358--8 mo.)	3.27
TOTAL STATE	17,045	3.43%

TABLE II  
Most Frequent Source of Referral  
By Percentage  
By County

County	Law Enforcement	REFERRAL SOURCE		
		Parents	School	Individual
Abbeville	97%			
Aiken	68%			
Allendale				
Anderson	47%	40%		
Bamberg	43%			
Barnwell		43%		
Beaufort		66%		
Berkeley	62%			
Charleston	61%			
Cherokee	54%			
Chester	57%			
Chesterfield	52%			
Clarendon	79%			
Darlington	81%			
Dillon	52%			
Dorchester	100%			
Edgefield	37%			
Fairfield	70%			
Florence	60%			
Georgetown	32%			
Greenville	40%			
Greenwood	85%			
Hampton	52%			
Horry	89%			
Kershaw	64%			
Lancaster	57%			
Laurens		33%		
Lee	47%			
Lexington	62%			
McCormick	58%			
Marion	84%			
Marlboro	89%			
Newberry	50%			
Oconee	64%			
Orangeburg			42%	
Pickens	63%			
Richland	45%		46%	
Saluda				57%
Spartanburg	54%			
Sumter	46%			
Williamsburg	68%			
York	47%	39%		

TABLE III

Comparison of Status & Non-Status  
By County

County	%	<u>Criminal Offenses</u> Most Frequent	%	<u>Status Offenses</u> Most Frequent
Abbeville	95%	Traffic & DUI	5%	Ungovernable
Aiken	74%	B. & E	26%	Ungovernable
Allendale	52%	Drugs	48%	Ungovernable
Anderson	64%	B & E	36%	Truancy
Bamberg	57%	Vandalism	43%	Ungovernable
Barnwell	38%	B & E	62%	Ungovernable
Beaufort	74%	Traffic & DUI	26%	Runaway
Berkeley	71%	B & E	29%	Runaway
Charleston	65%	Larceny	35%	Ungovernable
Cherokee	Not Available by Offense			
Chester	52%	B & E	48%	Truancy
Chesterfield	79%	B&E and Larceny	21%	Ungovernable
Clarendon	81%	Assault	19%	Runaway
Darlington	67%	B & E	33%	Truancy
Dillon	80%	EVEN (only 4)	20%	Runaway
Dorchester	80%	Larceny	20%	Runaway
Edgefield	75%	Larceny	25%	Truancy
Fairfield	76%	Larceny	24%	Ungovernable
Florence	71%	Shoplifting	29%	Truancy
Georgetown	61%	Larceny	39%	Ungovernable
Greenville	94%	Larceny	6%	Truancy
Greenwood	74%	Shoplifting	26%	Truancy
Hampton	89%	Larceny	11%	Truancy
Horry	81%	Larceny	19%	Runaway
Kershaw	63%	Traffic & DUI	37%	Ungovernable
*Lancaster	44%	B & E	25%	Truancy
Laurens	58%	B & E	42%	Truancy
Lee	78%	B & E	22%	Truancy
Lexington	58%	Larceny	42%	Truancy
McCormick	88%	B & E	12%	Truancy
Marion	89%	Larceny	11%	Ungovernable
Marlboro	50%	EVEN (only 2)	50%	EVEN (only 2)
Newberry	87%	Larceny	13%	Ungovernable
Oconee	41%	Traffic & DUI	59%	Truancy
Orangeburg	75%	B & E	25%	Truancy
Pickens	49%	B & E	51%	Truancy
Richland	90%	Housebrkg/Larceny	10%	Ungovernable
Saluda	81%	Disorderly Conduct	19%	Ungovernable
Spartanburg	73%	Traffic & DUI	27%	Truancy
Sumter	67%	Larceny	33%	Truancy
Williamsburg	36%	B&E and Larceny	64%	Ungovernable
York	Not Available by Offense			

\*Abuse &amp; Neglect--30%

TABLE IV

Status Offense Distribution  
By Actual Numbers Recorded  
By County

County	Ungovernable	Runaway	Truancy	Total
Abbeville	3	2	0	5
Aiken	80	62	14	156
Allendale	12	2	2	16
Anderson (6mo)	48	38	68	154
Bamberg (6mo)	8	0	2	10
Barnwell (6mo)	13	0	0	13
Beaufort	42	85	19	146
Berkeley	31	47	11	89
Charleston (6mo)	194	54	54	302
Cherokee	UNAVAILABLE			
Chester	21	19	176	216
Chesterfield	18	4	1	23
Clarendon (6mo)	8	43	8	59
Darlington	25	6	31	62
Dillon	0	1	0	1
Dorchester	10	15	1	26
Edgefield	9	0	12	21
Fairfield	14	3	5	22
Florence	23	11	117	151
Georgetown	23	2	9	34
Greenville	8	23	73	104
Greenwood	26	8	60	94
Hampton	1	0	1	2
Horry	22	36	4	62
Kershaw	88	28	67	183
Lancaster (6mo)	9	20	33	62
Laurens	7	28	116	151
Lee	6	0	10	16
Lexington	61	63	107	231
McCormick	2	0	4	6
Marion	4	0	0	4
Marlboro	0	1	1	2
Newberry	5	3	4	12
Oconee	45	37	92	174
Orangeburg	38	15	39	92
Pickens (10mo)	5	6	57	68
Richland	58	0	1	59
Saluda	9	1	6	16
Spartanburg (6mo)	60	66	112	238
Sumter	61	11	72	144
Williamsburg	24	7	15	46
York	UNAVAILABLE			
TOTAL	1121	747	1404	3272



