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PHILADELPHIA

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



106164

FAMILY COURT DIVISION

1985

REPORT

106164



**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF PHILADELPHIA  
FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

**SEVENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT**

*Honorable Edward J. Bradley  
President Judge*

*Honorable Harry A. Takiff  
Judge  
Court Administrator*

*Honorable Nicholas A. Cipriani  
Administrative Judge  
Family Court Division*

**U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice**

106164

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Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia

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## THE JUDICIARY



*Harry A. Takiff*  
Judge, Court  
Administrator



*Edward J. Bradley*  
President Judge



*Nicholas A. Cipriani*  
Administrative Judge  
Family Court Division

### JUDGES SITTING IN THE FAMILY COURT DIVISION DURING 1985



*Alex Bonavitacola*



*John L. Braxton*



*Leonard A. Ivanoski*



*Frank M. Jackson*



*Wilhelm F. Knauer, Jr.*

JUDGES SITTING IN THE FAMILY COURT DIVISION DURING 1985



*John J. Poserina, Jr.*



*Bernard J. Snyder*



*Jerome A. Zaleski*

SENIOR JUDGES



*Herbert R. Cain, Jr.*



*Vito F. Canuso*



*Lois G. Forer*



*William J. Lederer*



*John R. Meade*

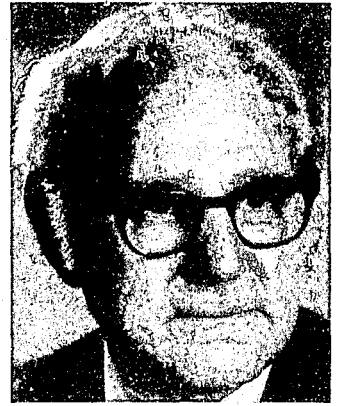
SENIOR JUDGES



*Jerome A. O'Neill*



*Edward B. Rosenberg*



*Edward Rosenwald*



*Harvey N. Schmidt*



*Paul L. Tranchitella*



*Evelyn M. Trommer*

## IN MEMORIAM



*Doris M. Harris*

Judge Doris M. Harris was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1971 where she served in the Family Court Division until her death on April 17, 1985.

Born in Philadelphia, Judge Harris was a graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C. and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

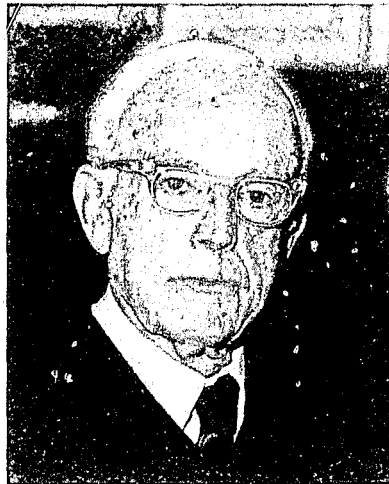
Prior to her appointment, Judge Harris served as an Assistant City Solicitor and an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Pennsylvania.

She was affiliated with many professional and non-professional organizations and was the recipient of numerous community awards.

Judge Harris is survived by a son, Dr. Walter P. Harris, Jr.



## IN MEMORIAM



*James L. Stern*

Senior Judge James L. Stern was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas in June, 1964. Following this appointment, he was retained by public ballot in 1965 and 1975 to serve 10 year terms. He attained Senior Judge status in 1980. During these tenures he served in the Family Court Division until his death on September 13, 1985.

A native Philadelphian, Judge Stern was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and its Law School.

Judge Stern served in the Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army during World War II.

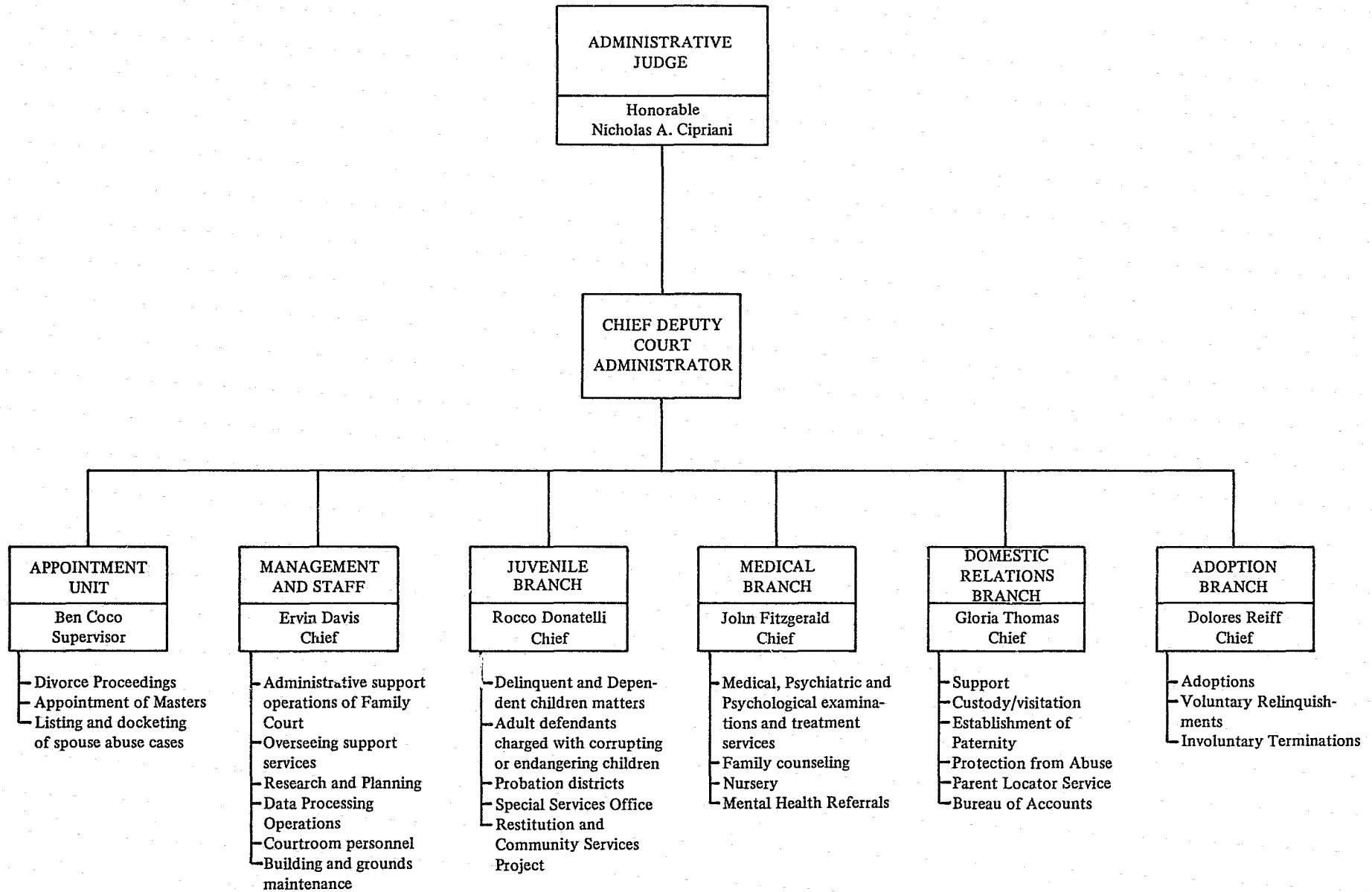
In the years prior to his judicial service, Judge Stern maintained a private practice and served as a Deputy City Solicitor.

He was affiliated with numerous professional and civic groups and in 1969 was the recipient of an award for his service to the community and its citizens.

Judge Stern is survived by his wife Margaret, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

# FAMILY COURT DIVISION ORGANIZATION

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## INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

### *Administrative Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani*

While there may well be nothing new under the sun, I have found that in the area of Family Court matters there are always any number of suggested "new" ways to approach and deal with those matters. It is my policy to assess any and all new approaches and to utilize those that have merit. Reinventing the typewriter is, of course, a waste of valuable time and energy, but it is worthwhile to keep up with developments in the field, and, where clearly advantageous, to modify or add or delete as the case may be, to attain desired ends.

In 1985, for example, the Family Court has (1) reorganized and upgraded its Domestic Relations Custody Unit; (2) initiated the utilization of the computer for listing of juveniles cases and on line entry and retrieval of information; (3) initiated the exploration of a comprehensive "communications" system to better respond to complaints/inquiries and (4) initiated the upgrading of the visitation facility for children whose parents cannot/will not have visitations at a home or other such location.

Many, if not most, changes are based on plans and planning established over time, and the finalization represents the culmination of much effort on the part of many individuals.

While this division is always on the alert for new developments and/or revisions to current programs, it has some standard activities that have proven beneficial to the staff of Family Court and ultimately, the community.



*Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, spoke on issues involving child support at a conference co-hosted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.*

During 1985, the Family Court Division sponsored a variety of programs, conferences or seminars relative to juvenile or family issues.

One such event was an open house, held annually at the Family Court during Juvenile Court Week. In addition, members of the judiciary, throughout the year, addressed varied community, religious and professional groups. Both programs help to acquaint the community at large with the functions, goals and programs of Family Court ensuring an open and positive involvement with the community.

On a larger scale, Family Court has sponsored conferences and seminars relating to issues that are of interest and concern nationally as well as locally. In conjunction with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Court hosted an all day institute on Learning Disabilities, as well as a conference on child support issues.

Each year, Family Court conducts an Employee Awards Ceremony to recognize employees' significant achievements. In 1985, ten employees, representing all the branches and units of the Court, were awarded employee of the year certificates, twenty-five employees were recipients of outstanding attendance awards and five employees were recognized for twenty-five years of service to the Court.

Other developments during 1985 included the collection of approximately fifty-eight million dollars in support payments and an additional ninety-eight thousand dollars in juvenile restitution payments.



*Alice Tuohy O'Shea, Esq., addressed participants in Family Court Juvenile Court Day. Also shown are Judges Harvey N. Schmidt (left) and Edward J. Bradley (right).*



*Louis Ferlaino (on the right) receives congratulations from Ervin L. Davis, Deputy Administrator, Management and Staff, upon receiving an employee of the year award. Also shown (left to right) are Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, Judge Edward J. Bradley, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas, and Judge Harry A. Takiff, Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas.*

I am most appreciative of the efforts of the judiciary and staff who continued in 1985 to extend themselves in the face of reduced personnel and fiscal resources. As the importance of matters before the Family Court becomes

more and more evident and important to the public through the means of the media, the Court will continue to make every effort to assure the community is well served by its Family Court in the years to come.

## STATISTICS

The data appearing in this report has been collected from original documents, capturing information at the time of filing and at disposition, as well as from internal reports.

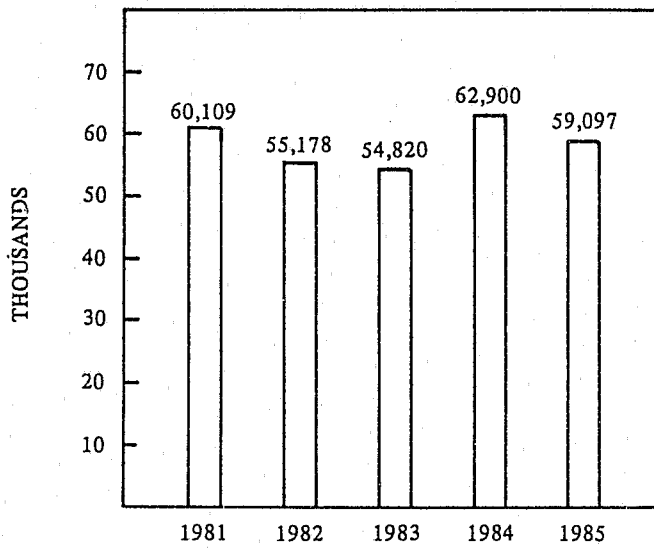
The reader is cautioned not to compare numbers of filings with numbers of cases disposed. These terms are not synonymous in that multi-petitions may be filed within a case. For example, both parents may file an individual petition for custody of a child. This would be counted as two petitions, but one case, if both petitions are disposed of at the same time.

The statistical unit used in this report regarding cases is the case disposed of because it is at the final stage that we have the most complete information about the case. The statistical data immediately following this section summarizes the overall workload of the Family Court Division for the past five years. I believe the data is fairly accurate due to the development and adoption of better procedures in recent years.

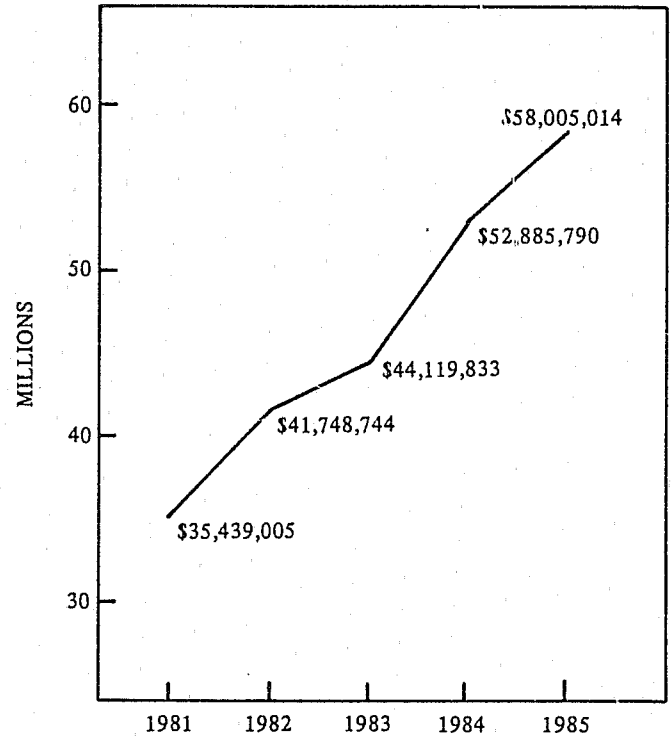
**STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 1981 TO 1985**

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>FILINGS:</b>					
Juvenile Branch					
Petitions filed	15,817	14,815	14,092	14,729	13,975
Adjusted at Youth Study Center	1,327	1,322	1,153	987	780
Total	17,144	16,137	15,245	15,716	14,755
Domestic Relations Branch Petitions	34,760	31,479	32,087	40,236	37,671
Adoption Branch Petitions	916	989	883	987	911
Divorce Proceedings Initiated	7,282	6,573	6,605	5,961	5,760
Total	60,102	55,178	54,820	62,900	59,097
<b>CASES DISPOSED:</b>					
Juvenile Branch					
New cases	17,098	15,436	14,208	14,493	14,430
Review hearings	14,275	16,020	21,081	24,103	24,775
Total	31,373	31,456	35,289	38,596	39,205
Domestic Relations Branch	14,736	21,550	20,491	22,604	27,671
Adoption Branch	835	1,036	948	1,106	980
Divorces Granted	5,892	5,755	5,634	4,970	4,652
Total	52,836	59,797	62,362	67,276	72,508
<b>SUPPORT ORDER AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED:</b>					
Support Payments					
Domestic Relations Branch	\$35,371,503	\$41,669,534	\$44,030,610	\$52,779,409	\$57,892,635
Juvenile Branch	32,091	30,923	28,524	16,422	14,413
Total	\$35,403,594	\$41,700,457	\$44,059,134	\$52,795,831	\$57,907,048
Restitution	35,411	48,287	60,699	89,959	97,966
Total	\$35,439,005	\$41,748,744	\$44,119,833	\$52,885,790	\$58,005,014

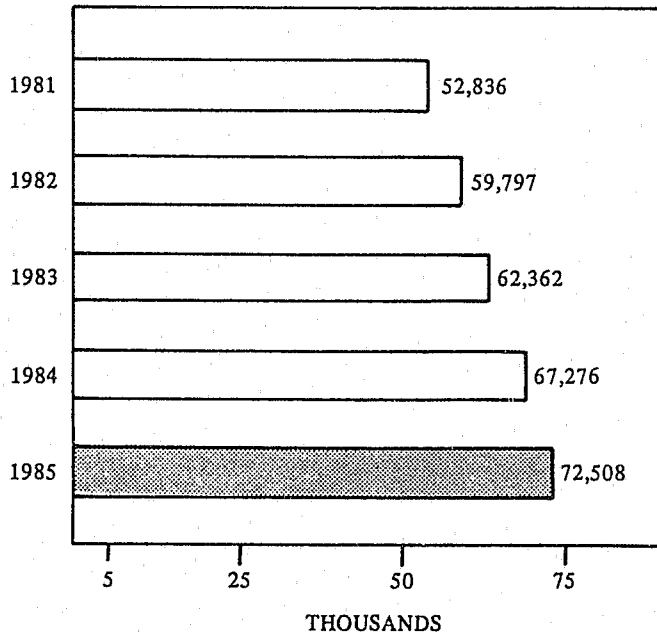
TOTAL FILINGS: 1981 TO 1985



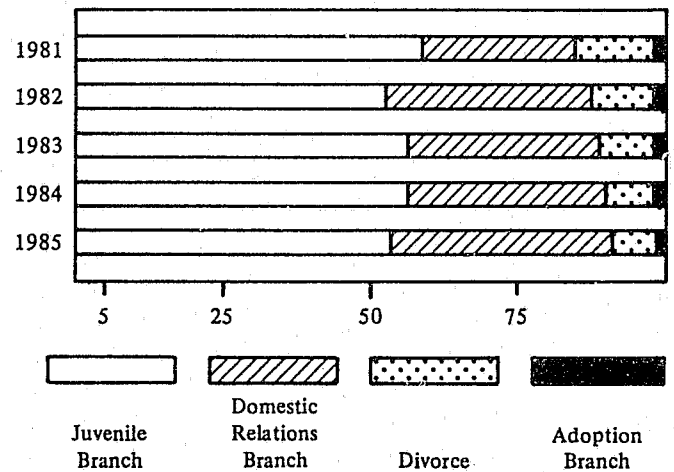
SUPPORT ORDER AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED: 1981 TO 1985



TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION – CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



# Juvenile Branch



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## JUVENILE BRANCH

The Family Court Division has jurisdiction in all juvenile proceedings involving delinquent and dependent children. Additionally, adults charged with crimes against children or endangering their welfare also come under the jurisdiction of the Court. The Juvenile Branch is responsible for processing all juvenile cases coming under the Court's jurisdiction.

In keeping with the Court's child centered philosophy, specific procedures are used in disposing of juvenile cases to assure that the best interests of the children are served and their legal rights safeguarded. The flow charts on pages 22 and 36 show the major steps involved in processing delinquent and dependent (non-delinquency) cases.

In 1985, the majority of new cases received and disposed of by the Juvenile Branch were delinquency cases.

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1985

Type of case	Number	Percent distribution
Delinquency	10,318	72
Non-Delinquency	2,091	14
Adult	2,021	14
Total	14,430	100

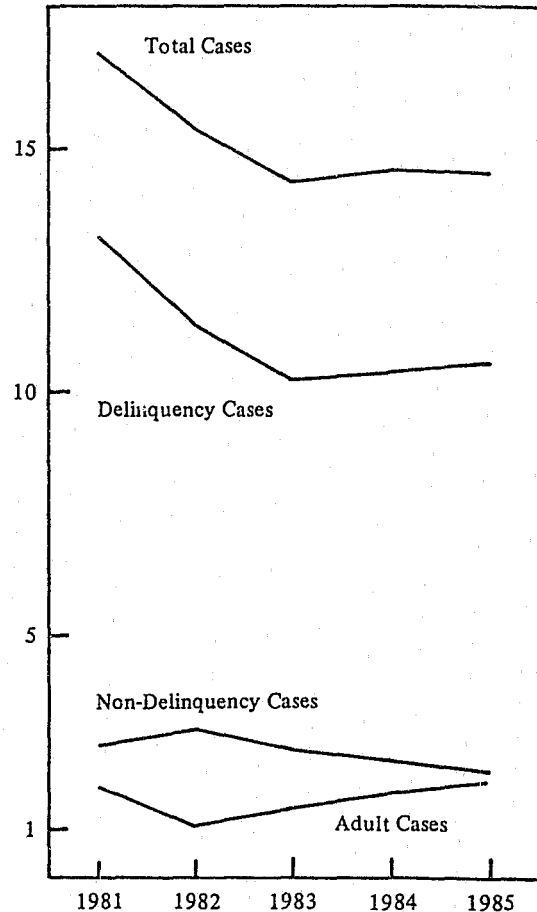
Most delinquency cases are brought to the Court's attention through police arrests.<sup>1</sup> When a juvenile is apprehended, an officer of the Juvenile Aid Division (JAD) determines if the child should be arrested or released. If arrested, the child is brought or referred to the Youth Study Center for further processing of the case. If the child is released, the police treat the case as a remedial disposition or a non-arrest. Juvenile arrests have been declining in recent years but in 1985, the number of juveniles arrested (14,651) showed a slight increase of 3 percent.

New delinquency cases disposed of increased by 1 percent in 1985, while the number of new non-delinquency cases disposed of decreased by 13 percent. New adult cases disposed of increased 11 percent in 1985.

In addition to new cases, the Juvenile Branch processes thousands of cases involving review hearings. These are

cases which must be reviewed due to a legal requirement<sup>2</sup> or because new facts brought to the Court's attention require modification of a previous disposition. Sixty-one percent of all review hearings in 1985 pertained to non-delinquency cases. Non-delinquency review hearings have tripled in number since 1980. To alleviate this situation, a Master appointed in July, 1984 hears cases involving children placed in out-of-home facilities.

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



Review hearings for delinquency cases also increased slightly in 1985. These hearings showed a 4 percent increase over the number heard in 1984.

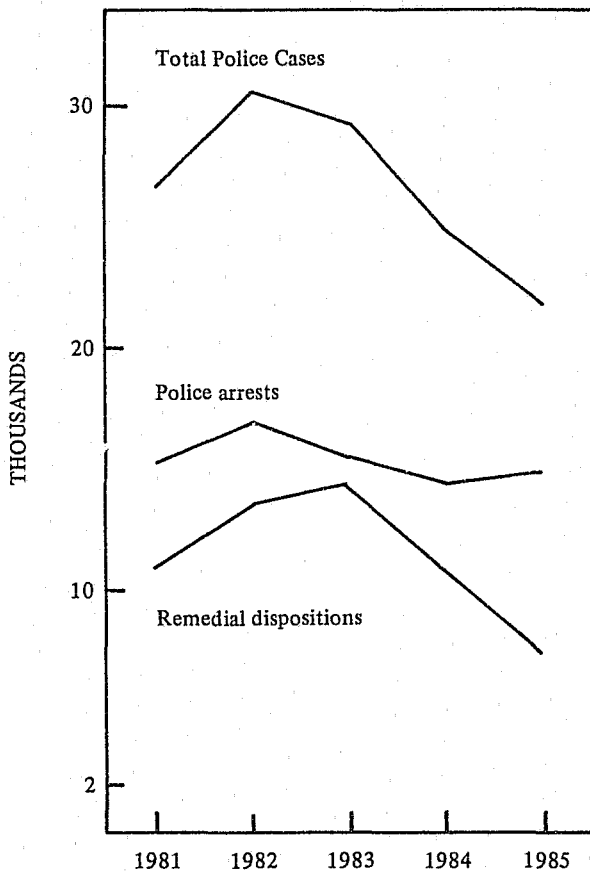
Other cases classified as review hearings are enforcement cases. These are petitions or motions filed by the Department of Human Services or the Enforcement Unit requesting:

1. parents reimburse the agency for monies expended in the care of their children.
2. discharge of children from the care or supervision of the Department of Human Services.

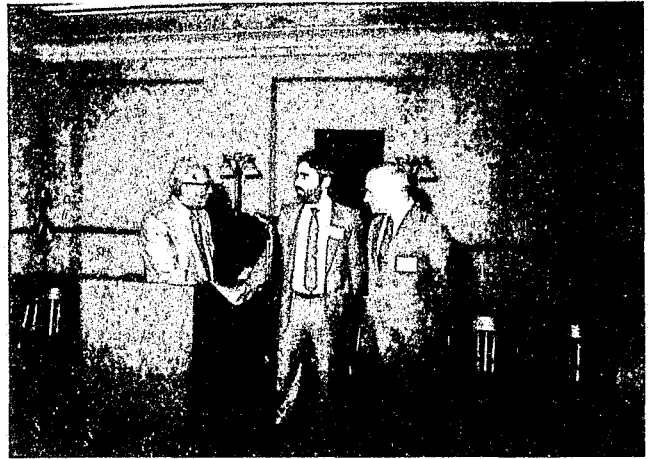
<sup>1</sup> Comparison of police arrests with court dispositions cannot be made due to use of different data collection procedures.

<sup>2</sup> A commitment or out-of-home placement requires a review hearing every six months as long as the child remains committed or in placement.

# POLICE ARRESTS AND REMEDIAL DISPOSITIONS: 1981 TO 1985



Alieze Waddy (right) received one of the employee of the year awards for the Juvenile Branch. Shown with her is Clarence Watts, Assistant Branch Chief, Juvenile Branch. Shown in the background (left to right) are Judges Nicholas A. Cipriani, Edward J. Bradley and Harry A. Takiff.



Richard Gallo, Probation Officer, receives congratulations on his award for Academic Excellence given by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Shown from left to right are Judge Harvey N. Schmidt, Richard Gallo and Judge Edward J. Bradley.

3. unclaimed restitution monies be transferred to the unclaimed fund.

Overall, the Juvenile Branch received and disposed of a substantial portion of the cases processed by the Family Court Division. In 1985, this branch accounted for one-fourth of all filings and 54 percent of the total cases disposed of by the Family Court Division.

Statistical data with graphic illustrations summarizing the workload of the Juvenile Branch for the past five years can be found immediately following this section.

Other programs under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Branch are the Juvenile Restitution and Community Services Program and the Special Services Office. These programs are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this report.

Throughout the year, the Juvenile Branch staff received varied training in order to improve their skills and keep abreast of current legal developments. A staff development program designed for the Court's juvenile probation staff enabled the staff, through on-site visits, to examine the physical environment of juvenile facilities while learning of the specialized programs offered by these institutions or agencies.

Other training for juvenile staff consisted of on-site instructions in the completion of Family Service Plans and attendance at training sessions conducted by the Institute for Juvenile Justice Training and Research held at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA.

In addition to in-house training, many employees further upgrade their skills by participating in continuing education programs at local colleges and universities on their own time.

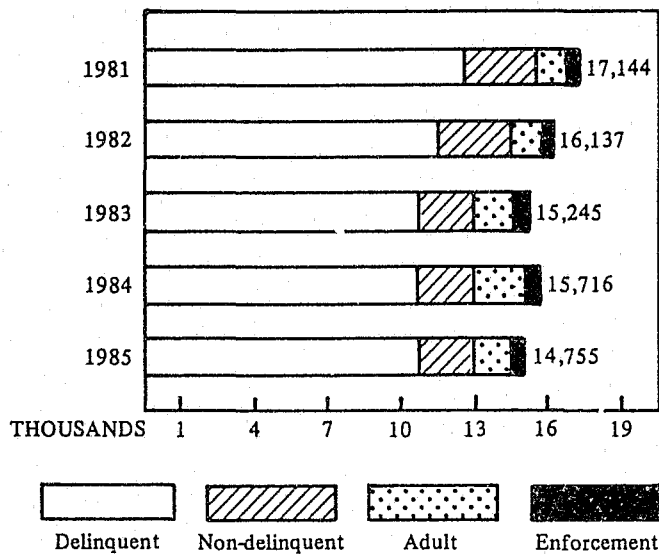
**JUVENILE BRANCH STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 1981 TO 1985**

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>FILINGS:</b>					
Delinquency	12,596	11,705	11,148	11,002	10,705
<i>Petitions filed</i>	11,269	10,383	9,995	10,015	9,925
<i>Adjusted at YSC</i>	1,327	1,322	1,153	987	780
Non-delinquency petitions	2,904	3,066	2,457	2,347	2,066
Adult petitions	1,222	1,121	1,382	1,948	1,633
Enforcement Petitions and Motions	422	245	258	419	351
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,144</b>	<b>16,137</b>	<b>15,245</b>	<b>15,716</b>	<b>14,755</b>
<b>CASES DISPOSED:</b>					
Delinquency	18,808	16,608	15,297	19,216	19,609
Non-delinquency	11,049	13,650	18,417	17,188	17,310
Adult	1,198	1,062	1,400	1,826	2,021
Enforcement	318	136	175	366	264
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,373</b>	<b>31,456</b>	<b>35,289</b>	<b>38,596</b>	<b>39,204</b>
<i>New charges</i>	17,098	15,436	14,208	14,493	14,430
<i>Review hearings</i>	14,275	16,020	21,081	24,103	24,774
<b>NEW REFERRALS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>5,745</b>	<b>5,482</b>	<b>5,673</b>	<b>5,837</b>
<b>JUVENILE CASED UNDER INVESTIGATION DURING YEAR</b>	<b>10,985</b>	<b>8,513</b>	<b>8,055</b>	<b>8,006</b>	<b>8,493</b>
<b>CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION AT END OF YEAR:</b>					
Delinquent	4,986	5,130	5,054	5,317	5,237
Non-delinquent	141	152	265	242	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>5,559</b>	<b>5,375</b>
<b>PAYMENTS RECEIVED:</b>					
Direct order on parents	\$ 6,283	\$ 4,699	\$ 4,186	\$ 3,298	\$ 3,206
Reimburse order on Department of Human Services	\$25,808	\$26,224	\$24,338	\$ 13,124	\$ 11,207
Restitution (enforcement unit)	\$35,411	\$48,287	\$60,699	\$ 82,297	\$ 86,116
Restitution and Community Service Program <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	7,662	\$ 11,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$67,502</b>	<b>\$79,210</b>	<b>\$89,223</b>	<b>\$106,381</b>	<b>\$112,379</b>
<b>COURT SESSIONS:</b>					
Delinquency	1,034	1,047	1,027	1,105	1,046
Non-delinquency	342	357	386	373	239
Adult	289	287	279	333	357
Enforcement	27	12	10	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,648</b>

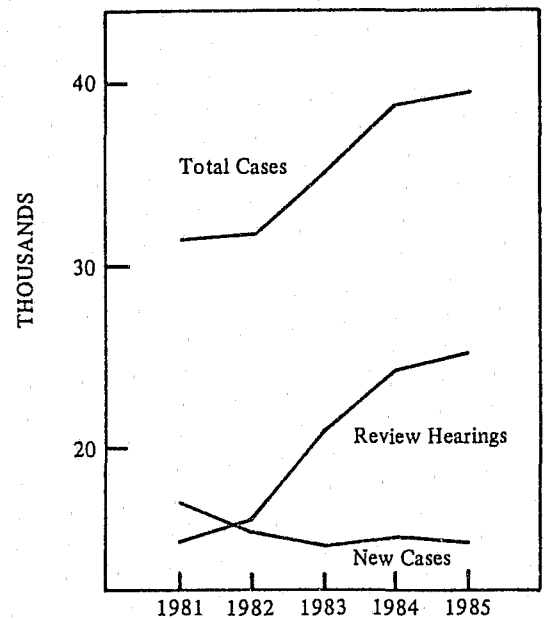
<sup>1</sup> Family or individual's first time contact with Family Court.

<sup>2</sup> Program implemented in 1984.

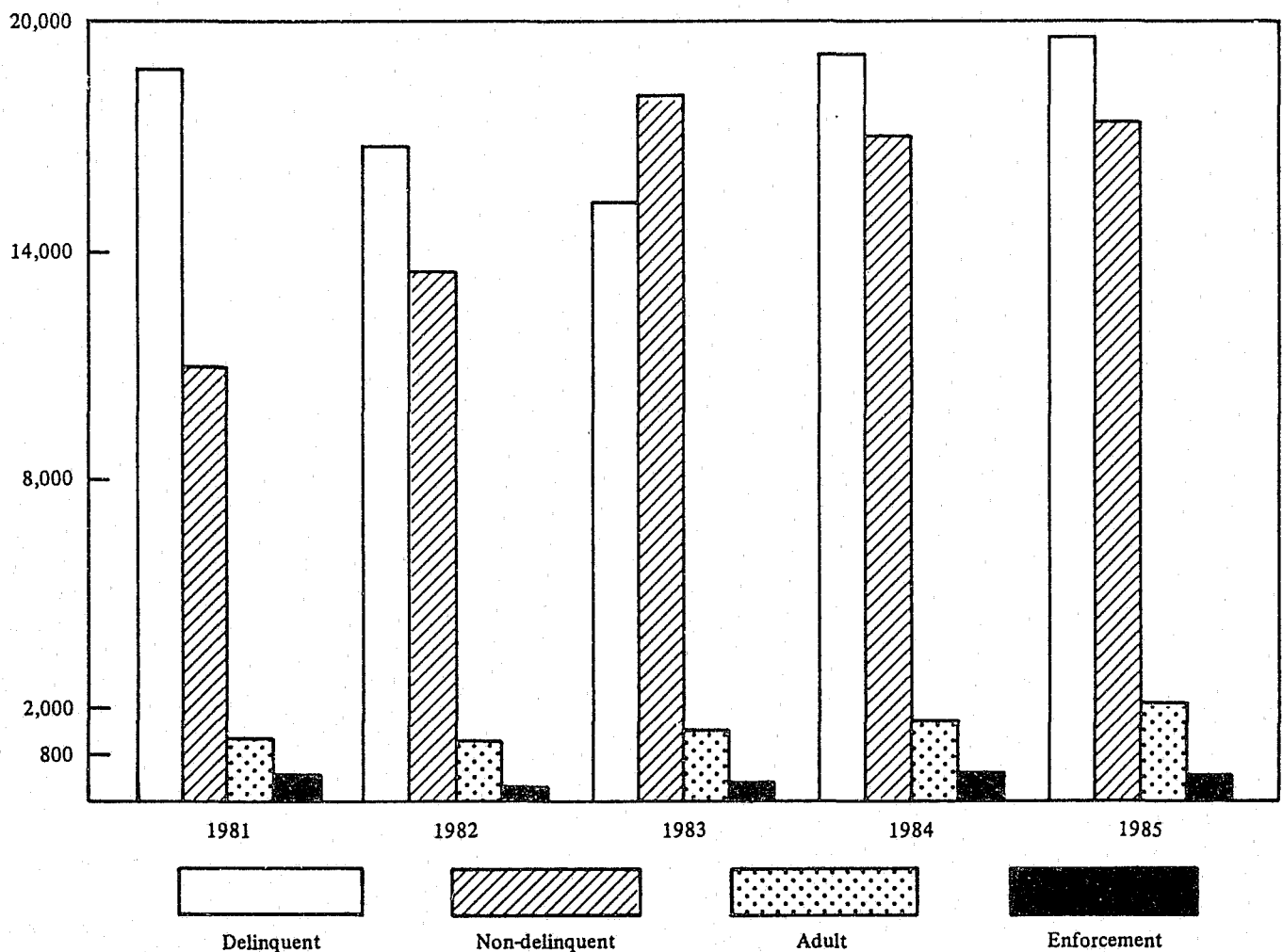
JUVENILE BRANCH FILINGS: 1981 TO 1985



JUVENILE BRANCH DISPOSED CASES: 1981 TO 1985



JUVENILE BRANCH DISPOSED CASES<sup>1</sup>: 1981 TO 1985



<sup>1</sup> Includes new cases and review hearings.

## DELINQUENCY CASES<sup>1</sup>

Delinquency cases constitute the largest part of the workload in the Juvenile Branch. In 1985, these cases accounted for 74 percent of all new cases received by the Juvenile Branch. Delinquency cases involve juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 who have been charged with delinquent acts.<sup>2</sup> These cases are brought to the Court's attention primarily through police arrests (90 percent in 1985), although other authorities, individuals or parents may refer cases to Court.

All new delinquency cases are screened at the Youth Study Center (YSC) to determine if the Court has jurisdiction. If so, an intake interviewer hears the case and either disposes of the case or refers it to Court. Pending the court hearing, the juvenile is either released to the parent(s) or detained at the YSC. In a small number of cases in which juveniles are detained, the Judge, at the detention hearing,<sup>3</sup> may order the youths assigned to the Pre-Hearing Intensive Supervision Unit (PHIS). This unit provides an alternative to detention during the time prior to the adjudicatory hearing. Probation officers from this unit have daily contact with a very limited caseload of juveniles who otherwise would be detained. This supervision extends from the time the offenders are released from detention until their appearance in Court for disposition of their cases. In 1985, approximately 8 percent of new delinquency cases were adjusted at the YSC and 92 percent were referred to Court for disposition.

### NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1985

	Total	Male	Female
Intake interview YSC	774	632	142
Court hearing	9,544	8,593	951
Total	10,318	9,225	1,093

While the delinquency statistics presented in this report cannot define the total amount of delinquency in Philadelphia, they can indicate trends. In addition, they alert the community to the amount of serious crime attributed to youthful citizens. Actually, a small number of Philadelphia's children are involved in delinquent behavior. In

<sup>1</sup> See flow chart on page 22.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding the crime of murder or summary offenses.

<sup>3</sup> Required by law to be heard within 72 hours. Hearings are held Monday through Friday and on holidays which fall on Monday or Friday.

<sup>4</sup> Includes non-payment of fines, liquor law violations.

1985, approximately 3 percent of juvenile residents between the ages of 10 and 17 were charged with delinquent acts. This percentage has been relatively stable for many years. The typical delinquent case involved a 16 year old male who was charged with a theft offense. Males as a whole were responsible for 89 percent of all new delinquent cases disposed of in 1985.

### NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY AGE AND SEX: 1985

Age	Total	Male	Female
10	81	74	7
11	214	183	31
12	439	382	57
13	838	758	80
14	1,497	1,314	183
15	2,052	1,812	240
16	2,605	2,355	250
17	2,592	2,347	245
Total	10,318	9,225	1,093

Although female juvenile offenders historically account for a small percentage of delinquent offenses, in recent years these offenses have become much more serious in nature and often involve violent behavior.

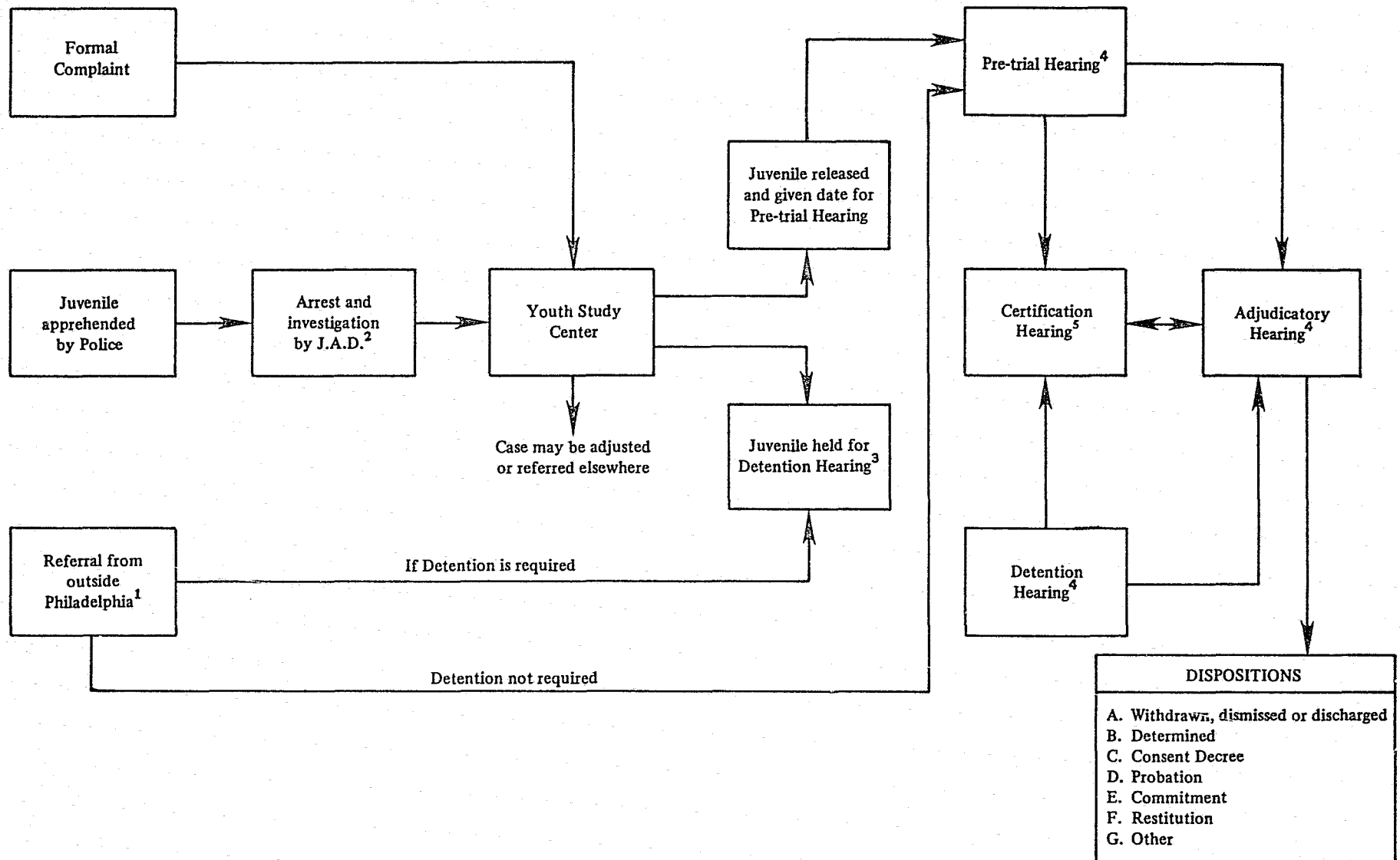
Since 1978, there has been a steady increase in "injury to person" offenses attributed to female offenders, and in 1985, these offenses accounted for 37 percent of new cases involving females.

### OFFENSES DISPOSED: 1985

	Total	Male	Female
Injury to person	1,679	1,270	409
Theft	6,305	5,866	439
Weapon offenses	486	421	65
Sex offenses	210	190	20
Drug law violations	606	563	43
Malicious mischief	509	463	46
Runaway from institution	279	244	35
Other offenses <sup>4</sup>	244	208	36
Total	10,318	9,225	1,093

When disposing of a delinquent case, the facts and circumstances of the case determine the type of disposition. In 1985, the most frequent disposition was "probation" which accounted for 45 percent of all dispositions in new delinquency cases.

# JUVENILE BRANCH – NEW DELINQUENCY CASES – FLOW GUIDE



<sup>1</sup> Other Court or Authority.

<sup>2</sup> Juvenile Aid Division Officers have broad discretion in determining whether a juvenile offense is treated as an arrest or a non-arrest (remedial disposition).

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania law requires a Detention Hearing within 72 hours.

<sup>4</sup> a) District Attorney may request certification of Juvenile at this hearing.

b) Judge may dispose of case at this hearing.

<sup>5</sup> If certification is granted, case is transferred to criminal court. If denied, case is scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

# DISPOSITIONS IN NEW DELINQUENCY CASES: 1985

Referred to other authorities . . . . .	51
Dismissed/withdrawn . . . . .	3,752
Adjusted at YSC . . . . .	754
Withdrawn . . . . .	2,039
Other dismissal . . . . .	959
Probation <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	4,629
Consent decree . . . . .	2,343
Probation . . . . .	2,286
Commitment . . . . .	1,673
Certified to criminal court . . . . .	129
Other . . . . .	84
Restitution/fines . . . . .	68
Fines paid . . . . .	5
Other . . . . .	11
Total . . . . .	10,318

In order to service juveniles placed on probation, Family Court has seven district and two specialized probation offices. Most of the probationed juveniles are assigned to district offices. Probation offices are required to perform social investigations; prepare plans and reports pertaining to the probationed youths; meet periodically with the juveniles and their families and present recommendations to the Court regarding rehabilitative services for the probationers. At the end of 1985, the probation officers had completed 8,493 investigations and had 5,375 juveniles under their supervision.

A small number of probation officers from the district offices supervised caseloads involving juveniles who were assigned to the Correctional Group Counseling Program. This program provided group therapy to a prescribed number of juvenile probationers on a twice weekly basis. The probation officers conducted these sessions under the guidance of the Medical Branch's Chief Psychologist. The two specialized probation units are the Intensive Probation Unit (IPU) and the Community Related Institutional Probation Unit (CRIP). IPU services very small caseloads involving probationed juveniles who have committed more serious offenses and who are in need of more intensive supervision. CRIP services are described in the data on commitments.

The next largest disposition in new delinquency cases was a "discharge" of the case. This disposition accounted for 36 percent of disposed cases. More than half of dis-

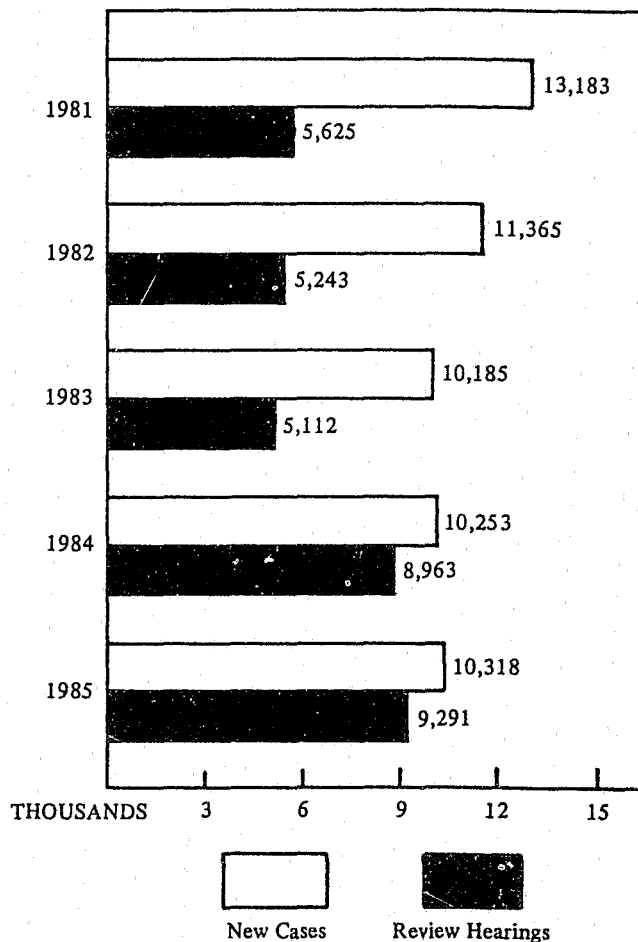
charge dispositions were due to withdrawal of the charge primarily because of lack of prosecution.

An additional 16 percent of new delinquency cases resulted in the juvenile offender being committed. Most commitments were to delinquent institutions (85 percent), the balance of commitments were to community based or mental health facilities.

In all cases in which a commitment to an institution is ordered by the Court, the juvenile is assigned a probation officer from CRIP, who maintains contact with the juvenile and the family. This relationship helps the juvenile adjust to the commitment and allows the probation officer to develop and plan for the child's anticipated return to the community. Upon discharge from the institution, the Court may order continued supervision by the probation officer through the Court's aftercare program.

In certain delinquency cases in which the charges are serious, the juvenile is 14 or more years of age and is found

## DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



<sup>1</sup>Includes cases in which restitution was also ordered.

not to be amenable to rehabilitation, the Court may order the juvenile be tried as an adult in Criminal Court. In 1985, Family Court certified 129 delinquency cases to the Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

While the bulk of the delinquent case workload involves new cases, the Court also reviews cases in which new facts

or changing circumstances are brought to its attention. In addition, the law and court policy require a court hearing every six months for those juveniles who have been committed to delinquent institutions or placed elsewhere during the year. In 1985, 9,291 review hearings were heard in Family Court.