TABLE V

Age, Race & Sex Distribution  
By County

County	RACE		Total	SEX		AGE	
	White	Black		Male	Female	15	16
Abbeville	61	37	98	73	25	21	50
Aiken	343	154	497	388	109	152	160
Allendale	25	8	33	23	10	10	13
Anderson (6mo)	315	108	423	318	105	105	119
Bamberg (6mo)	9	14	23	17	6	1	4
Barnwell (6mo)	10	11	21	15	6	6	6
Beaufort	335	237	572	370	202	142	208
Berkeley	259	42	301	229	72	71	92
Charleston (6mo)	532	425	957	779	178	254	362
Cherokee	UNAVAILABLE						
Chester	UNAVAILABLE						
Chesterfield	76	43	119	96	23	16	45
Clarendon (6mo)	79	221	300	283	17	63	118
Darlington	101	73	174	137	37	35	29
Dillon	1	4	5	4	1	2	0
Dorchester	109	16	125	107	18	46	33
Edgefield	21	56	77	66	11	27	25
Fairfield	37	53	90	66	24	20	26
Florence	313	178	491	366	125	120	131
Georgetown	47	37	84	59	25	25	15
Greenville (6mo)	459	295	754	610	144	186	231
Greenwood	222	144	366	293	73	95	146
Hampton	8	10	18	15	3	7	1
Horry	219	99	318	250	68	78	96
Kershaw	376	127	503	346	157	150	176
Lancaster (6mo)	234	112	346	210	136	48	52
Laurens	251	113	364	248	116	93	92
Lee	24	41	65	54	11	16	14
Lexington	UNAVAILABLE						
McCormick	4	33	37	34	3	10	12
Marion	16	20	36	30	6	6	21
Marlboro	1	3	4	2	2	1	0
Newberry	41	49	90	69	21	17	23
Oconee	254	45	299	206	93	78	91
Orangeburg	99	233	332	260	72	80	80
Pickens (10mo)	108	19	127	87	40	27	58
Richland	239	332	571	501	70	167	163
Saluda	43	28	71	59	12	19	31
Spartanburg (6mo)	541	265	806	530	276	179	221
Sumter	219	222	441	320	121	108	148
Williamsburg	16	54	70	46	24	21	26
York	UNAVAILABLE						
TOTAL	6047	3961	10,008	7566	2442	2502	3118

TABLE VI

Frequent Dispositions of Adjudications  
By County

County	Total Recorded Disposition	Probation	R&E Commitment	School Commitment	Social Agency
Abbeville	96	88	4	0	1
Aiken	229	59	56	10	11
Allendale	32	8	6	3	3
Anderson (6mo)	415	58	20	12	96
Bamberg (6mo)	23	12	3	4	0
Barnwell (6mo)	18	3	2	0	0
Beaufort	272	79	24	6	20
Berkeley	215	69	8	8	18
Charleston	1101	277	209	82	77
Cherokee	169	73	16	0	54
Chester	408	34	35	14	0
Chesterfield	111	74	17	4	2
Clarendon (6mo)	21	10	7	2	0
Darlington	176	33	47	19	2
Dillon	UNAVAILABLE				
Dorchester	114	56	18	12	8
Edgefield	75	46	7	0	0
Fairfield	90	55	10	2	0
Florence	522	294	50	18	67
Georgetown	86	37	35	2	6
Greenville (6mo)	586	124	47	23	100
Greenwood	322	111	29	34	21
Hampton	9	5	2	2	0
Horry	351	99	43	13	41
Kershaw	294	127	33	22	6
Lancaster (6mo)	125	19	10	4	43
Laurens	217	108	24	19	39
Lee	38	19	12	0	2
Lexington	UNAVAILABLE				
McCormick	37	20	11	2	0
Marion	53	35	5	6	1
Marlboro	4	1	1	0	2
Newberry	82	21	13	4	10
Oconee	286	102	30	4	22
Orangeburg	91	18	28	25	9
Pickens (10)	84	35	26	13	1
Richland	643	226	74	34	94
Saluda	71	44	5	0	0
Spartanburg (6mo)	680	58	39	62	93
Sumter	329	151	52	17	0
Williamsburg	39	3	27	2	3
York (8mo)	333	190	----- (not defined) -----		0
TOTAL	8840	2881	1085	484	852

TABLE VII

Recidivism as Recorded  
By Ten Counties

County	Total Referred -	No. Recidivists	Percentage
Aiken	497	177	35%
Beaufort	572	168	29%
Berkeley	301	30	10%
Darlington	174	157	90%
Florence	491	85	17%
Horry	318	77	24%
Lancaster	346	60	17%
Orangeburg	332	57	17%
Sumter	441	153	35%
Williamsburg	70	24	34%
TOTAL	3542	988	28%

**END**