TABLE 1

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES: 1985

New cases filed:	
Petitions . . . . .	9,923
Adjusted at Youth Study Center . . . . .	774
Total . . . . .	10,697
New cases disposed:	
Pre-trial . . . . .	3,939
Adjudicatory . . . . .	5,605
Youth study center intake interviews . . . . .	774
Total . . . . .	10,318
Review hearings . . . . .	9,291
Total cases disposed . . . . .	19,609
New referrals . . . . .	3,157
Court sessions . . . . .	1,046

TABLE 2

CASES PROCESSED AT YOUTH STUDY CENTER:  
1981 TO 1985

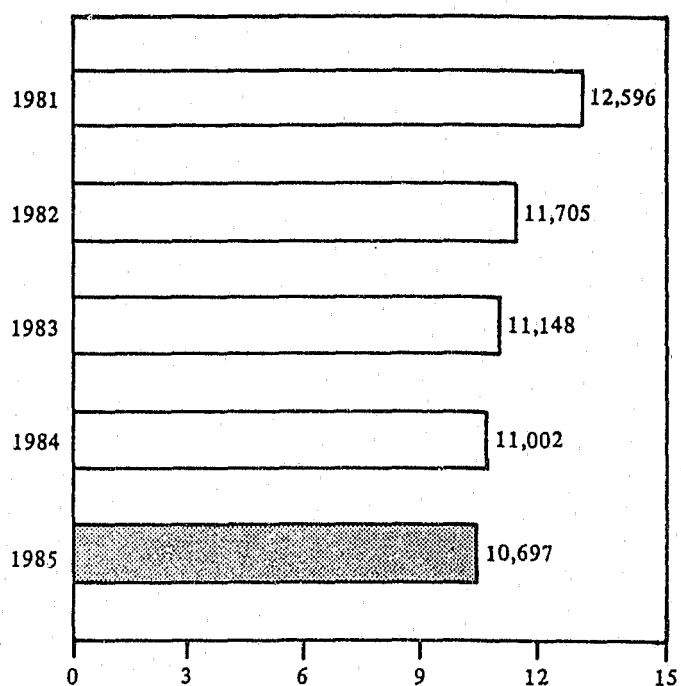
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Disposed of at intake interview	1,327	1,322	1,153	987	774
Referred to juvenile court	11,264	10,379	9,994	10,015	9,923
<i>Detained at YSC pending court hearing</i>	2,255	2,751	2,770	3,062	2,991
<i>Released to parents pending court hearing</i>	8,709	7,628	7,224	6,953	6,932
Total	12,591	11,701	11,147	11,002	10,697

TABLE 3

SOURCE OF REFERRAL — NEW CASES  
DISPOSED: 1985

Police arrests . . . . .	9,162
Authorities outside of Philadelphia . . . . .	227
Individual . . . . .	879
Parent or relative . . . . .	47
School authorities . . . . .	3
Total . . . . .	10,318

## NEW CASES FILED: 1981 TO 1985



## DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985

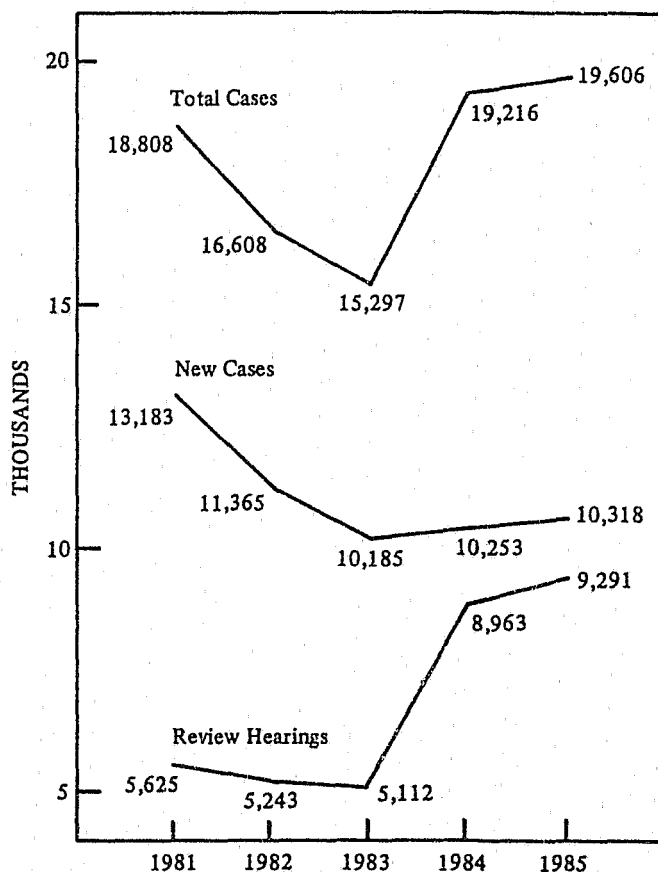


TABLE 4

## NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985

Offenses	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Injury to person . . . . .	2,116	1,804	1,839	1,656	1,679
Burglary . . . . .	2,680	2,132	1,898	1,747	1,796
Robbery . . . . .	2,282	2,091	1,764	2,222	2,097
Larceny . . . . .	1,723	1,564	1,382	1,152	1,179
Auto theft . . . . .	1,083	619	491	630	670
Other theft . . . . .	545	457	548	495	563
Weapons offenses . . . . .	441	528	470	446	486
Sex offenses . . . . .	227	184	170	232	210
Drug law violations . . . . .	726	751	457	502	606
Malicious mischief . . . . .	370	424	401	458	509
Runaway from institution . . . . .	337	294	300	260	279
Other . . . . .	653	517	465	453	244
Total . . . . .	13,183	11,365	10,185	10,253	10,318

## NEW CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE OF HEARING: 1981 TO 1985

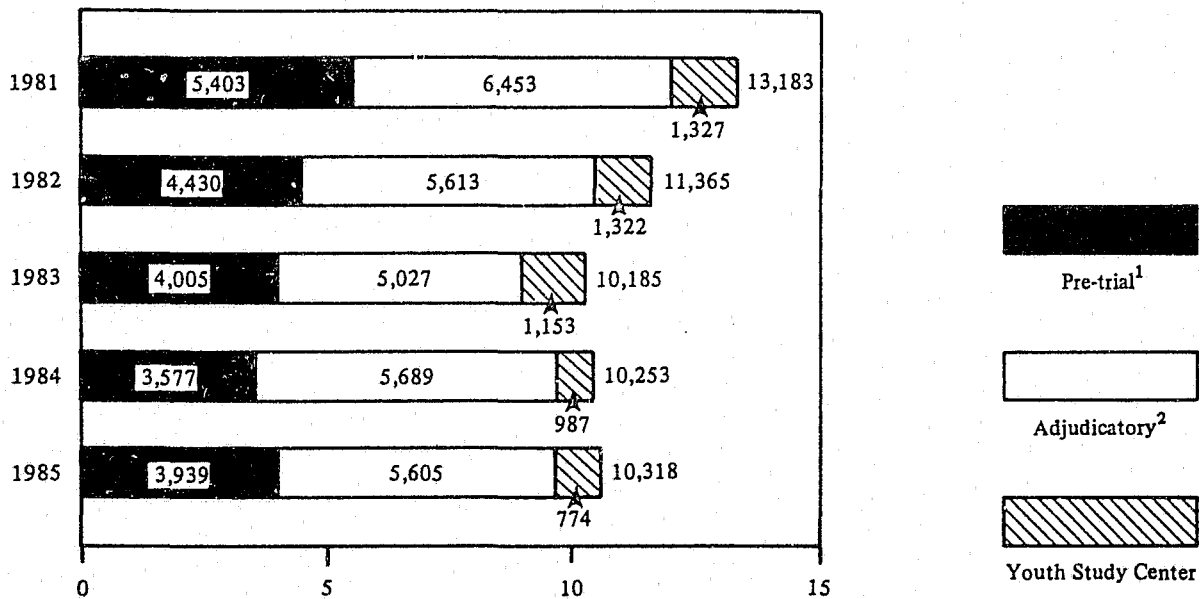
<sup>1</sup> Includes a small number of detention hearings.<sup>2</sup> Includes a small number of certification hearings.

TABLE 5

## TYPE OF OFFENSES DISPOSED: 1985

Offenses	Total	Male	Female
Injury to person:			
Homicide	2	1	1
Aggravated assault	1,184	890	294
Assault	215	158	57
Coercion/threats	274	218	56
Other	4	3	1
	1,679	1,270	409
Theft:			
Burglary	1,796	1,719	77
Robbery	2,097	1,990	107
Larceny	1,179	1,072	107
Retail Theft	304	215	89
Auto theft	670	644	26
Receiving stolen property	109	97	12
Fraud, forgery, etc.	150	129	21
	6,305	5,866	439
Weapons offenses:			
Possessing instruments of crime	223	203	20
Prohibited offensive weapons	20	17	3
Violation of UFA <sup>1</sup>	243	201	42
	486	421	65
Sex offenses:			
Rape	90	89	1
Indecent assault	14	13	1
Prostitution	20	5	15
Deviate sexual intercourse	76	73	3
Other	10	10	—
	210	190	20
Drug law violations:			
Possession of drugs	442	414	28
Sale of drugs	164	149	15
	606	563	43
Malicious mischief:			
Vandalism	100	96	4
Arson	56	52	4
Disorderly conduct	25	19	6
Trespassing	67	60	7
Conspiracy	192	179	13
Harrassment	30	25	5
Other	39	32	7
	509	463	46
Runaway from institution	279	244	35
Miscellaneous offenses:			
Failure to pay fines and costs	37	36	1
Other	207	172	35
Total	10,318	9,225	1,093

<sup>1</sup> Uniform Firearms Act.

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENSES: 1985

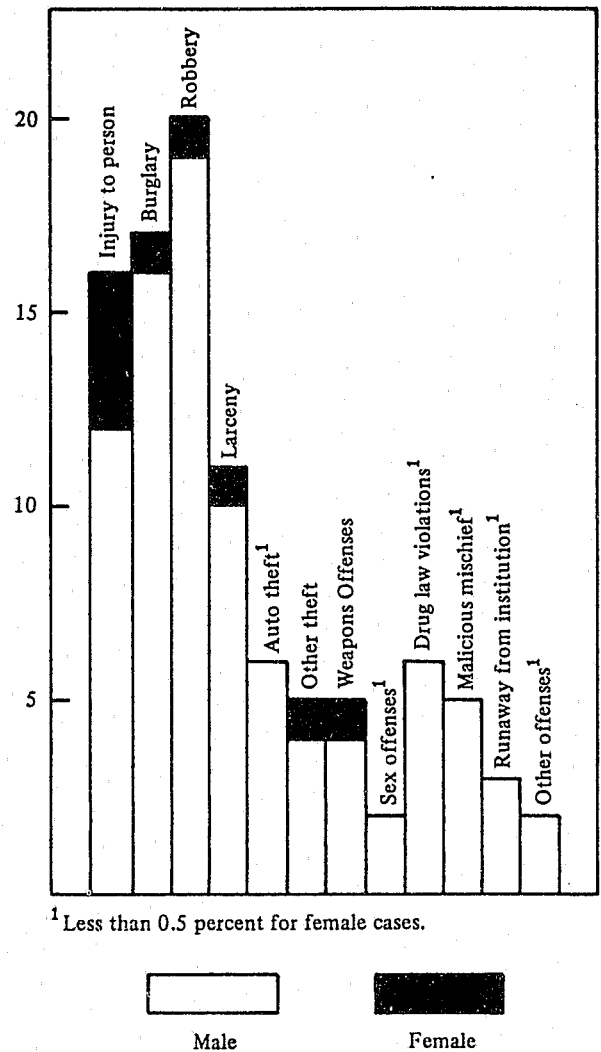


TABLE 6

## TYPE OF OFFENSES DISPOSED BY AGES: 1985

Offenses	Total	Age							
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Injury to person	1,679	17	56	78	161	266	319	397	385
Theft	6,305	45	116	264	486	892	1,323	1,608	1,571
Weapons offenses	486	8	9	37	58	101	104	87	82
Sex offenses	210	1	9	9	19	29	42	43	58
Drug law violations	606	—	1	3	10	46	95	197	254
Malicious mischief	509	9	18	39	82	103	71	107	80
Runaway from institution	279	—	5	7	12	32	55	82	86
Other offenses	244	1	—	2	10	28	43	84	76
Total	10,318	81	214	439	838	1,497	2,052	2,605	2,592

# INCIDENCE OF DELINQUENCY: 1981 TO 1985

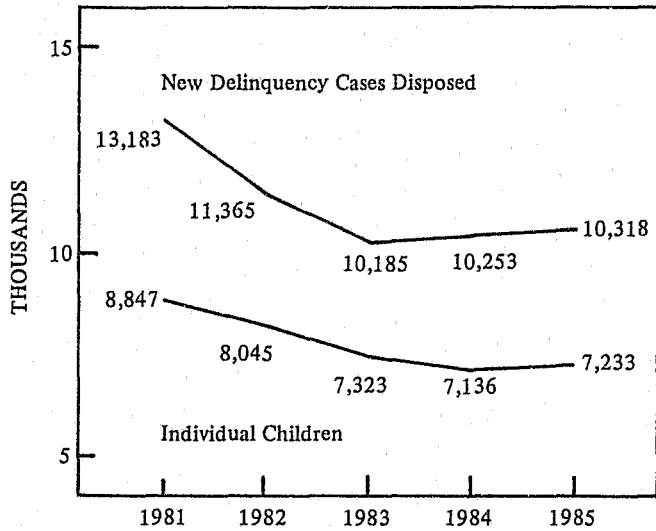


TABLE 7

## INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DELINQUENT CASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX: 1985

Age group and sex	Cases	Children
<b>Male</b>		
10-13	1,397	1,083
14-15	3,126	2,129
16-17	4,702	3,120
<b>Female</b>		
10-13	175	155
14-15	423	355
16-17	495	391
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,318</b>	<b>7,233</b>

## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NEW DELINQUENCY CASES: 1985

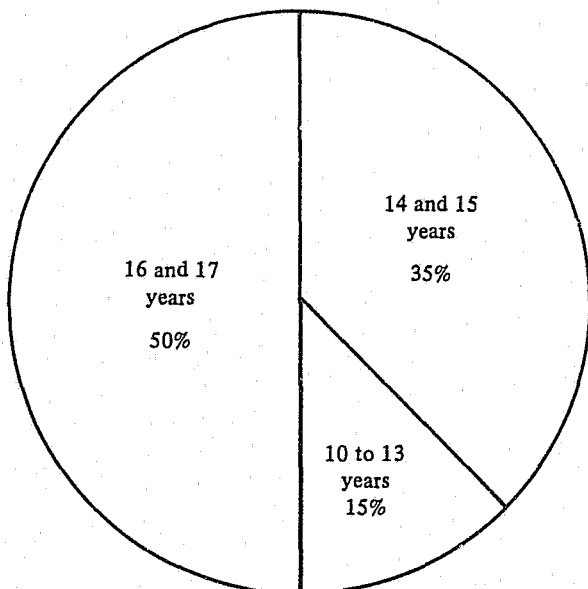


TABLE 8

## CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN: 1985

<b>Age:</b>		<b>Sex:</b>	
10 years . . .	77	Male . . . . .	6,332
11 years . . .	174	Female . . . . .	901
12 years . . .	345	Total . . . . .	7,233
13 years . . .	642		
14 years . . .	1,083	<b>Residence of individual children</b>	
15 years . . .	1,401	Both parents . . . . .	1,762
16 years . . .	1,797	Parent and	
17 years . . .	1,714	stepparent . . . . .	311
Total . . . . .	7,233	Mother . . . . .	4,095
		Father . . . . .	291
<b>Race:</b>		Other . . . . .	700
White . . . . .	1,378	Not reported . . . . .	74
Hispanic . . .	521	Total . . . . .	7,233
Non-white . .	5,334		
Total . . . . .	7,233		

TABLE 9

## PERCENT OF DELINQUENT RESIDENT CHILDREN: 1985

Age	Resident child population	Individual children		
		Non-residents	Residents	
			Number	Percent of population
10 years	21,317	1	76	0.3
11 years	22,256	—	174	0.7
12 years	23,588	1	344	1.4
13 years	25,525	3	639	2.5
14 years	26,421	9	1,074	4.0
15 years	25,908	20	1,381	5.3
16 years	27,438	31	1,766	6.4
17 years	37,280	57	1,657	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>209,733</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>7,111</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>108,092</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>6,223</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>101,641</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>0.8</b>
10-13	92,686	5	1,233	1.3
14-15	52,329	29	2,455	4.6
16-17	64,718	88	3,423	5.2

TABLE 10

NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY  
RESIDENCE AREA OF  
JUVENILE OFFENDERS: 1985

Residents of:	
Northwest district . . . . .	2,390
Northeast district . . . . .	1,170
Northcentral district . . . . .	1,321
Central district . . . . .	1,447
West district . . . . .	984
Southwest district . . . . .	1,433
South district . . . . .	1,435
Non-residents . . . . .	138
Total cases . . . . .	10,318

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY  
CASES BY RESIDENCE AREA OF  
JUVENILE OFFENDER: 1985

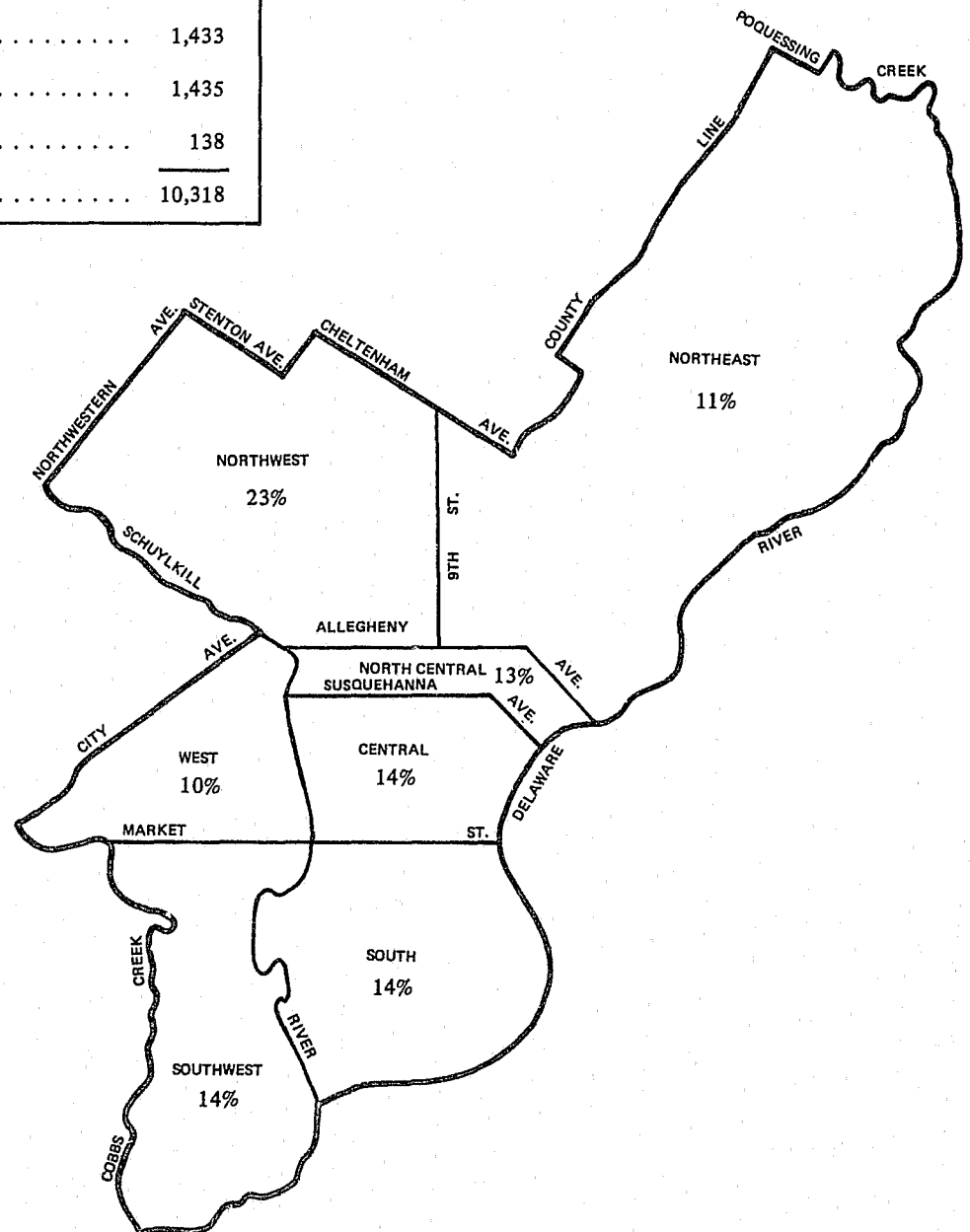


TABLE 11

## TYPE OF OFFENSE BY AREA OF OCCURRENCE: 1985

Police Districts	Injury To Person	Burglary	Robbery	Larceny	Auto Theft	Other Theft	Weapons Offenses	Sex Offenses	Drug Law Violations	Malicious Mischief	Runaway From Institution	All Other Offenses	Total
1st	49	41	92	26	16	12	16	1	29	31	9	15	337
2nd	31	40	39	36	16	37	14	5	29	12	5	6	270
3rd	18	34	66	43	16	4	4	1	13	7	6	3	215
4th	39	21	60	37	10	11	15	1	16	8	3	5	226
5th	21	30	7	10	1	5	4	—	10	10	1	2	161
6th	49	87	150	103	49	180	10	15	7	20	9	18	697
7th	8	15	18	16	14	2	17	—	16	11	2	4	123
8th	21	46	18	31	13	17	9	2	24	20	3	6	210
9th	53	32	86	74	30	45	12	8	22	18	35	24	439
12th	80	124	121	46	48	11	12	12	29	15	10	14	522
14th	53	165	133	44	45	17	45	13	29	15	12	10	581
15th	36	68	98	44	16	27	37	11	44	23	18	6	428
16th	20	51	32	22	19	4	9	12	8	8	7	6	198
17th	40	36	74	26	21	2	9	9	11	12	10	5	255
18th	56	104	199	86	53	28	20	7	20	16	13	12	614
19th	54	137	126	49	29	7	30	18	26	15	15	14	520
22nd	37	72	111	46	40	8	14	13	19	9	20	6	395
23rd	34	40	121	41	14	15	6	10	24	13	13	4	335
24th	25	25	19	38	4	8	14	5	13	22	2	6	181
25th	82	179	133	65	24	10	45	14	86	53	27	18	736
26th	35	87	40	28	23	6	21	11	55	19	16	10	351
35th	99	194	170	87	76	16	46	19	38	34	25	20	824
39th	37	101	118	25	46	8	16	14	18	18	8	8	417
Other	15	44	47	30	13	1	6	2	4	14	6	4	186
Total Police Arrests	992	1,773	2,078	1,053	636	481	431	203	590	423	275	226	9,161
Other Referrals	687	23	19	126	32	84	55	7	16	86	4	18	1,157
Total Cases	1,679	1,796	2,097	1,179	668	565	486	210	606	509	279	244	10,318

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY  
CASES BY PHILADELPHIA POLICE DISTRICTS  
1985

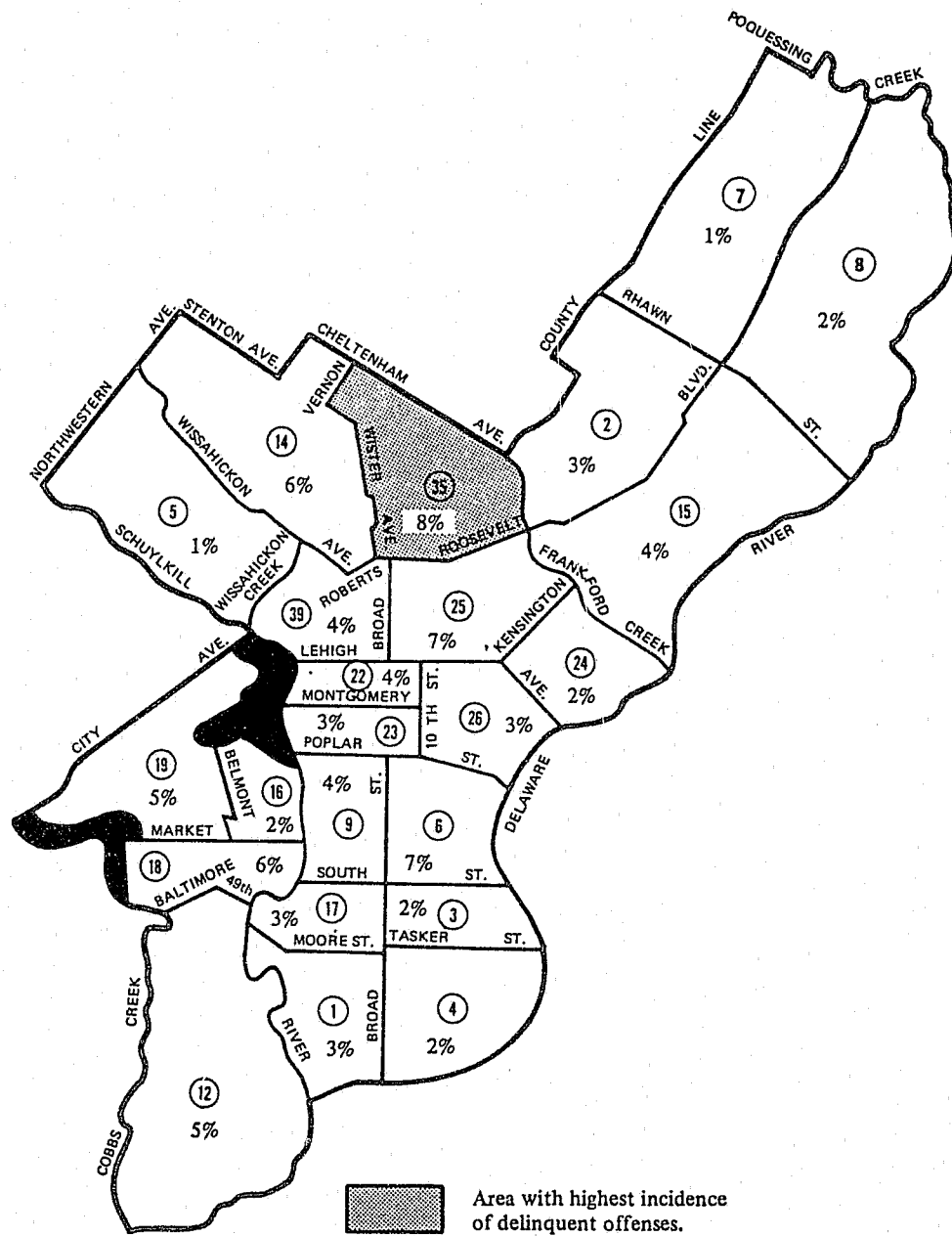


TABLE 12

## OFFENSES DISPOSED BY SEX AND TYPE OF DISPOSITION: 1985

Offenses	Total		Referred elsewhere		Withdrawn, Discharged or adjusted		Probation		Commitment		Certified to criminal court		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Assaults <sup>1</sup>	1,049	352	3	1	422	166	458	174	143	9	20	—	3	2
Coercion/threats	218	56	—	—	111	26	81	26	26	4	—	—	—	—
Other injury to person	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Burglary	1,719	77	4	—	481	34	779	39	413	4	28	—	14	—
Robbery	1,990	107	7	1	724	35	732	63	465	7	44	—	18	1
Larceny	1,072	107	—	—	345	43	572	55	145	9	1	—	9	—
Auto theft	644	26	12	—	148	5	302	18	150	3	12	—	20	—
Retail theft	215	89	1	2	66	17	104	65	43	4	—	—	1	1
Receiving stolen property	97	12	—	—	44	3	36	9	16	—	1	—	—	—
Other theft	129	21	—	—	40	4	67	15	22	2	—	—	—	—
Weapons offenses	421	65	5	1	92	17	297	46	25	1	—	—	2	—
Rape	89	1	—	—	24	1	29	—	35	—	1	—	—	—
Other sex offenses	101	19	1	—	30	7	40	10	23	1	6	—	1	1
Drug law violations	563	43	9	—	195	11	291	31	58	1	10	—	—	—
Disorderly conduct	19	6	—	—	15	4	3	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Vandalism	96	4	—	—	33	1	57	3	6	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	52	4	—	—	19	—	28	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
Resisting an officer	7	2	—	—	4	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trespassing	60	7	—	—	25	3	26	4	9	—	—	—	—	—
Other malicious mischief	229	23	—	—	96	7	114	15	15	1	1	—	3	—
Runaway from institution	244	35	1	—	226	32	1	1	14	2	2	—	—	—
Motor vehicle violations	19	—	—	—	6	—	11	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Non-payment fines/costs	36	1	—	—	30	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Other	153	35	2	1	128	28	13	5	9	—	3	—	—	1
Total	9,225	1,093	45	6	3,305	447	4,044	585	1,624	49	129	—	78	6
	10,318		51		3,752		4,629		1,673		129		84	

<sup>1</sup>Include two homicides.



## NON-DELINQUENCY CASES

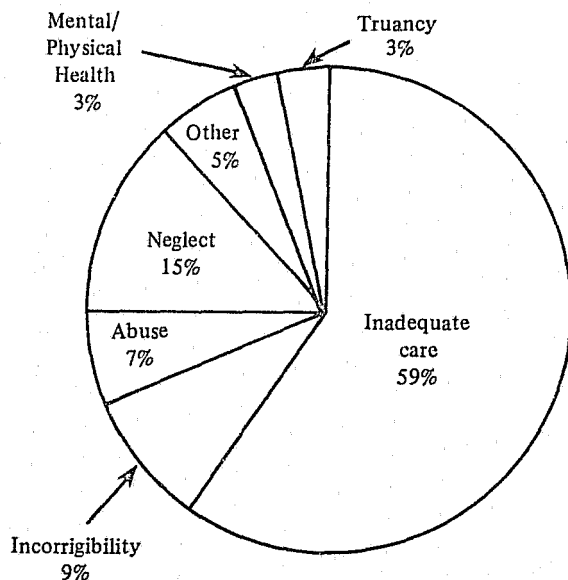
Non-delinquency (dependent) cases concern children who were found to be dependent due to neglect, abuse or inadequate care. Non-delinquency cases are informal proceedings, conducted by a Judge, with only those involved in the proceedings in attendance. In 1985, a total of 17,310 cases consisting of 2,091 new cases and 15,219 review hearings were disposed of by Family Court. In addition, 380 hearings were held regarding emergency protective custody or treatment in cases involving mental health or suspected child abuse. These hearings are not included in the statistics because they occurred before the filing of a non-delinquency petition.

Most new cases come to the attention of the Court through the Department of Human Services. This agency referred 70 percent of the new cases disposed of in 1985. The Board of Education referred 11 percent of the new cases in 1985. Of this latter group, 71 percent involved inadequate care or neglect of the child while 28 percent concerned truancy. Nine percent of the cases were referred by parents. Almost all of these cases involved incorrigibility.

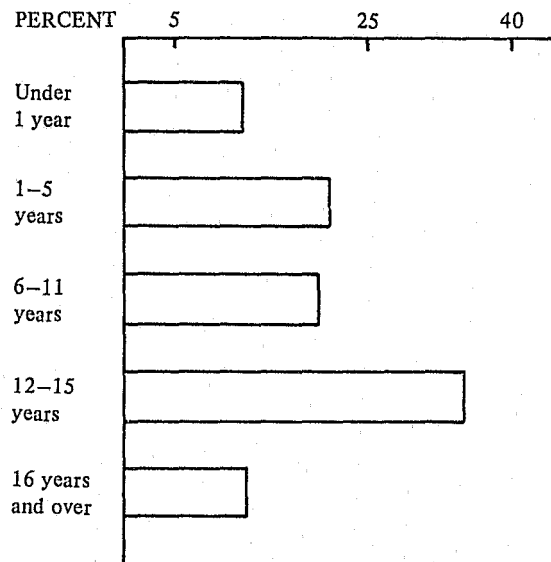
In general, the most frequent reason given for referral in non-delinquency cases was "inadequate care". These cases accounted for more than one-half of the new cases disposed of in 1985.

The children involved in non-delinquency cases were evenly divided between the sexes, 1,046 males and 1,045

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION – REASON FOR REFERRAL: 1985



AGE DISTRIBUTION: 1985



females. While both sexes were referred to Court primarily due to neglect or inadequate care, females more often than males were referred because of abuse or incorrigibility.

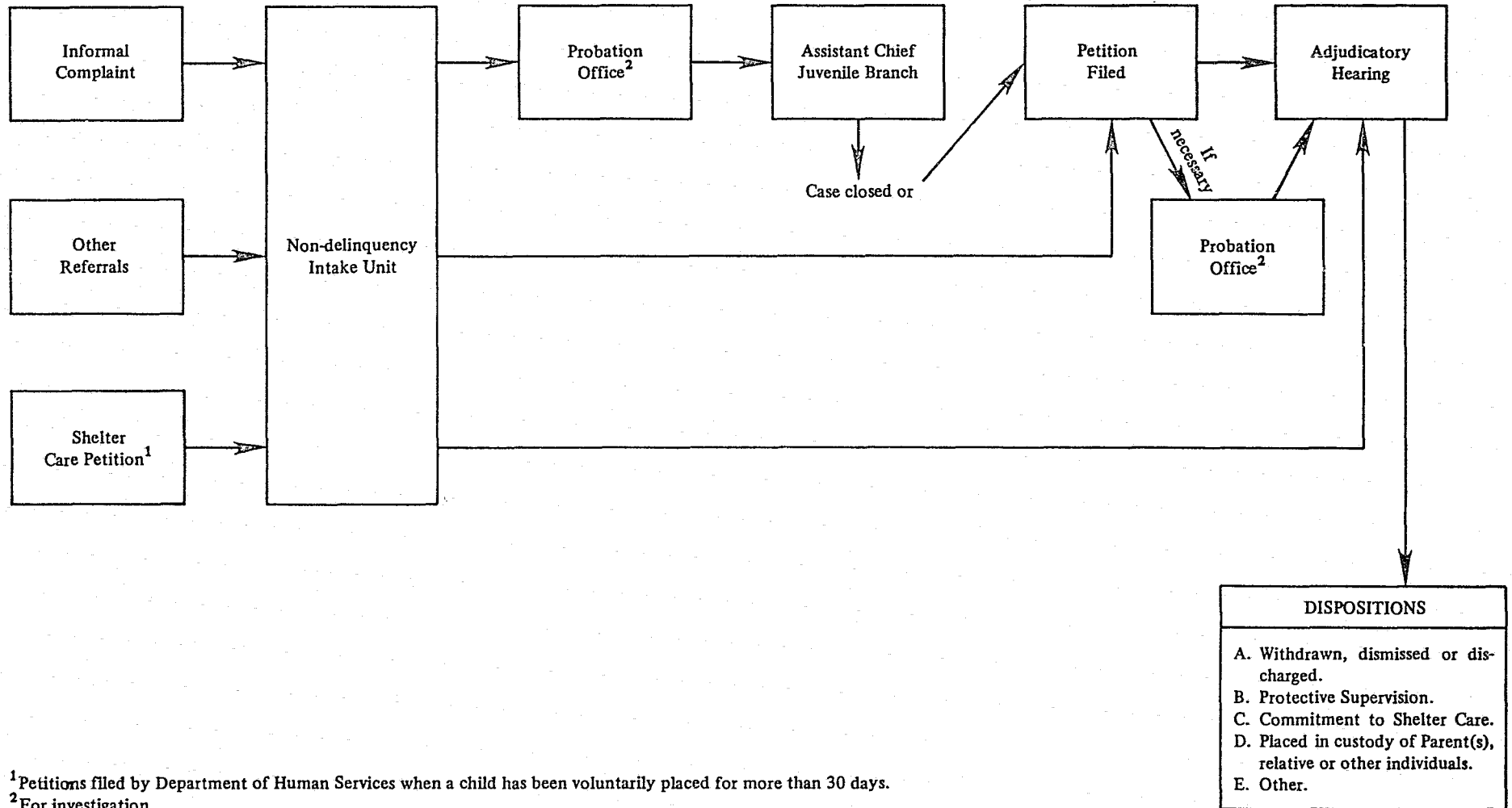
The ages of children in non-delinquency cases ranged from a few months to over 17 years. It is commonly thought that most dependent children are usually very young children, however, most non-delinquency cases disposed of in 1985 involving children in the 12-15 age group. This group accounted for 35 percent of the total new cases disposed.

Considering the economic hardships often found in single parent families, it is not surprising to find a large number of dependent children lived with one parent (41 percent). An even larger percentage (44) resided in agencies, foster homes or institutions.

In fifty-two percent of new non-delinquency cases disposed of in 1985, the child was committed to the Department of Human Services. An additional 21 percent of the dispositions allowed the child to remain at home but under the protective supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court. Twenty percent of the cases were dismissed or withdrawn.

In recent years, the numbers of new non-delinquency cases received and disposed of have shown little change. Review hearings, however, have tripled since 1980 and

# JUVENILE BRANCH – NEW NON-DELINQUENCY CASES – FLOW GUIDE



now comprise the greater part of the non-delinquency workload.

Review hearings concern cases previously disposed of but for varied reasons are brought to the Court's attention for modification of the previous dispositions. Dispositions involving commitments to child placing agencies usually are made for indefinite periods. By law, as well as court policy, cases involving commitment are reviewed every six months as long as the child remains in placement. In 1985, 15,219 review hearings were heard by Family Court, almost twice the number heard in 1981. In order to alleviate this expanded workload, a full time "Master" was appointed in July, 1984 to review the cases of dependent children placed in shelter care or other out of home facilities, as well as those children placed under the supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court.

Eighty-two percent of review hearings resulted in the children remaining in placement, eleven percent were discharged from commitment or supervision while 2 percent were committed to a child placement or a mental health facility.

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985

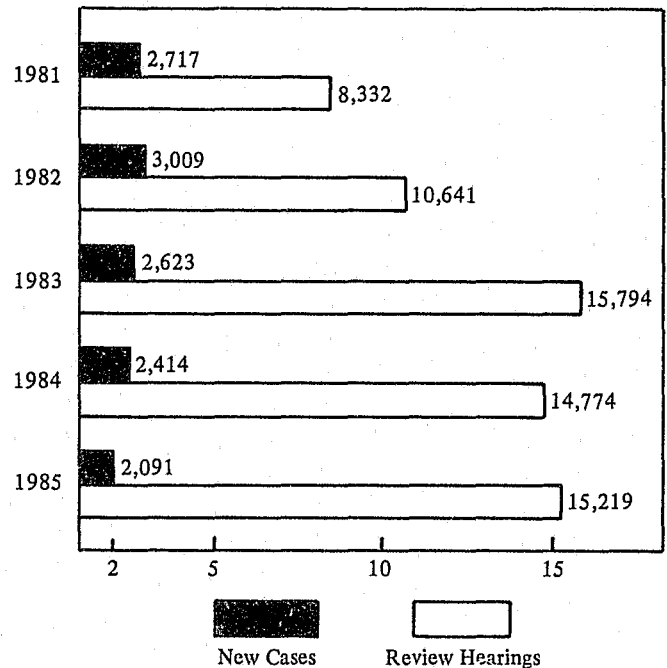
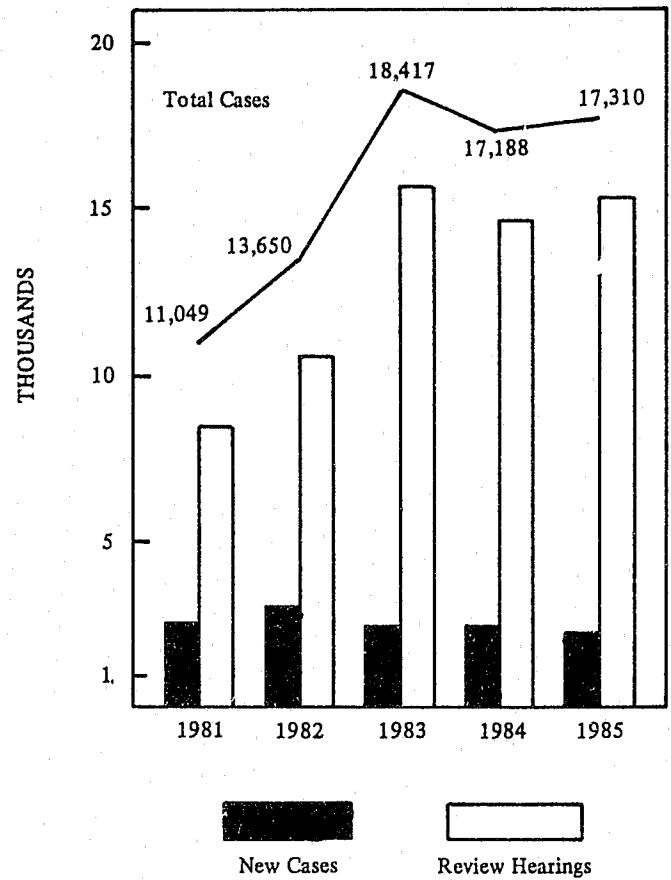


TABLE 1

## JUVENILE NON-DELINQUENCY CASES: 1985

Petitions filed . . . . .	2,066
Cases disposed:	
New cases . . . . .	2,091
Review hearings . . . . .	15,219
Total . . . . .	17,310
New referrals . . . . .	1,249
Court sessions . . . . .	239

## NON-DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



## PETITIONS FILED: 1981 TO 1985

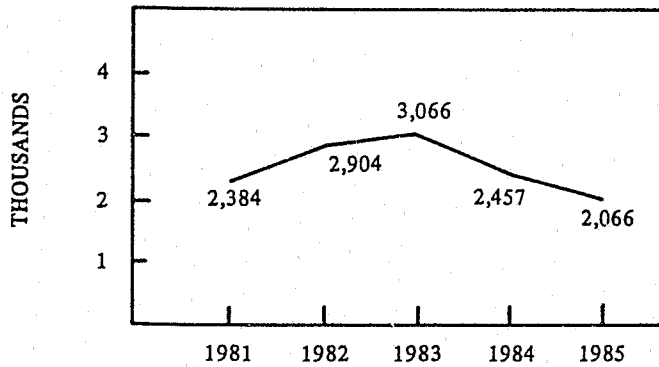


TABLE 2

## REASON FOR REFERRAL BY SEX: 1985

	Total	Male	Female	Families Involved
Inadequate care	1,224	614	610	917
Neglect	318	169	149	164
Abuse	139	59	80	82
Mental/physical health	63	40	23	60
Truancy	64	38	26	56
Incorrigibility	179	74	105	174
Other	104	52	52	81
Total	2,091	1,046	1,045	1,534

TABLE 3

## REASON FOR REFERRAL: 1981 TO 1985

New Cases	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Inadequate care	1,620	1,807	1,433	1,335	1,224
Neglect	408	415	380	325	318
Abuse	250	237	209	215	139
Mental/physical health	42	52	100	93	63
Incorrigibility	131	244	279	205	179
Truancy	33	33	71	67	64
Other	233	221	151	174	104
Total	2,717	3,009	2,623	2,414	2,091

**TABLE 4**  
**SOURCE OF REFERRAL: 1981 TO 1985**

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Parent	142	246	285	218	183
Relative	112	115	97	77	62
Other individual	30	23	11	21	10
School authorities	248	304	469	323	225
Department of Human Services	1,963	2,157	1,591	1,599	1,474
Court	221	159	165	174	130
Other	1	5	5	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,717</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>2,091</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**NEW CASES DISPOSED BY AGE GROUP: 1985**

	Total	Under 1 year	1-5 years	6-11 years	12-15 years	16 and over
Inadequate care	1,224	197	257	236	393	141
Neglect	318	40	111	106	54	7
Abuse	139	17	38	39	36	9
Mental/physical health	63	1	2	2	35	23
Truancy	64	—	—	1	52	11
Incorrigibility	179	—	—	4	129	46
Other	104	6	32	29	26	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>248</b>

**TABLE 6**  
**CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN IN  
NON-DELINQUENCY CASES: 1985**

<b>Age:</b>		<b>Sex:</b>	
Under 1 year, . . .	261	Male . . . . .	1,046
1-5 years . . . . .	443	Female . . . . .	1,045
6-11 years. . . . .	417		
12-15 years. . . . .	722	<b>Residence of child:</b>	
16 years and over	248	Both parents. . .	130
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>2,091</b>	Parent and	
		stepparent . . .	26
<b>Race:</b>		Mother . . . . .	791
White . . . . .	424	Father . . . . .	62
Hispanic . . . . .	111	Other family	
Oriental . . . . .	11	home . . . . .	158
Black . . . . .	1,451	Foster home. . .	5
Other/not		Institution . . . .	911
reported . . . . .	94	Independent . . .	1
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>2,091</b>	Not reported. . .	7
		<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>2,091</b>

**TABLE 7**  
**DISPOSITIONS — NEW CASES: 1985**

Dismissed or discharged . . . . .	264
Petition withdrawn . . . . .	146
Protective supervision . . . . .	433
<b>Placed in custody of:</b>	
Parent . . . . .	24
Relative . . . . .	88
Other individual . . . . .	12
<b>Committed to:</b>	
Department of Human Services . . . . .	1,079
Mental Health Facility . . . . .	36
Other . . . . .	9
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>2,091</b>

# DISPOSITIONS – NEW CASES: 1981 TO 1985

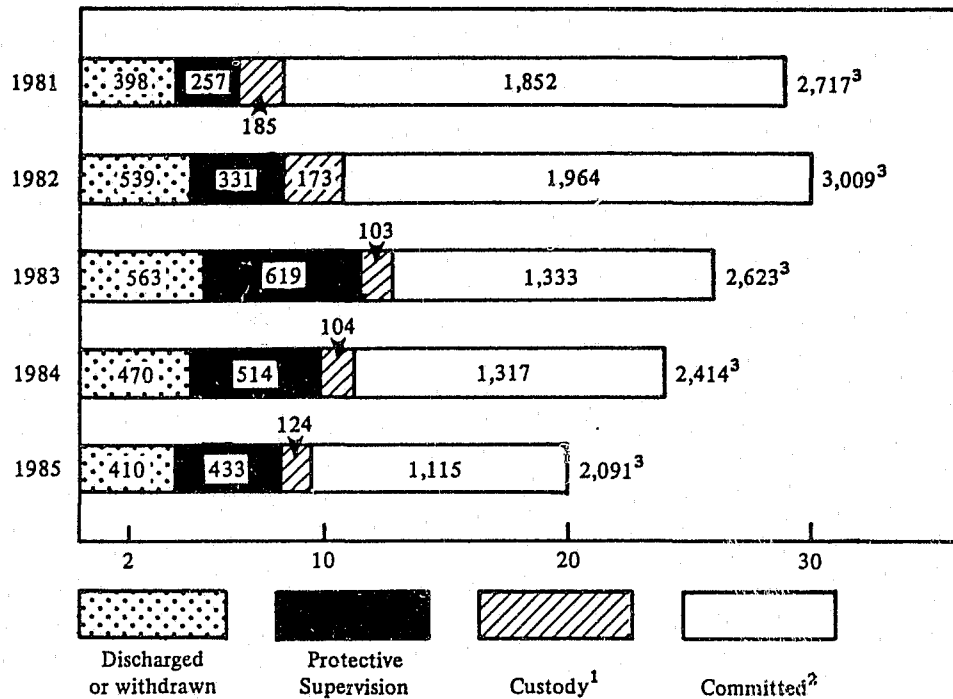


TABLE 8

## REVIEW HEARINGS: 1981 TO 1985

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>REASON FOR REVIEW:</b>					
Discharge from supervision . . . . .	265	393	576	810	798
Discharge from commitment . . . . .	512	824	1,268	1,448	1,356
Case review . . . . .	1,430	1,600	562	825	6,988
Report . . . . .	6,108	7,780	13,322	11,609	5,983
Other . . . . .	17	44	66	82	89
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>10,641</b>	<b>15,794</b>	<b>14,774</b>	<b>15,219</b>
<b>Disposition:</b>					
Discharged from supervision . . . . .	301	365	639	706	720
Discharged from commitment . . . . .	478	808	1,207	1,135	989
Remain as placed . . . . .	6,752	8,716	13,086	11,954	12,500
Protective supervision . . . . .	270	319	493	568	614
<b>Committed:</b>					
Department of Human Services . . . . .	269	168	151	209	212
Mental health facility . . . . .	9	19	16	40	21
<b>Placed in custody of:</b>					
Parent . . . . .	83	78	38	31	35
Relative . . . . .	72	60	63	43	39
Individual . . . . .	26	45	36	15	26
Agency . . . . .	2	2	—	—	—
Dismissed or withdrawn . . . . .	66	61	65	73	62
Other . . . . .	4	—	—	—	1
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>10,641</b>	<b>15,794</b>	<b>14,774</b>	<b>15,219</b>

## ADULT CASES

The Adult Unit of the Juvenile Branch processes cases involving adults charged with crimes against children and exercises authority in the following types of cases:

1. Any adult charged with corrupting, or tending to corrupt the morals of any child under the age of 18 years, or who aids or encourages any such child in the commission of any crime, or in violating any order of the Court.
2. Any parent, guardian, or other person supervising the welfare of a child under 18 years who is charged with knowingly endangering the welfare of the child by violating a duty of care, protection or support.
3. Any adult charged with a crime against a child under 18 years such as simple or aggravated assault, indecent assault, rape, etc.

In adult cases, the Judge sits as a Municipal Court Judge. In this capacity, he may make final disposition of any case concerning a crime for which the maximum sentence is five years or less. In cases concerning crimes having a maximum sentence of more than 5 years, he presides over a preliminary hearing and determines whether or not the evidence warrants holding the accused for trial. If it does, the accused is referred for action and subsequent trial in the Criminal Court.

## SUMMARY

In 1985, 1,633 cases were received by the Adult Unit for disposition. A total of 2,021 cases consisting of 1,836 new cases and 185 truancy cases were disposed of in 1985.

Adult cases (excluding truancy cases) disposed of involved 219 female and 1,617 male offenders. Sex offenses accounted for 37 percent of the new charges disposed. An analysis of the new cases disposed showed 7 percent of women and 41 percent of male offenders were charged with a sex offense. Aggravated Assault was the most frequently committed offense (28 percent), followed by robbery offenses (19 percent). Twelve percent of the offenses concerned rape and 16 percent involved charges of indecent assault.

The age groups of adult offenders were as follows: 47 percent were under age 25; 47 percent were between the ages of 25–50; 6 percent were over 50 years of age.

In the majority of new cases disposed of in 1985, the adult offenders were held for trial (42 percent). The remaining cases were disposed of as follows: 30 percent were dismissed or discharged; in 16 percent of the cases, the offenders were placed on some form of probation; 4 percent were imprisoned and the balance were disposed of by other actions.

CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985

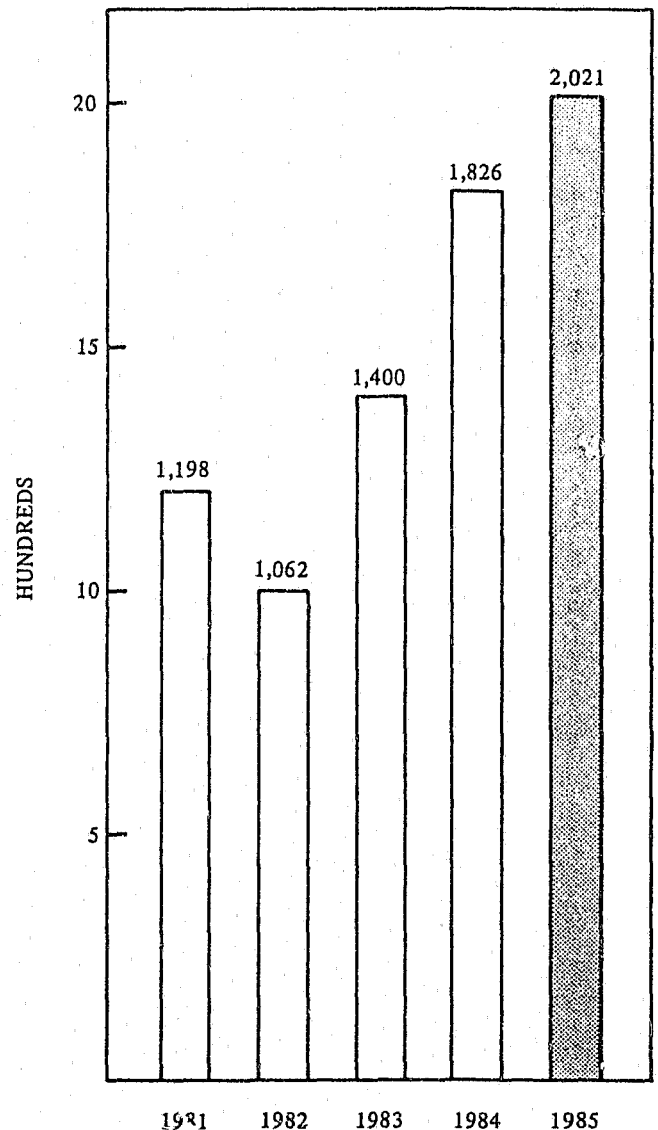


TABLE 1

## ADULT CASES INVOLVING JUVENILES: 1985

Petitions filed . . . . .	1,633
New cases disposed:	
Sex offenses . . . . .	684
Non-sex offenses . . . . .	1,152
Truancy . . . . .	185
Total . . . . .	2,021
New referrals . . . . .	1,431
Court sessions . . . . .	357

## ADULT PETITIONS FILED: 1981 TO 1985

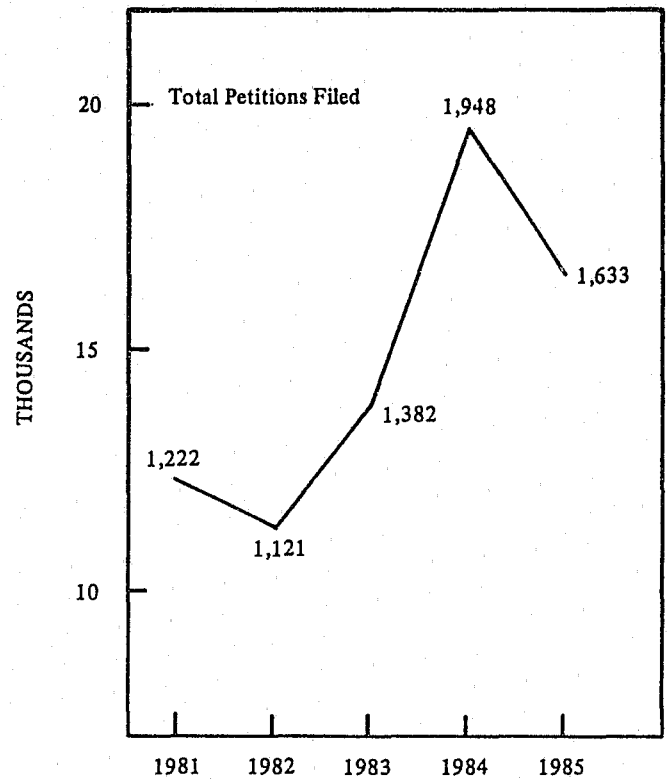


TABLE 2

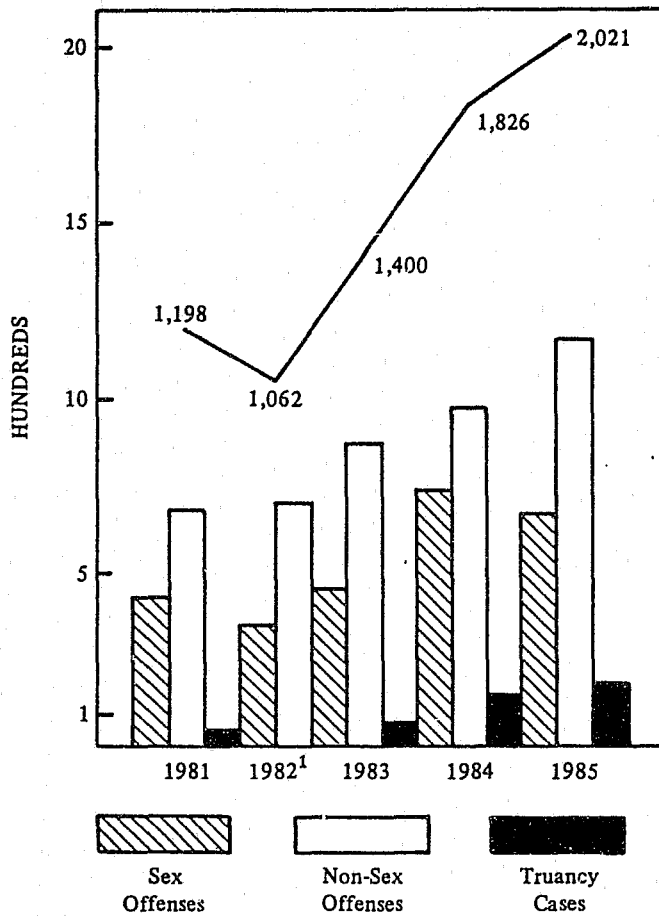
NEW CASES<sup>1</sup> DISPOSED BY AGE GROUP: 1985

	Total	under 25 years	25-50 years	over 50 years
<b>Sex offenses:</b>				
Rape . . . . .	221	75	132	14
Assault and attempted rape . . . . .	48	18	29	1
Indecent assault . . . . .	292	62	171	59
Commercialized vice . . . . .	25	7	16	2
Other . . . . .	98	27	65	6
<b>Non-sex offenses:</b>				
Aggravated assault . . . . .	512	228	269	15
Assault . . . . .	59	20	34	5
Robbery . . . . .	349	305	44	—
Other thefts . . . . .	83	66	17	—
Cruelty or neglect of child . . . . .	36	10	26	—
Corrupting morals of child . . . . .	75	19	49	7
Other . . . . .	38	17	18	3
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>112</b>

<sup>1</sup>Truancy cases not included as data was unavailable.



# ADULT CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



<sup>1</sup>No Truancy Cases Disposed.

TABLE 3

## CHARACTERISTICS OF ADULT OFFENDERS: 1985

Age:	
Under 25 years . . . . .	854
25-50 years . . . . .	870
Over 50 years . . . . .	112
Sex:	
Male . . . . .	1,617
Female . . . . .	219

Does not include adults involved in truancy cases. This data was not available.

TABLE 4

## DISPOSITIONS IN ADULT CASES: 1981 TO 1985

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Dismissed, discharged or withdrawn . . . . .	521	334	449	566	607
Held for trial . . . . .	382	467	638	849	852
Pre-indictment probation . . . . .	94	70	114	49	100
Probation . . . . .	124	140	114	169	228
Committed . . . . .	47	29	35	50	90
Fines and costs . . . . .	9	4	39	96	113
Suspended sentence . . . . .	-	6	2	25	10
Other . . . . .	21	12	9	22	21
Total . . . . .	1,198	1,062	1,400	1,826	2,021

## ENFORCEMENT CASES

The Enforcement Unit is responsible for the collection and disbursement of restitution payments imposed by the Court on juvenile offenders. Restitution payments<sup>1</sup> have increased steadily within the last five years and in 1985, these payments increased 5 percent over the 1984 collections.

In addition, the Enforcement Unit is charged with processing the following types of cases:

1. attachments for non-payment of orders for reimbursement of child care.
2. petitions requesting orders of support against parents for care of a child committed or accepted into an agency or institution.
3. petitions for non-payment of restitution orders.
4. motions to discharge children from commitment or vacate orders against the Department of Human Services or parents.

Enforcement cases are review hearings rather than new cases since they involve changes to previous court orders.

The Enforcement Unit is an important point of contact for juvenile probation officers and other authorized agencies who request information. In 1985, this unit responded to more than 12,000 such requests.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include restitution payments received through the Restitution and Community Services Program.

RESTITUTION PAYMENTS: 1981 TO 1985

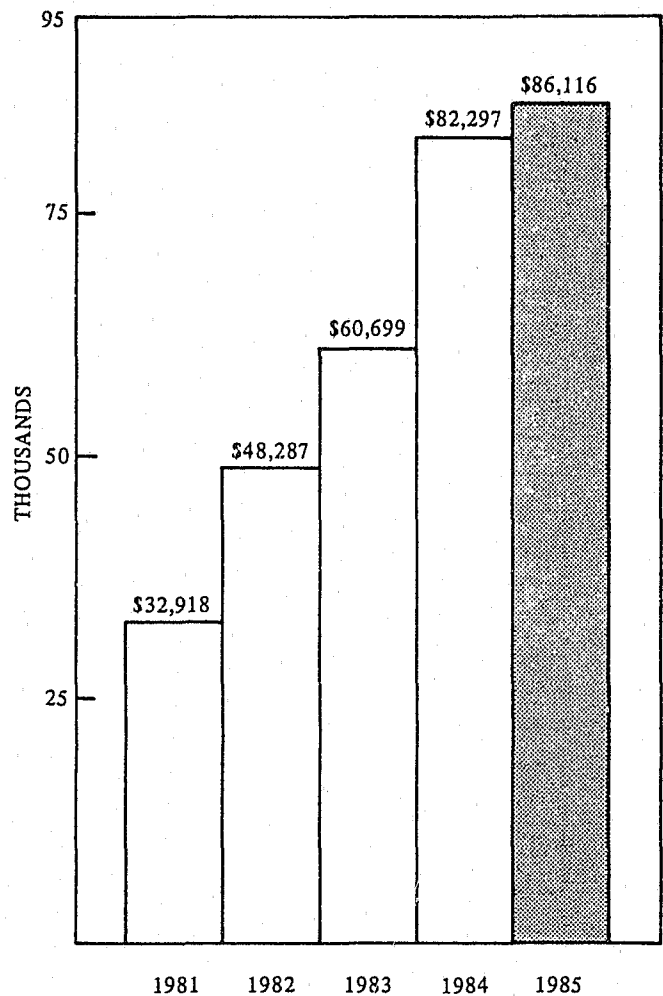


TABLE 1

## ENFORCEMENT UNIT ACTIVITY: 1985

Petitions and motions filed .....	351
Cases disposed:	
Petitions .....	240
Motions .....	24
Total .....	264
Restitution collected .....	\$86,116
Court sessions .....	6

PETITIONS AND MOTIONS FILED: 1981 TO 1985

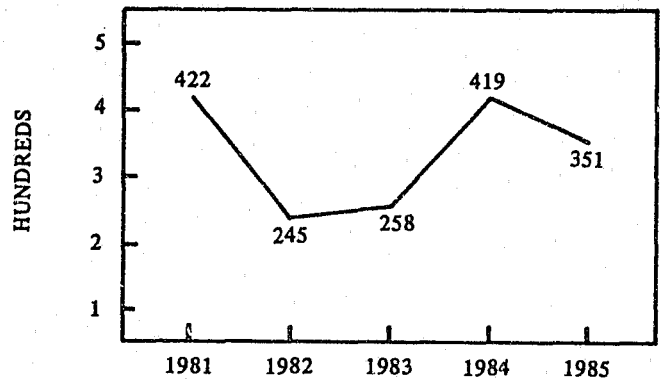


TABLE 2

## ENFORCEMENT CASES DISPOSED: 1985

Reason for referral:	
Discharge from DHS <sup>1</sup> .....	22
Support order:	
Place .....	10
Vacate .....	2
Restitution:	
Remit .....	178
Transfer to unclaimed fund .....	52
Total .....	264
Dispositions:	
Discharged from DHS <sup>1</sup> .....	22
Withdrawn .....	5
Support order:	
Placed .....	5
Vacated .....	2
Restitution:	
Remitted .....	178
Transferred to unclaimed fund .....	52
Total .....	264

ENFORCEMENT CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985

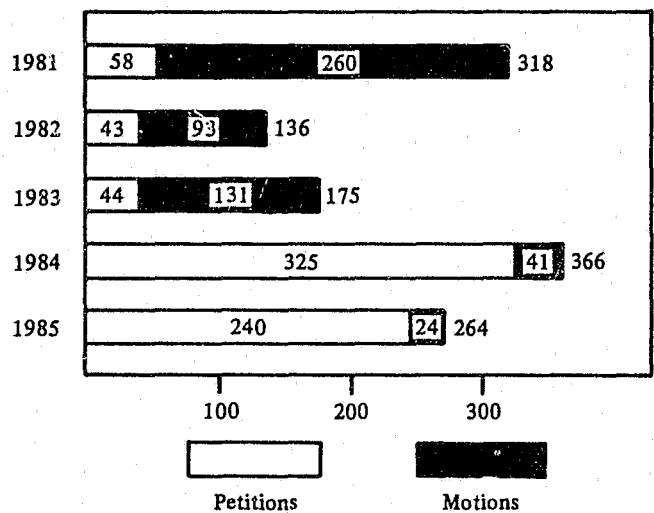


TABLE 3

## AGENCY CONTACTS: 1985

Armed Forces requests .....	5,914
Pre-sentence investigations .....	5,176
ROR (Release on own recognizance) program ...	610
Outside agencies .....	865
Total .....	12,565

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Services.

## JUVENILE RESTITUTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT

The Philadelphia County Community Service/Restitution Project, housed in the Juvenile Branch of Family Court is a court administered project. The Youth Services Coordinating Office monitors the project and provides technical assistance. An Advisory Board, composed of representatives from the community, business sector and public agencies, assists the project in outreach and public relations.

Young people who have been adjudicated delinquent and found appropriate for either monetary restitution or symbolic restitution in the form of community service assignments are referred to the project by Juvenile Judges. The children who have not been involved in violent offenses or drug abuse are placed on Consent Decree or Probation in addition to the restitution or community service order. Young people who range in age between thirteen and eighteen are ordered to reimburse victims for losses or perform community service work.

The juveniles are counseled and assisted in identifying their natural talents, prepared for the world of work in job readiness workshops and required to sign a contract which specifies they agree to abide by the rules of the project.

They are then placed on jobs in the private and public sector.

The Probation staff supports the project's efforts and they assist in resolving any difficulties which may surface. Irreconcilable difficulties prompt the staff to request that the juvenile be referred back to the Judge for a review hearing, while those who successfully complete the court order are released by the Judge from the project.

### SUMMARY

Since its inception in 1984, the Restitution and Community Services Project has had 276 referrals. The largest number of youths were in the 15-17 age group and were predominantly male. One hundred and fifty-two juveniles were ordered to make restitution payments ranging from under \$50 to \$1,600. The balance of referrals, (124) were ordered to perform between 15 and 200 hours of community service.

Youths referred to the restitution component of this project during 1984-1985 paid \$19,511.50 to victims for losses or damages they caused. Those referred to community service performed 3,327 hours of community services.

### SUPPORTERS OF THE JUVENILE RESTITUTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT - 1984 AND 1985

Third Eternal Baptist Church  
Zion Hill Church  
Center City Chevrolet  
Good Shepherd Neighborhood House  
St. Madeleine Sophie Church  
Sacred Heart Manor  
Alley Friends Architect  
AM/PM Markets  
Cigna Corporation  
Community Intervention Network  
Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church  
Crime Prevention  
Barrett Educational Center  
Crossroads  
Department of Recreation  
Hartranft  
Hunting Park Council  
Horizon House  
IBM  
McDonald's Restaurant  
National Temple  
Office of Employment and Training

Philadelphia Anti Graffiti Network  
Philadelphia Urban Coalition  
Reed Street YMCA  
School District  
South Philadelphia Community Center  
SEPTA  
Stephen J. Smith Home for the Aged  
Sears  
White Glove Service  
Temple University Hospital  
Pizza Hut  
Zoological Gardens  
Beneficial Bank  
First Pennsylvania Bank  
Penn Electric Company  
Richard's Packaging Company  
Germantown Church of the Brethren  
St. Vincent de Paul Church  
Haddington Homes  
Voyage House, Inc.  
Tanner Duckrey School  
Temple University Center for Social Policy  
and Community Development

TYPE OF OFFENSES REFERRED: 1984 TO 1985

Offenses	1984	1985
Burglary	43	32
Robbery	19	16
Theft	19	18
Criminal Trespassing	8	2
Conspiracy	6	2
Institutional Vandalism	9	5
Terroristic Threats	4	4
Assault	3	19
Attempted Auto Theft	0	4
Vehicle Theft	8	22
Receiving Stolen Property	2	7
Pulling Fire Alarm	0	3
Vandalism	0	6
Other	4	11
Total	125	151

AGE AND SEX OF REFERRALS: 1984 TO 1985

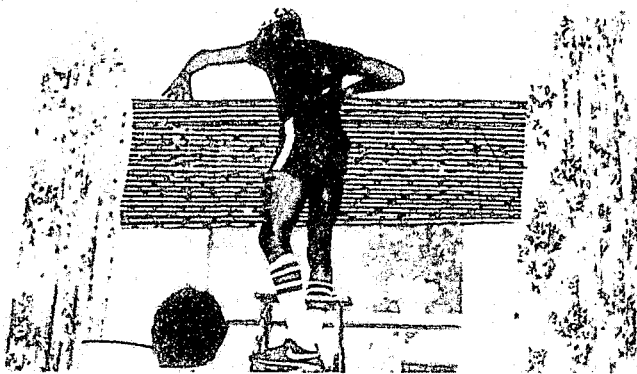
	1984	1985
Age:		
13 and under	9	9
14	19	27
15	25	34
16	30	35
17	30	34
18	10	12
19	2	0
Total	125	151
Sex:		
Male	115	138
Female	10	13
Total	125	151

CASES IN WHICH RESTITUTION WAS ORDERED:  
1984 TO 1985

Amount Ordered	1984	1985
0 - \$50.00	2	8
\$51.00 - \$75.00	4	9
\$76.00 - \$100.00	7	10
\$101.00 - \$150.00	3	4
\$151.00 - \$200.00	10	8
\$201.00 - \$250.00	9	6
\$251.00 - \$300.00	30	33
Over 300.00	0	9
	65	87

CASES IN WHICH COMMUNITY SERVICE  
WAS ORDERED: 1984 TO 1985

Hours Ordered -	1984	1985
20 or less	5	7
30 to 45	48	30
46 to 60	3	10
61 to 90	4	8
Over 90	0	9
	60	64



*Marie A. McCray, Manager of Community Relations (second from right) accepted an award on behalf of the CIGNA Corporation for its participation in the Restitution and Community Services Project. Also shown (left to right) are Anton Marzano, Office of Management and Staff, Gwendolyn A. Remsen, Director, RACS, Lorraine Fitzgerald, Management and Staff, Judge Harvey N. Schmidt, Ms. McCray, and President Judge Edward J. Bradley.*



*Youths referred to the Restitution and Community Services Project (RACS) perform community projects.*

Life Insurance Company of North America  
 1600 Market Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19102



August 21, 1985

To Whom It May Concern:

Ronald has worked in Marketing Services for eight weeks as part of the CIGA Summer Work Program. He was a pleasant, well-mannered worker and completed his assignments in a timely fashion. Ronald demonstrated a congenial attitude when asked to perform any assignment. His follow-through skills were good. We advised his supervisor each time a job was completed and immediately asked for another project. Ronald was an asset to the Marketing Services Department and we would certainly welcome his return next year to the Summer Program.

Very truly yours,

*William N. Hawkins*  
 William N. Hawkins  
 Director of Marketing Services

IBM

International Business Machines Corporation

Swan Point Center  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
 215-261-2200

November 1, 1985

Ms. Geraldine A. Rensen  
 Director  
 Court of Common Pleas  
 Family Court Division  
 Juvenile Branch  
 1801 Vine Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Rensen:

You might recall that my participation in the Juvenile Restitution and Community Service Project was entered into with a great deal of reluctance. It only came about through your persistent persuasion. I would like to take this time to thank you for convincing me that I needed to volunteer. The small parts that we, IBM, was able to contribute ranks with one of the most satisfying experiences I have under taken. I strongly endorse this project and should I be in a position anytime in the future to participate, I pledge to you that I will do so.

The commitment that both you and Judge Schmidt has made to this program unequivocally insures success. It is largely through your efforts that a project of this nature was able to get underway. I know, I was "volunteered."

Continued success with a program that has value far beyond the dollar amount obtained.

Yours truly,

*Perot P. Davis*  
 Perot P. Davis

clh16061

THE PHILADELPHIA URBAN COALITION

121 N. Broad Street, 9th Floor - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102-1906 - (215) 977-3200

Co-Chairpersons  
 \*Clarence C. Anderson, Esq. \*Rev. Henry H. Nichols  
 \*Howard W. Penn, Chairman \*Alexander Tabor  
 James M. Marshall, Minister of Church Ministry Board International League

October 30, 1985

Ms. Geraldine A. Rensen, Director  
 Juvenile Restitution and Community Service Project  
 Family Court  
 1801 Vine Street, Room 149 MD  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Dear Ms.:

I am encouraged by the recent efforts of Family Court to offer alternative dispositions to juvenile offenders through the Juvenile Restitution and Community Service Project.

The project has offered an opportunity for youths to accept responsibility for their actions and provided a more effective vehicle for ensuring victims are compensated for losses caused by delinquent behavior.

The youths whom you have referred to the Philadelphia Urban Coalition for the most part, have been receptive to the idea of restitution and have worked our well in our participating company workshouses.

Wishes for continued success are extended to you.

Sincerely,  
*Ernest L. Jones*  
 Ernest L. Jones  
 Executive Director

EEJ:mcc



WCS Inc.  
 5736 OLD YORK ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136  
 Commercial/Maintenance Specialists  
 424-2201

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- WALL CLEANING
- OFFICE CLEANING
- RESIDENTIAL CLEANING
- CONSTRUCTION CLEANING

January 3, 1986

Mrs. Geraldine A. Rensen, Director  
 Restitution & Community Service Project  
 Family Court  
 1801 Vine Street Room 149 MD  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Dear Ms.:

Just a note to let you know my experiences with the Juvenile Restitution and Community Service Project. It has been positive. The youth, Thomas who was referred to me by you, worked out so well, that I retained him after he completed paying the restitution which was ordered. I see your project as a breath of fresh air, in the never ending attempts to solve the delinquency problem.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
*Anthony C. Budge*  
 Anthony C. Budge President  
 MCHS

## THE SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE

The primary purpose of this office is to involve citizen participation in the juvenile justice system through a volunteer program.

The Special Services Office (SSO) recruits, screens and trains adult volunteers to work with court referred juveniles and to provide other services not available through normal court activities.

Volunteers come from many backgrounds and are assigned jobs based on their interests and skills. In 1985, 1,145 citizens contributed 18,690 hours of service to Family Court and its youthful clients.

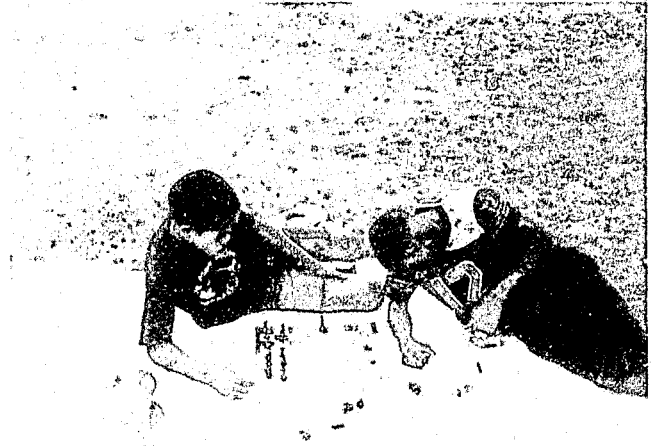
Volunteers are utilized by the SSO in one of three units: the Information Center, the Youth Employment Unit or the STEPS program.

The Information Center provides comprehensive, up-to-date community resource information. Over 3,000 entries ranging from tutoring programs to hospital clinics are listed in the SSO resource file. Volunteers research community resources and keep the Court's staff informed about Philadelphia's network of agencies and community groups.

The Youth Employment Unit uses volunteers to solicit business and government agencies for employment and training opportunities for court referred youths. In 1985, 414 juvenile clients found full or part-time employment through this program.



*SSO Volunteer Maureen P. Malloy works with a client enrolled in the World of Work program.*



*Participants in the STEPS program enjoy an outing.*

While the primary goal of this unit is to aid clients in finding employment, much preparation is needed to accomplish this goal. In a large metropolitan area such as Philadelphia, many youthful offenders need specific instructions in learning how to get and hold a job.

Therefore, the major use of volunteer time and energy is expended in preparing juvenile clients for the "world of work".

Emphasis is placed on fundamental job hunting skills i.e. reading employment sections of local newspapers, filling out sample job applications, etc. Trips are an important part of this program because they permit clients to observe people at work in a variety of settings.

Approximately 696 clients experienced world of work sessions during 1985.

The STEPS program (Start Toward Eliminating Past Setbacks) provides individualized support for male clients by emphasizing a one-to-one relationship with adult male volunteers. Participants are matched on the basis of common interests and geographic location of their homes. The latter is especially significant because of Philadelphia's strong neighborhood ties. The parties agree to work toward a goal set by the juvenile client. The emphasis is always on "skills" learning using a broad definition of skills to include anything from remedial reading to carpentry, or social and cultural awareness.

Other projects undertaken in 1985:

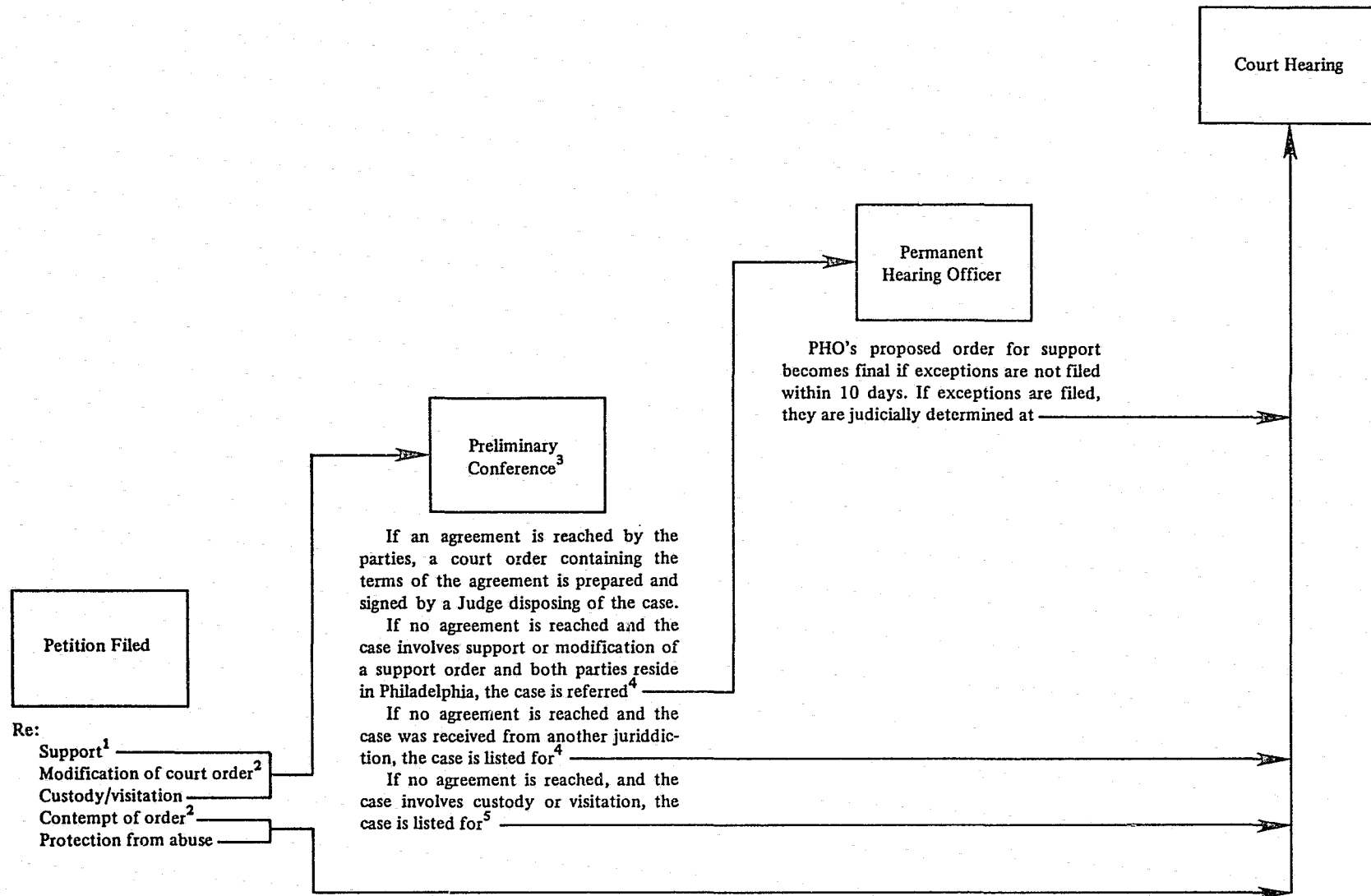
1. Assigning practicum students to various court units allowing them to gain direct client experience while



# Domestic Relations Branch



# DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH FLOW GUIDE



<sup>1</sup> Local cases and petitions received from outside Philadelphia have a preliminary conference; petitions filed in Philadelphia involving a party living outside of Philadelphia are forwarded to the other jurisdiction for disposition.

<sup>2</sup> Includes cases involving support, custody, partial custody or visitation.

<sup>3</sup> Where Philadelphia is the respondent in cases received from other jurisdictions only the defendant is present.

<sup>4</sup> A temporary child support order may be obtained pending hearing before PHO or the Court.

<sup>5</sup> Home investigations and neuropsychiatric evaluations may be scheduled and temporary custody/visitation orders may be obtained pending the court hearing.

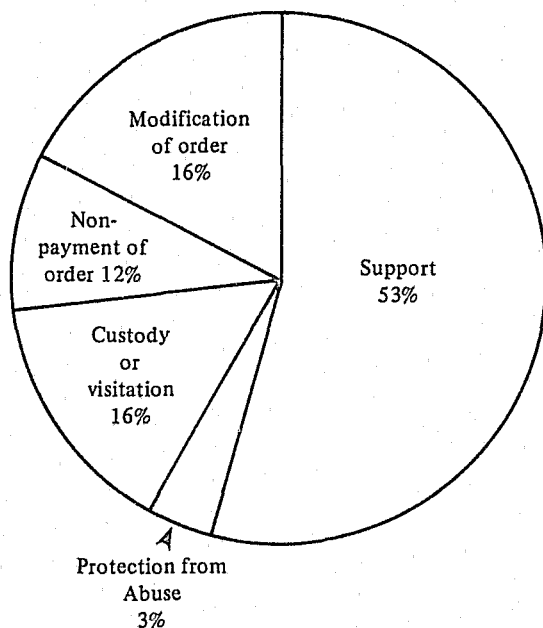
## DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH

The Domestic Relations Branch receives and processes most matters involving family conflicts excluding the granting of divorces. The workload of this branch is a varied one and includes such cases as: the establishment of paternity, financial support of children and spouses, custody and visitation matters, and protection from abuse within the family. The bulk of domestic relations cases, however, involves obtaining support for children from legally responsible parents.

A guide showing the flow of domestic relations cases is shown on the preceding page.

The enactment of the Child Support Enforcement Act led to substantial increases in the workload of the Domestic Relations Branch. Since its passage in 1975, new support cases have tripled. In 1985, new petitions for support accounted for the majority of all petitions filed in the Domestic Relations Branch.

PETITIONS FILED: 1985



Many petitions for support concern children of unmarried parents. Before a support order may be entered, paternity must be determined. This may be accomplished through a voluntary acknowledgement of the father. If the reputed father denies paternity, an order for a HLA blood test is issued. Blood samples are taken from the reputed father, the child, and the mother, on the premises at 1600 Walnut Street. The studies performed on these samples are very sophisticated and are highly accurate in determining the probability of paternity. When the tests

are completed, the case is listed for court and the issue of paternity is judicially determined. After paternity has been established, the case is then processed as any other support case. In 1985 paternity was established in 5,974 cases, an increase of 19 percent over 1984. Of this number, 89 percent were established through voluntary acknowledgement of the father.

Sizeable increases have been noted in the number of petitions filed concerning custody, partial custody or visitation of children. In 1975, 1,512 such petitions were filed as compared to 6,077 petitions in 1985.

In order to process these cases expeditiously, the Custody Unit was reorganized in 1985. Five social workers were appointed as Custody Officers, permitting scheduling of additional pre-trial conferences which are mandatory in all cases. The Unit has two workers who conduct all home investigations.

In all, a total of 37,671 petitions were filed in the Domestic Relations Branch during 1985.

Because of the volume of cases coming into the Domestic Relations Branch each year, it is imperative that good management practices be effected so that cases may be disposed of promptly and efficiently. The Domestic Relations Branch, through its use of preliminary conferences and Permanent Hearing Offices, was able to negotiate more than 16,000 agreements and orders thereby disposing of 61 percent of the 1985 workload without court hearings.



*Doris Harper, Supervisor of the Custody Unit received one of the employee of the year awards for the Domestic Relations Branch. She is shown receiving congratulations from President Judge Edward J. Bradley. Also shown (left to right) are Gloria P. Thomas, Chief Domestic Relations Branch, Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani, Judge Bradley, Judge Edward B. Rosenberg (seated) and Judge Harry A. Takiff.*

This achievement enabled the judiciary to concentrate on the more complex protracted cases, contempt of court matters, issues involving other jurisdictions and exceptions to proposed orders.

Overall, 27,761 cases were disposed of in 1985, an increase of 23 percent over 1984. Of this number:

- a. 8,052 or 29% involved new cases of support.
- b. 7,895 or 28% were modifications of a current support order.
- c. 6,570 or 24% concerned non-payment of a support order.
- d. 3,794 or 14% pertained to custody or visitation matters.
- e. 1,450 or 5% involved protection from abuse cases.

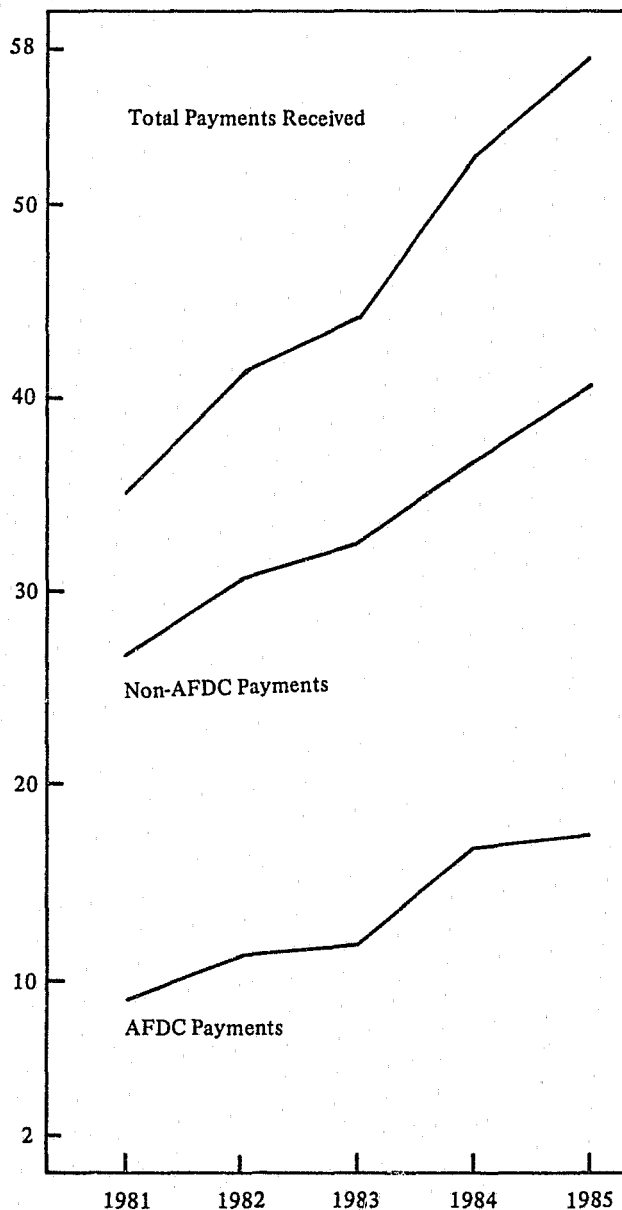
In addition, the Domestic Relations Branch has several specialized units which provide support services for the branch. For example, the Writ Servers Unit personally serves parties with orders to appear at conferences or court hearings; the Parent Locator Unit processes requests for assistance in locating absent parents in child support and custody cases; and the Legal Unit provides attorneys for AFDC<sup>1</sup> cases to assist in the establishment and enforcement of support orders.

The Domestic Relations Branch continued its strong enforcement program in the collection of support payments. In 1985, this branch collected and disbursed a total of \$57,892,635, an increase of 10 percent over the 1984 total. Approximately 60 to 65 percent of all support collections were received as a result of wage attachment orders, including attachment of unemployment compen-

sation. Collections in Aid for Dependent Children cases continue to rise. In 1985, total collections under this program amounted to \$17,643,988. Approximately \$4 million of this amount was realized through the Federal Income Tax Refund Intercept Program. Although for four years, the branch has submitted cases where arrears under a support order are due the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the fall of 1985 represented the first submission of non-AFDC cases as now authorized by federal legislation.

During the year varied training is provided to court staff. The Domestic Relations Branch staff were very

#### SUPPORT ORDER COLLECTIONS: 1981 TO 1985



Allan Tereshko, Esq. Manager of the Permanent Hearing Officers Unit, hears testimony in a support case. Also shown is Court Reporter Charles Holmberg.



*Philip Priore, Supervisor and Catherine Toner, Processing Clerk, Enforcement Unit review input of data by Joanne Rieco for attachment of unemployment compensation.*

active in 1985 in their efforts to keep abreast of changes in domestic relations issues. They attended numerous conferences, training courses, seminars and workshops to improve their skills and to keep current on legal and social aspects having an impact on the branch.



*Sharon Dashields, Supervisor, Pre-Trial Unit II and Gail Conner, Clerical Supervisor meet with staff to review current procedures.*

The year 1985, was very productive for the Domestic Relations Branch, especially in the collection of support monies.

The statistics following this section reflect some of these accomplishments.

TABLE 1

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES: 1985

Petitions filed <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	37,671
Cases disposed <sup>1</sup> :	
Through court hearing . . . . .	10,890
Without court hearing . . . . .	16,871
Pre-trial units . . . . .	7,380
Custody unit . . . . .	1,110
Master's unit . . . . .	3,059
Enforcement units . . . . .	5,322
Total . . . . .	27,761
Other activities:	
Paternity blood studies . . . . .	1,477
New wage attachments . . . . .	10,564
Interviews and preliminary conferences . . . . .	37,255
Cases referred to Parent Locator unit . . . . .	6,516
Changes in beneficiary processed . . . . .	3,753
Court sessions . . . . .	1,254

<sup>1</sup> See page 12 statistics.

TYPE OF PETITION FILED: 1981 TO 1985

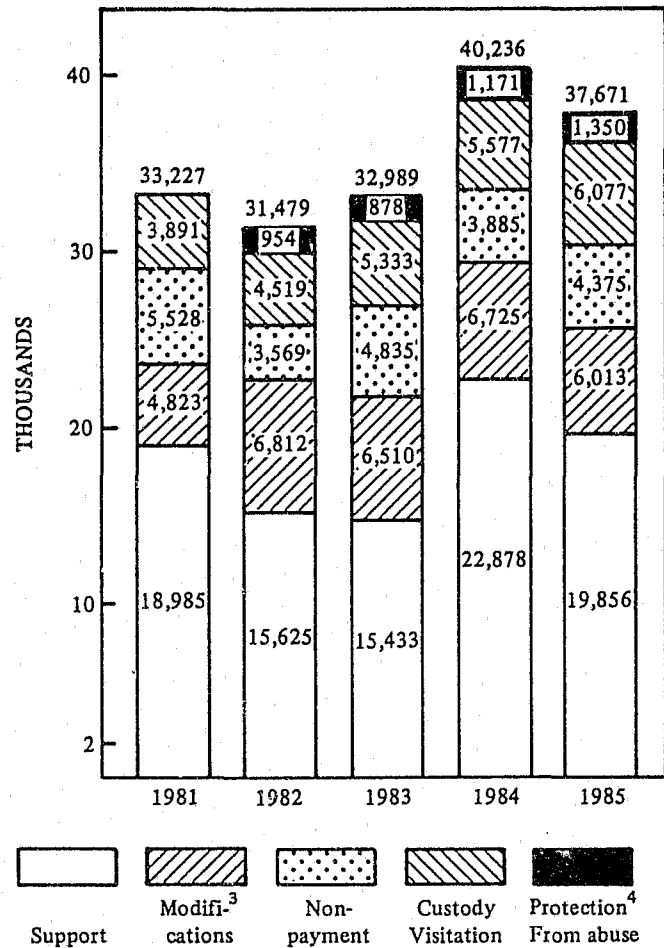


TABLE 2

## TYPE OF PETITION FILED: 1985

Support . . . . .	19,856 <sup>2</sup>
Non-paternity cases . . . . .	6,528
Paternity cases . . . . .	13,328
Modification of support orders . . . . .	6,013
Non-payment of support orders . . . . .	4,375
Child custody, partial custody, visitation rights . . . . .	6,077
Protection from abuse . . . . .	1,350
Total . . . . .	37,671

<sup>2</sup> Of this number, 15,311 were local petitions while 4,545 were petitions from other States or other Pennsylvania counties. Of the latter group, Philadelphia was the initiator in 2,730 petitions.

TABLE 3

## CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE OF HEARING: 1985

	Total	Court hearing	Without Court hearing
Support	8,052	2,250	5,802
Modifications <sup>3</sup>	7,895	819	7,076
Non-payment of order	6,570	4,031	2,539
Child custody or visitation	3,794	2,340	1,454
Protection from abuse	1,450	1,450	—
Total	27,671	10,890	16,871

<sup>3</sup> Support orders only.<sup>4</sup> Not available for 1981.

# CASES DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985

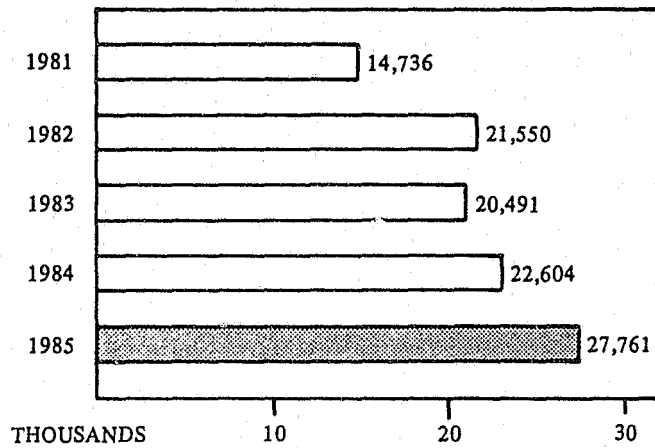


TABLE 4

## PATERNITY ESTABLISHED: 1985

Preliminary conference . . . . .	5,306
Court hearing . . . . .	668
Total . . . . .	5,974

TABLE 5

## SUPPORT ORDERS: 1985

New orders made . . . . .	6,387
Orders vacated . . . . .	8,667
Orders changed . . . . .	6,125

TABLE 6

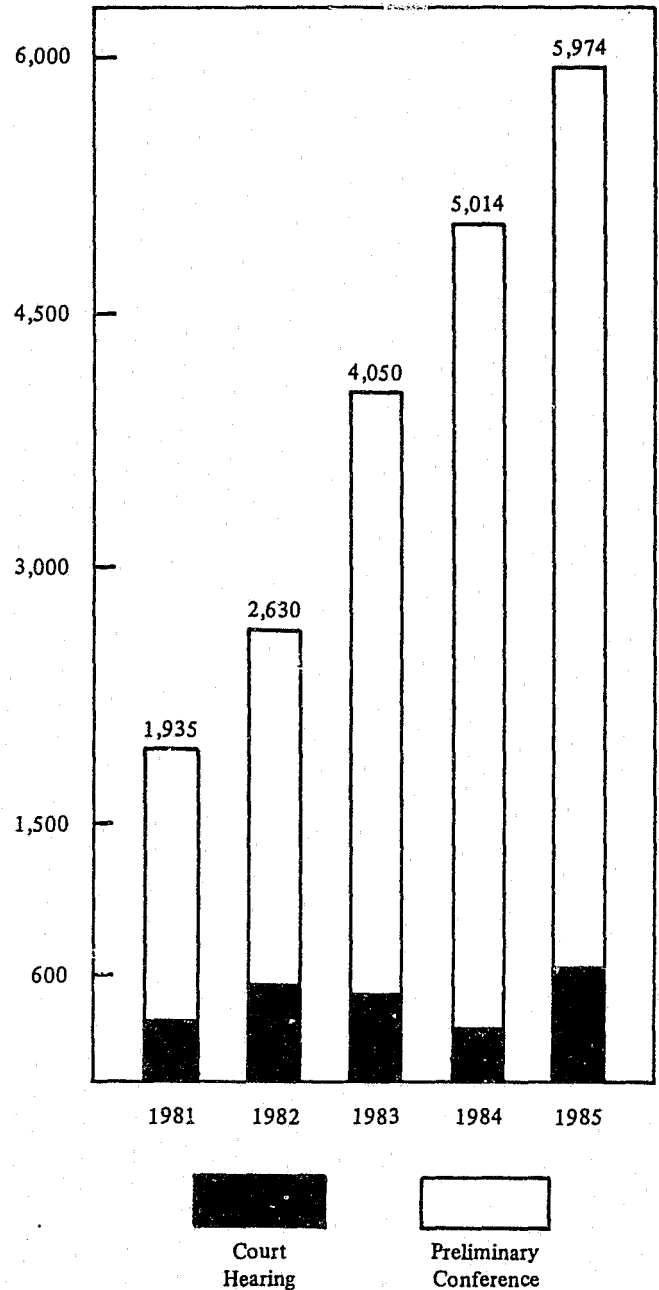
## PAYMENTS RECEIVED ON SUPPORT ORDERS: 1981 TO 1985

	Total	AFDC <sup>1</sup>	Non-AFDC
1981	\$35,371,503	8,976,002	26,395,501
1982	\$41,669,534	11,488,015	30,181,519
1983	\$44,030,611	11,857,606	32,173,005
1984	\$52,779,409	16,517,356	36,262,053
1985	\$57,892,635	17,643,988 <sup>2</sup>	40,248,647

<sup>1</sup> Aid for Dependent Children.

<sup>2</sup> Over \$4 million of this amount was collected through the Federal Income Tax Refund Intercept Program.

# PATERNITY ESTABLISHED: 1981 TO 1985



# Divorce Proceedings





## DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

Family Court has jurisdiction in all matters relating to divorce and annulment. Procedures in divorce and annulment actions are governed by the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 1920.1 to 1920.92 inclusive. These State-wide rules have been implemented by local rules thereby providing the bench and bar with an integrated source for rules governing divorce and annulment.

A divorce proceeding is often emotionally unsettling for the parties involved due to the nature of the action and the variety of issues to be determined. Issues of support for spouses and children, division of marital property, and custody of minor children of the marriage are all matters to be decided in divorce actions.

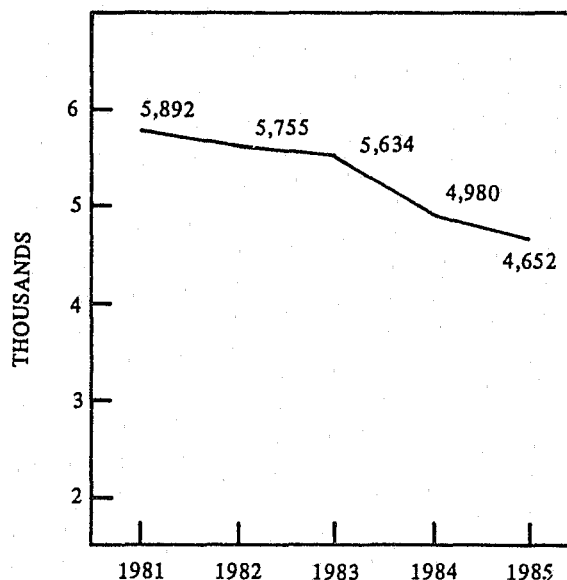
Until the enactment of the Divorce Code in July, 1980 (the first major reform in over 50 years), divorce proceedings required a plaintiff to bring a specific charge against the spouse, i.e. indignities, desertion, etc. In addition, other issues dealing with support, custody, etc. were usually considered as separate actions requiring additional input of time by the Court and the parties involved in the divorce action. This system was complicated and expensive for the parties adding additional pressures to an already tense situation.

The Divorce Code of 1980 addressed some of these problems. It added no fault grounds, and allowed for alimony and the equitable distribution of marital property.

While the Divorce Code still permits the filing of a specific charge in a divorce action, it also allows the parties in a divorce action (under Sections 201c and 201d) to proceed to finality without the intervention of a Master when both parties agree the marriage is irretrievably broken. In addition, Administrative Regulation 84-1 effective November, 1984 allows for a written agreement between the parties, addressing matters related to the divorce to be incorporated into the final decree.

With the enactment of the Divorce Code in 1980, there were predictions of massive increases in the divorce rate. As yet, these forecasts have not materialized. In fact, since the inception of the Divorce Code, there has been a decreasing trend in divorce proceedings initiated and granted with a marked decrease in 1984.<sup>1</sup>

## DIVORCES GRANTED IN PHILADELPHIA: 1981 TO 1985



## SUMMARY

In 1985, 5,760 divorce proceedings were initiated in Family Court. In addition, 2,458 motions and rules were filed requesting a court order or direction on a specific matter relating to the divorce action. Exceptions to the Master's report were filed in 43 cases. These actions signify disagreement with the Master's findings by one or both parties in a divorce action. The total number of divorces granted in 1985 was 4,652 a decrease of 6 percent from 1984.

Ninety-nine percent of the divorce cases in 1985 cited irretrievable breakdown as the reason for the divorce. As in previous years, the wife is most often the plaintiff (57 percent) in divorce actions.

The average marriage had lasted 14 years at the time the divorce was granted. More than half of the couples obtaining a divorce in 1985 (59 percent) were married for 10 years or more. Twenty-five percent of the marriages lasted 20 years or more. In 17 cases the marriages lasted one year or less while in 99 cases the couples had been married for more than 39 years.

Twice the number of wives (36 percent) as husbands (18 percent) were married before age 21. The median age of husbands divorced in 1985 was 35.8, for wives, 35.6. Thirteen percent of wives and 14 percent of husbands had

<sup>1</sup>See graph on divorce proceedings started and granted, page 65

previous marriages. During 1985 the highest number of divorces occurred in the 30-34 age group for wives and the 35-39 age group for husbands.

There were no children in 38 percent of the divorces in 1985 but a total of 5,957 children were involved in the balance of the divorces granted. Of the total number of

divorcing couples with children, 39 percent had 1 child; 35 percent, 2 children; 15 percent, 3 children; and 11 percent had 4 or more children. The majority of children (3,889) were under 18 years of age at the time the divorce was granted. Twenty-six percent of this latter group were the "only child", while 14 percent came from families with 4 or more children.

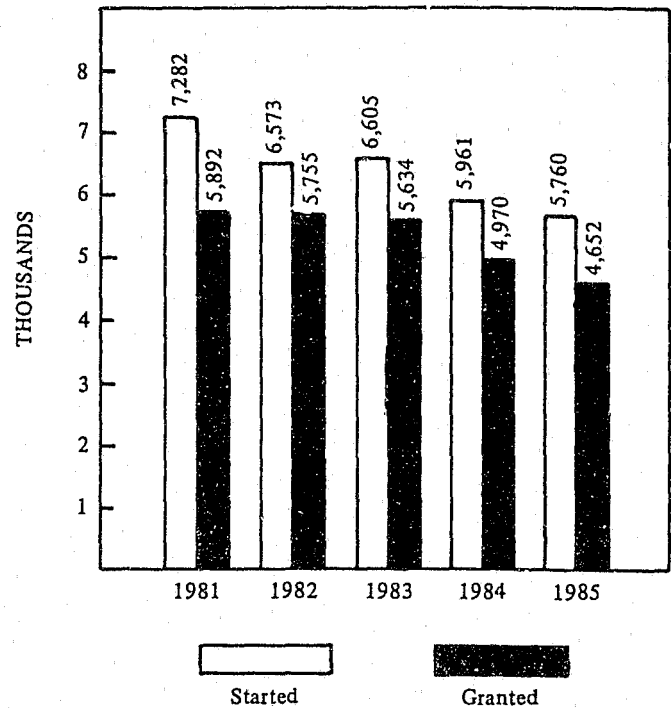
TABLE 1

DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS<sup>1</sup>: 1985

Divorce proceedings started . . . . .	5,760
Divorces granted . . . . .	4,652
Motions and rules filed . . . . .	2,458
Motions and rules disposed . . . . .	1,483
Exceptions to master's report filed . . . . .	43
Exceptions to master's report disposed . . . . .	18
Court sessions . . . . .	57

<sup>1</sup>Includes annulments.

## DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS STARTED AND GRANTED: 1981 TO 1985



## PERCENT DISTRIBUTION-LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE: 1981 TO 1985

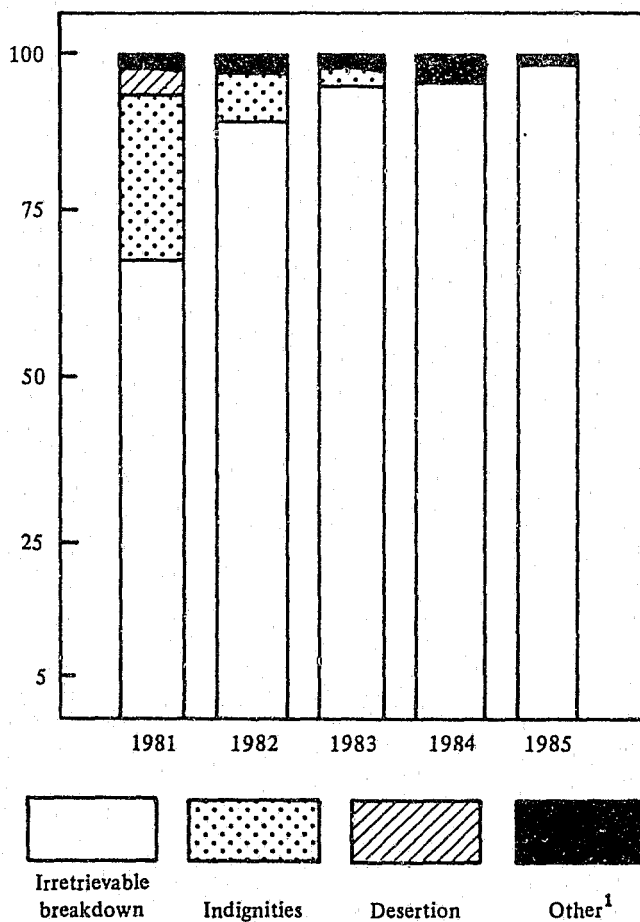
<sup>1</sup>Grounds of desertion and indignities are included for the years 1984-1985.

TABLE 2

## DIVORCES GRANTED BY LEGAL GROUNDS: 1985

Legal grounds for decree	Divorces granted	Plaintiff	
		Husband	Wife
Irretrievable breakdown	4,589	1,998	2,591
Indignities	55	15	40
Desertion	3	1	2
Indignities and cruelty	4	—	4
Other	1	1	—
Total	4,652	2,015	2,637

TABLE 3

CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCES GRANTED:  
1985

Divorces granted	Number of Children in family	All children	Children under 18
1,776	0	—	—
1,124	1	1,124	1,001
1,004	2	2,008	1,596
420	3	1,260	761
183	4	732	309
145	5 or more	833	222
Total	4,652	5,957	3,889

PLAINTIFF IN DIVORCES GRANTED: 1985

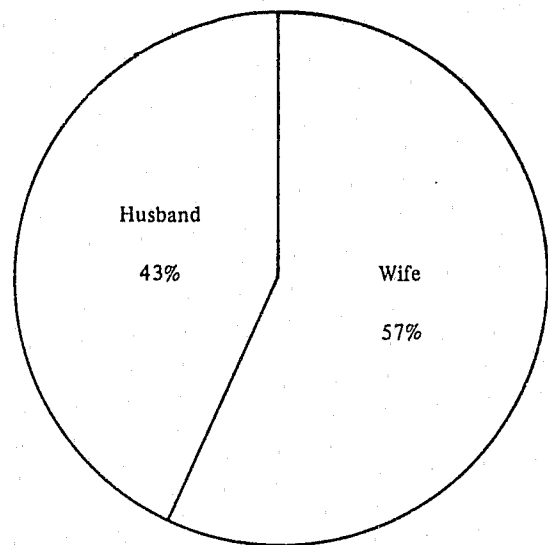
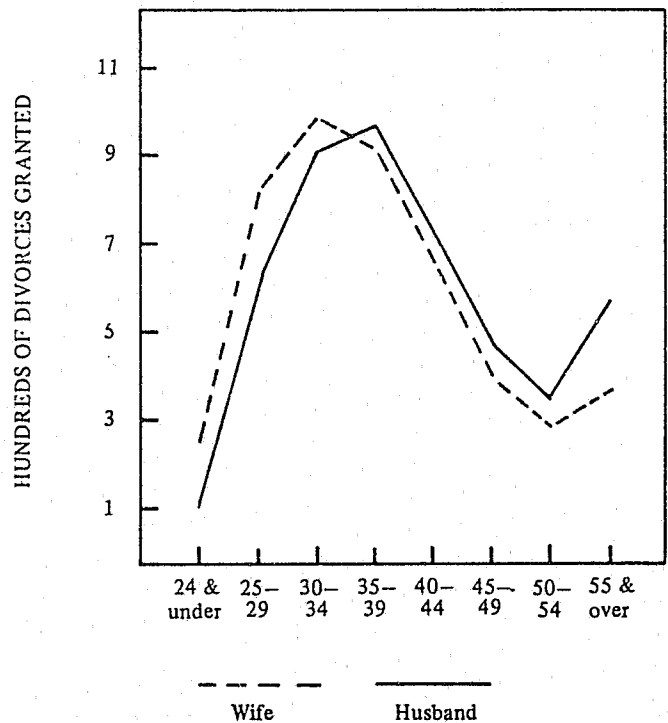


TABLE 4

DIVORCES GRANTED BY DURATION  
OF MARRIAGE: 1985

Duration of marriage	Divorces granted
1 year . . . . .	17
2 years . . . . .	117
3 years . . . . .	262
4 years . . . . .	234
5 years . . . . .	240
6 years . . . . .	278
7 years . . . . .	265
8 years . . . . .	227
9 years . . . . .	214
10 years . . . . .	197
11 years . . . . .	195
12 years . . . . .	183
13 years . . . . .	186
14 years . . . . .	166
15 years . . . . .	151
16 years . . . . .	147
17 years . . . . .	152
18 years . . . . .	136
19 years . . . . .	100
20-24 years . . . . .	471
25-29 years . . . . .	261
30-34 years . . . . .	212
35-39 years . . . . .	111
Over 39 years . . . . .	99
Not reported . . . . .	31
Total . . . . .	4,652

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DIVORCE: 1985



# Adoption Branch



## ADOPTION BRANCH

The Adoption Act effected on January 1, 1981<sup>1</sup> provided for the following: the adoption of individuals; the termination of certain parent-child relationships; and the recording of foreign decrees of adoption. It also included provisions for adoption procedures, decrees, records and related matters.

Under the law, any individual may be adopted and any person may become an adopting parent with the approval of the Court when in the best interest of the child.

The Adoption Branch of Family Court is responsible for investigating and processing all matters relating to termination of parental rights and adoption.

There are two types of adoption cases: Kinship and No Kinship. The Kinship cases are those matters where the petitioner(s) are related to the adoptee. No relationship exists between the petitioner(s) and the adoptee in No Kinship cases. These placements are effectuated through the auspices of an agency or by a private attorney (Independent). Adoption proceedings vary somewhat depending on the type of case and the relationship of the adoptee to the petitioner(s);

Petitions for termination of parental rights require a court hearing before a Judge. These petitions are granted only when the statutory requirements have been met. See chart in next column for conditions and requirements which must be met.

A report of intention to adopt must be filed with the Court in all adoptions where the child is not related by blood or marriage to the person having custody or control. The Court must make a complete investigation regarding the health, social and economic status of the adopting parent(s). No report is required when the child is related by blood or marriage to the adopting parent(s).

Since adoption is a statutory proceeding, the following are other mandates which are required by law.

1. The court shall appoint counsel or a guardian ad litem for a child who has not reached 18 years whenever it is in the best interest of the child. No attorney or law firm shall represent both the child and the adopting parent(s).
2. If the adoptee is over twelve years of age, his/her consent to the adoption must be obtained.

<sup>1</sup> Repealed the Adoption Act of July 1970.

Petition	Party Filing Petition	Conditions for Termination
Voluntary Relinquishment	a. Natural Parents	a. Consent of agency b. Consent of natural parent c. Court appearance by consenting parent
Involuntary Termination	a. Natural parent; When termination is sought with respect to other parent b. Agency; When custody of child has been given to agency c. Individual having custody of child	Parental rights may be terminated on any of the following grounds: a. Failure or refusal to perform parental duties for a period of six months. b. Parents whereabouts unknown and child is not claimed for a period of 3 months. c. Continued incapacity, abuse or neglect has caused the child to be without essential parental care, control or subsistence. d. The parent is the presumptive but not the natural father of the child. e. The child was removed from the parent by the Court or by a voluntary placement for a period of six months and the parent cannot or will not remedy the conditions which led to the removal or placement of the child.
Petition to Confirm Consent	a. Intermediary b. In cases where there is no intermediary, the adoptive parent(s) may file the Petition.	If parent or parents of the child have executed consents to an adoption but have failed for a period of 40 days after executing the consent to file or proceed with the Petition for Voluntary Relinquishment, the intermediary may petition the Court to hold a hearing for the purpose of confirming the intention of the parent(s) to voluntarily relinquish their rights and duties as evidenced by the consent(s) to the adoption.

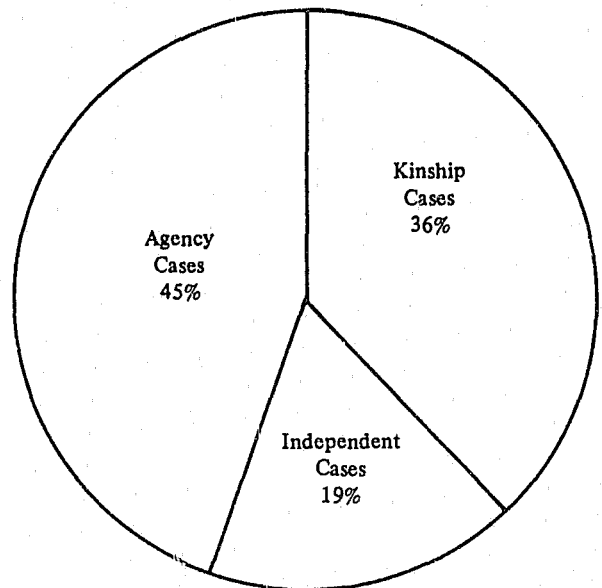
3. A decree of adoption is not granted until the adoptee has been in the custody of the petitioner(s) for at least six months. This is not required when the adoptee is over 18 years of age or related to the petitioner(s) by blood or marriage.
4. All court hearings are conducted in private.
5. All records relating to an adoption proceedings are kept in strict confidence and may be inspected only through a court order.

## SUMMARY

The total number of petitions filed in 1985 decreased 8 percent from 1984. Petitions for voluntary relinquishment rose slightly, 4 percent, while petitions for adoption and involuntary termination decreased.

The adoption of 492 individuals was approved by the Court in 1985, 469 children and 23 adults. Most of the adoptees had been born out of wedlock (66 percent). Children were placed for adoption by the natural parent(s) in 53 percent of the cases with an additional 30 percent placed by an agency or an intermediary. In the balance of cases (17 percent), the child was placed by other relatives or the Department of Human Services. Of the total adoptees, 45 percent were 5 years of age or under with 7 percent being under one year of age. The median age for adoptees born during wedlock was 9.8 years; for those born out of wedlock, 3.7 years. Almost half of the adoptees (49 percent) were in custody of the petitioner(s) for one year or less. The adoptee and the petitioner(s) were not related in most cases (76 percent) while 16 percent of the adoptees

SOURCE OF PETITIONS: 1985



were adopted by step-parents. The balance of adoptions (8 percent) involved other relatives such as grandparents.

Single petitioners accounted for 9 percent of all adoptions in 1985, with women being the predominant petitioner in these cases.

The majority of adopting parents were between the ages of 25 and 39 with the median age for women at 35, for men, 36.5 years.

The income of the adopting parents appears advantageous for the adoptee. Of the total petitioners, 74 percent had annual incomes of \$20,000 or more with 29 percent having incomes of \$40,000 or more.

TABLE 1

## TOTAL ACTIVITY: 1985

Petitions filed . . . . .	911
Reports of intention to adopt filed . . . . .	212
Petitions disposed . . . . .	980
Total adoptees . . . . .	492
Court sessions . . . . .	92

TABLE 2

## TYPE OF PETITION BY SOURCE

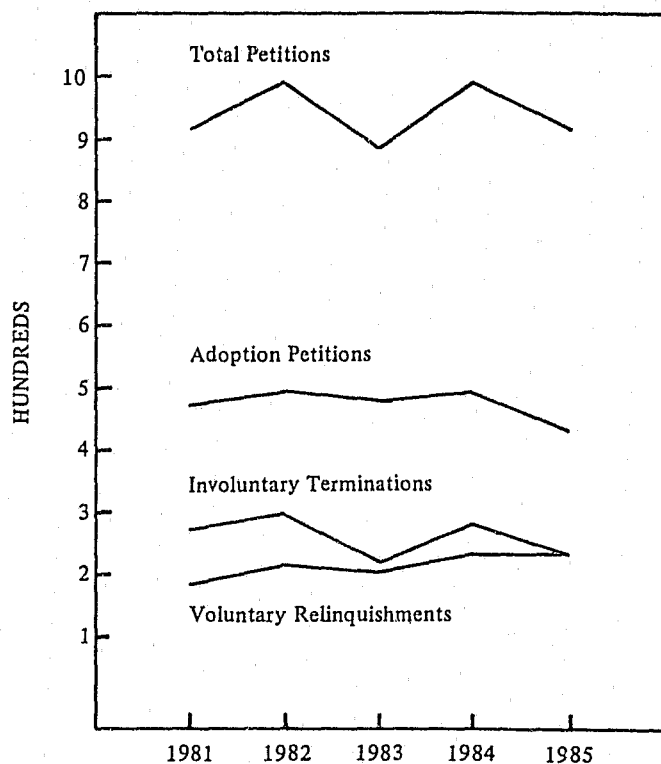
Type of Petition	Total	Source		
		Agency	Independent	Kinship
Adoption	427	141	80	206
Voluntary relinquishment	242	166	64	12
Involuntary termination	242	105	30	107
Total	911	412	174	325

TABLE 3

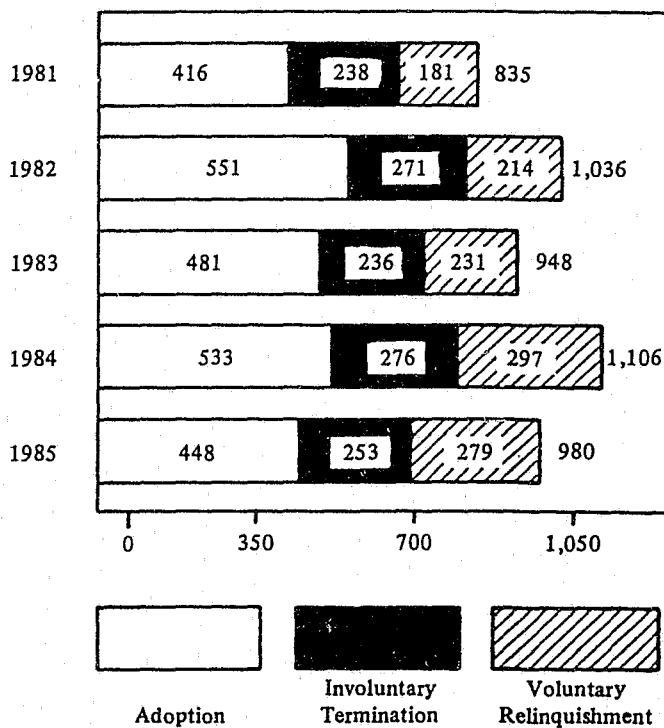
## PETITIONS DISPOSED: 1985

Adoption:	
Granted . . . . .	430
Withdrawn . . . . .	18
Voluntary Relinquishment:	
Granted . . . . .	194
Withdrawn . . . . .	59
Involuntary Termination:	
Granted . . . . .	265
Withdrawn . . . . .	14
Total . . . . .	980

## PETITIONS FILED: 1981 TO 1985



## PETITIONS DISPOSED: 1981 TO 1985



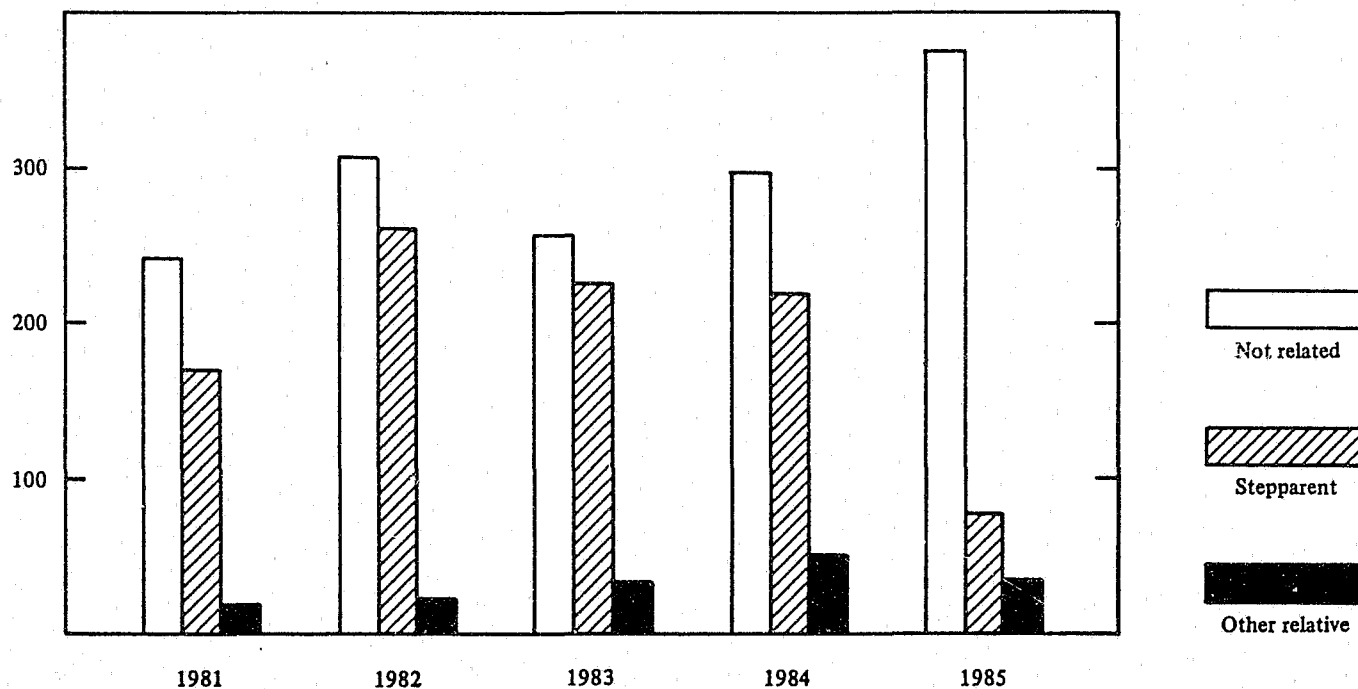


**TABLE 4**  
**CHARACTERISTICS OF ADOPTEEES AND PETITIONERS: 1985**

Adoptees: 492		Petitioners	
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Birth status:</b>	<b>Marital status:</b>	
Under 1 year. . . . . 32	Born during wedlock . . . . 165	Married. . . . . 446	
1-5 years . . . . . 189	Born out of wedlock . . . . 327	Single. . . . . 46	
6-9 years . . . . . 115			
10-17 years. . . . . 133			
18 and over . . . . . 23			
<b>Sex:</b>	<b>Adoptee placed by:</b>	<b>Age:</b>	
Male . . . . . 247	Natural parent(s) . . . . . 263		
Female . . . . . 245	Agency . . . . . 64		
	Intermediary. . . . . 84		
	DHS <sup>1</sup> . . . . . 71		
	Other . . . . . 10		
<b>Duration of custody:</b>	<b>Relationship petitioner to adoptee:</b>		
Under 1 year. . . . . 63	Not related. . . . . 375		
1-4 years . . . . . 324	Stepparent . . . . . 78		
5-9 years . . . . . 73	Other relative . . . . . 39		
10 years and over . . . . . 32			
		<b>Income:</b>	
		Under \$5,000 . . . . . 5	
		5,000-14,999 . . . . . 46	
		15,000-24,999 . . . . . 135	
		25,000-39,999 . . . . . 150	
		40,000-49,999 . . . . . 52	
		50,000 and over. . . . . 89	
		Not reported. . . . . 15	

<sup>1</sup> Department of Human Services.

**RELATIONSHIP OF PETITIONER TO ADOPTEE: 1981 TO 1985**



# Medical Branch



## MEDICAL BRANCH

The Medical Branch is an integral part of Family Court and has been in the forefront of activities since the Court's establishment in 1913.

Contributing more than seventy years of service, this branch has experienced tremendous changes as a result of medical advances and the growing awareness of good mental and physical health. Together with the increased availability of medical facilities, such as clinics and mental health centers in the community, as well as changes in court functions, laws and social mores, the types of cases referred to this branch and the services provided have varied over the years.

While there have been changes in the work of the branch throughout the years, the basic functions have remained the same. These functions are to examine, diagnose and recommend treatment for clients referred by other branches of the Court, or ordered by the judiciary.

The Medical Branch has a highly professional staff of physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, mental health workers and registered nurses to perform these services.

Among the duties performed are: physical examinations; psychiatric and psychological evaluations and studies; counseling of individuals and families; processing of involuntary mental health commitments of juveniles for evaluation and treatment; emergency treatment of clients and employees; and notifying clients of medical problems requiring treatment or care. In addition, the branch makes



*Administrative Judge, Nicholas A. Cipriani (extreme left) greets participants in seminar on Learning Disabilities. Other Family Court participants were Dr. C. W. Orchinik (fourth from right), Judge Jerome A. O'Neill (third from right) and Judge Harvey N. Schmidt (second from right).*

referrals to hospitals, clinics and mental health facilities and maintains follow-up on the client's progress. A group treatment program for delinquent juveniles (Correctional Group Counseling) is conducted by specially trained probation officers under the supervision of the Chief Psychologist.

The importance of diagnosing and assuring treatment of physical, mental or emotional deficiencies of clients referred to the Medical Branch cannot be stressed enough. The professional findings are an important aid to the judiciary in making decisions on cases before them.

As noted previously, changes abound in the field of mental and physical health. The staff strives to keep abreast of relevant issues in the field. One such endeavor was undertaken in November 1985. Through the efforts of Dr. C. Orchinik, the Clinical Services Unit and Staff, an all day Institute on Learning Disabilities was held at Family Court. This Regional Conference, co-sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, brought together the Judiciary and staff of Family Court, as well as those from nearby counties, with leading educators, specialists, and other policy makers and administrators of schools, correctional institutions, and social and mental health agencies.

For years, the Court has provided a unique service for its clients — a facility for infants and children while their parents appear in court. Actually, Family Court has two such facilities — one at 1801 Vine Street and a second, established in 1983, at 1600 Walnut Street to service parents who must appear there. In addition, the facility at



*Dr. Elena P. Bruno examines employee Shirley Kletter. The Medical Unit conducted over 1,700 examinations and/or treatments during 1985.*



*Joyce Gary is shown with John J. Fitzgerald, Branch Chief, Medical Branch, after receiving one of the employee of the year awards for the Medical Branch. Shown in the background are (left to right) Judges Nicholas A. Cipriani, Edward J. Bradley and Harry A. Takiff.*

1801 Vine Street is open on Sunday for court ordered visitations.

In an effort to make visitations more pleasant for child(ren) and parent(s), the facility was redecorated. In addition, a member of the supervisory staff is on hand to oversee the visits and to handle complaints and/or suggestions from clients utilizing this service.

The Medical Branch has indeed been an essential part of the Court. It has contributed much in the past and will continue in the future to provide a vital service to the Court.

## SUMMARY

In 1985, nearly 5,000 examinations were performed by the Medical Branch staff. These included: 1,777 physical, 1,851 psychiatric and 1,347 psychological examinations.

The two child care facilities cared for more than 13,000 children while their parents transacted business in the Court. In addition, more than 2,500 children were brought to 1801 Vine Street for Sunday visitation.

In the Clinical Services Unit, nearly 600 cases were processed through interviews, treatments or referrals to outside agencies.

The Medical Branch staff was called upon to handle close to 1,000 emergency matters pertaining to clients and employees.

The Correctional Group Counseling Program, a group therapy program for juvenile delinquents, had 213 juveniles referred to it in 1985.

There were 368 mental health commitments for evaluation or long term treatment, as well as 1,192 pre-commitment investigations and/or follow-ups dealing with requests for commitments or review of commitments.

**TABLE 1**  
**TOTAL ACTIVITY: 1985**

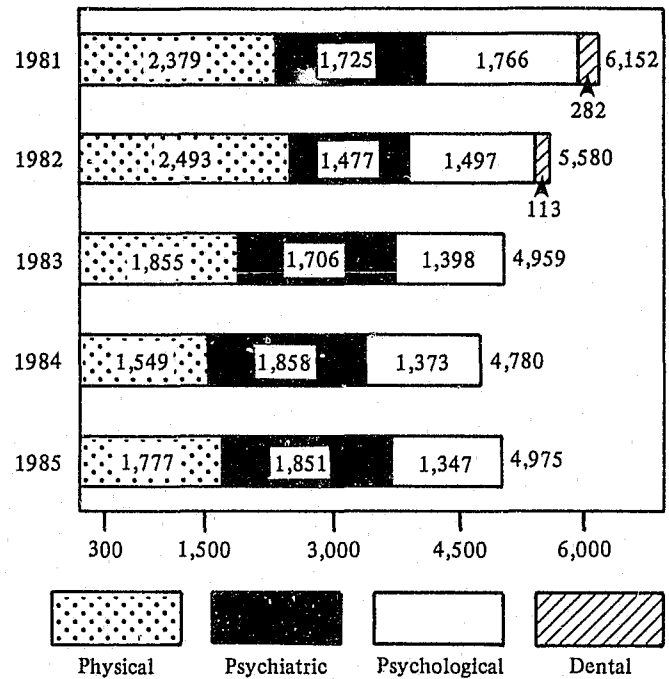
Physical examinations . . . . .	1,777
Psychiatric examinations . . . . .	1,851
Psychological examinations . . . . .	1,347
Total . . . . .	4,975
Pre-commitment investigations . . . . .	1,192
Commitments under Mental Health Act . . . . .	368
New cases enrolled in Correctional Group Counseling . . . . .	213
New cases under supervision:	
Physical . . . . .	535
Clinical services . . . . .	354
Total . . . . .	889
Children cared for in nursery . . . . .	13,480

**TABLE 2**

**TYPE OF EXAMINATION BY BRANCH: 1985**

	Total	Psychiatric	Psychological	Physical
Juvenile branch	2,500	1,289	1,193	18
Domestic relations branch	1,300	562	154	584
Employees	203	—	—	203
Emergency and first aid treatments	972	—	—	972
Total	4,975	1,851	1,347	1,777

**EXAMINATIONS<sup>1</sup> COMPLETED: 1981 TO 1985**



<sup>1</sup>Dental Unit phased out in December, 1982.

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL EXAMINATIONS BY SOURCE OF REFERRAL: 1985**

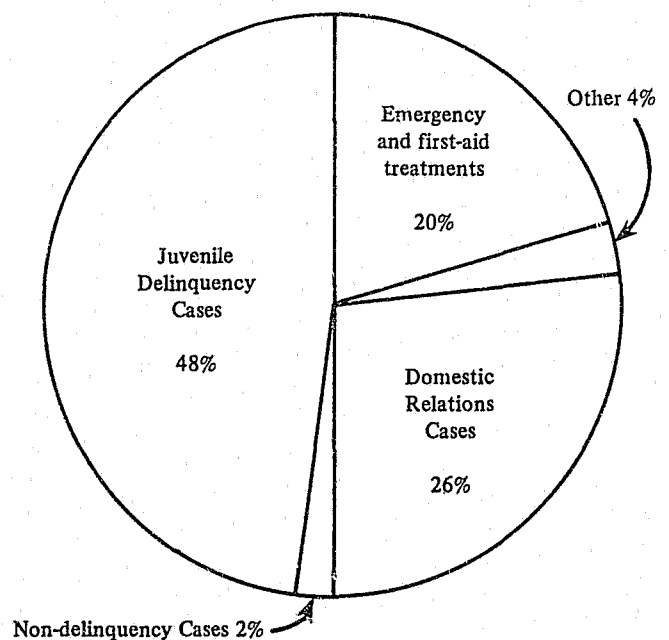


TABLE 3

## PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS: 1985

Diagnoses	Total	Juveniles		Adults
		Delinquent	Non-Delinquent	
Superior	59	22	30	7
Bright normal	57	31	22	4
Normal	429	347	65	17
Dull normal	391	365	23	3
Borderline retardation	339	328	10	1
Mild retardation	71	66	5	—
Other	1	1	—	—
Total	1,347	1,160	155	32

TABLE 4

## PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS: 1985

	Total	Juveniles		Adults
		Delinquent	Non-Delinquent	
Normal intelligence	27	9	4	14
Subnormal intelligence	11	6	—	5
Mental retardation	8	5	—	3
Schizophrenia	20	6	1	13
Other psychoses	1	1	—	—
Neuroses	24	6	—	18
Personality disorders	154	126	3	25
Alcoholism	7	—	—	7
Drug dependence	64	49	—	15
Adjustment reaction of adolescence	552	522	22	8
Adjustment reaction of childhood	22	4	18	—
Unsocialized aggressive reaction	150	148	1	1
Group delinquent reaction	112	111	1	—
Social maladjustment	40	—	—	40
No mental disorder	568	243	33	292
Other diagnoses	91	10	—	81
Total	1,851	1,246	83	522

TABLE 5

## CLINICAL SERVICES UNIT ACTIVITIES: 1985

Clinical services probation . . . . .	488
Domestic relation cases . . . . .	86
Total . . . . .	574
Cases requiring individual follow-up . . . . .	260
Cases referred to outside agencies . . . . .	8
Correctional group counseling:	
New cases . . . . .	213
Carry over from previous year . . . . .	373
Total . . . . .	586

## CHILDREN CARED FOR IN NURSERY: 1982 TO 1985

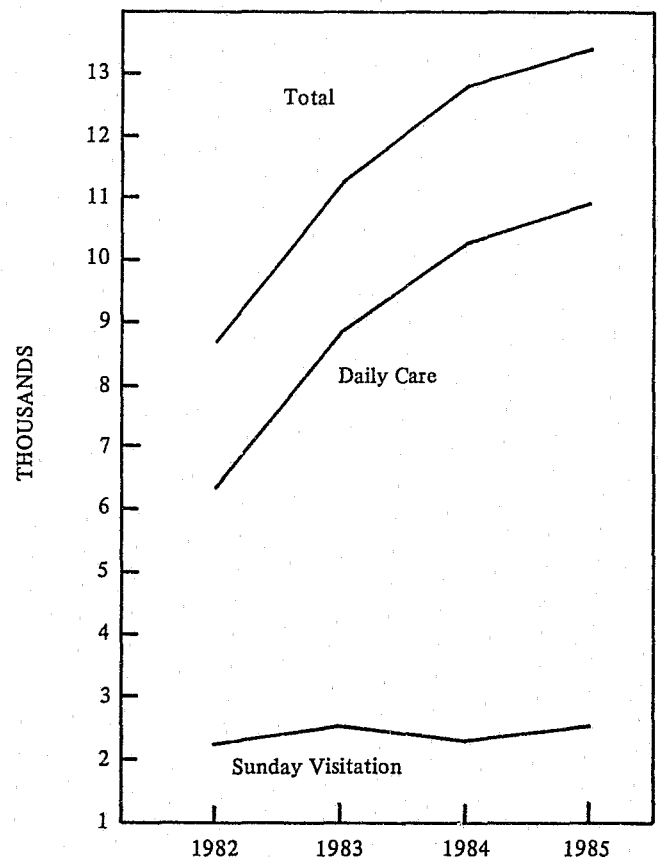
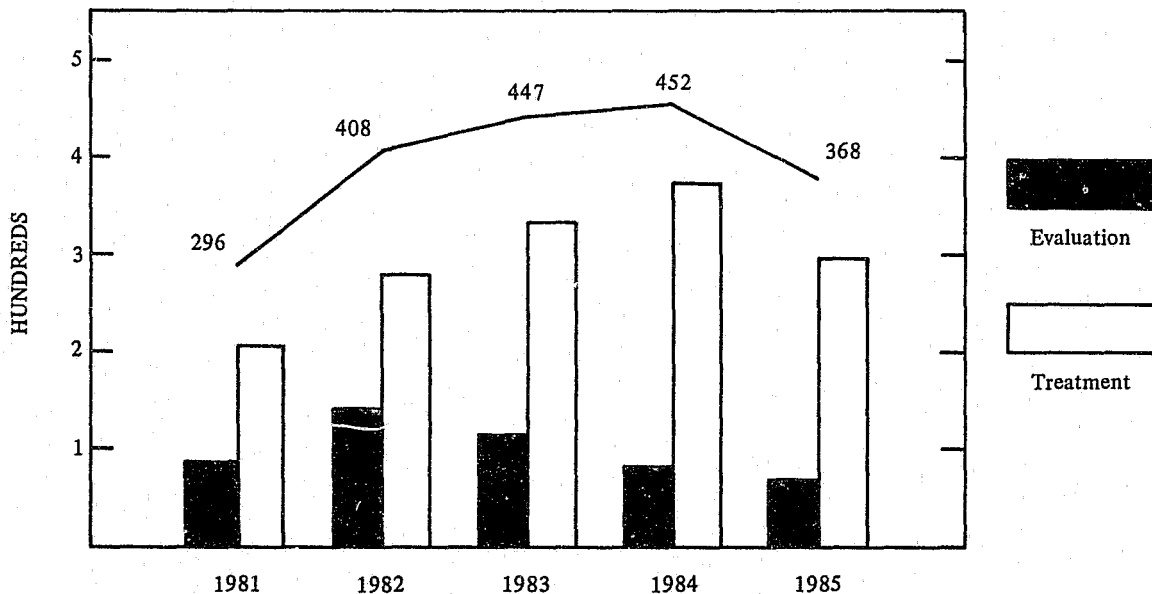


TABLE 6

## COMMITMENTS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH ACT: 1985

Admitting Centers or Institutions	Evaluation	Treatment
Benjamin Rush . . . . .	—	3
Catch (formerly Jefferson) . . . . .	3	—
Catchment Area No. 4 CMHS . . . . .	3	10
Charles R. Drew CMHS . . . . .	4	4
COMHAR, Inc. . . . .	17	13
Eastern State School and Hospital . . . . .	—	175
Hahnemann Hospital . . . . .	7	—
Hahnemann CMHC . . . . .	—	10
Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital . . . . .	—	7
Jefferson Hospital . . . . .	2	—
Norristown State Hospital . . . . .	—	12
Northeast CMHC . . . . .	6	5
Northwestern CMHC . . . . .	1	—
Northwestern Institute of Psychiatry . . . . .	—	5
Path CMHC . . . . .	5	2
Pennsylvania Hospital . . . . .	8	4
Philadelphia Child Guidance . . . . .	—	5
Philadelphia State Hospital . . . . .	—	18
Philadelphia Psychiatric Center . . . . .	—	2
West Philadelphia Consortium . . . . .	6	2
Woodhaven Center . . . . .	—	9
Other . . . . .	6	14
Total . . . . .	68	300

## COMMITMENTS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH ACT: 1981 TO 1985



# Glossary





## GLOSSARY

**AFDC** — Aid to families with dependent children.

**AFTERCARE** — a supervised and or treatment program for delinquent juveniles released from commitment.

**AGREEMENT** — mutual consent by both parties with respect to support or custody/visitation matters. The agreement is put in writing and becomes an enforceable order when given judicial approval.

**ARREST** — taking physical custody of a juvenile, by a legal authority, to answer a complaint regarding a delinquent act.

**CASE** —

**ADULT** — includes cases involving adults charged with endangering the welfare of a child, corrupting the morals of a child, or committing a crime against a child.

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS** — case involving financial support of children and spouses; custody/visitation matters; establishment of paternity; and protection from abuse within the family.

**JUVENILE** — cases involving children alleged to be delinquent or dependent.

**CHILD** — an individual under the age of 18 years, or under the age of 21 years who committed a delinquent act before reaching the age of 18 years; or who was adjudicated dependent before reaching the age of 18 years and requests the Court to retain jurisdiction. In no event will this jurisdiction extend pass the age of 21 years.

**DELINQUENT CHILD** — a child ten years of age or older whom the Court has found to have committed a delinquent act and is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation.

**DEPENDENT CHILD** — a child under the age of 18 years found to be:

- a. without proper parental care, control, subsistence or education as required by law.
- b. ungovernable and in need of care, treatment or supervision.
- c. habitually truant from school.
- d. under the age of ten who has committed a delinquent act.

**COMMITMENT** — a child placed in the care of: Department of Human Services, private agency, institution or an individual, by order of the Court.

**CONSENT DECREE** — a court order placing the child under supervision for a period of six months with neither an adjudication of delinquency nor an admission of guilt.

**CUSTODIAN** — a person other than a parent or legal guardian, who stands in loco parentis to the child, or a person to whom legal custody of the child has been given by order of the Court.

**DELINQUENT ACT** — an act designated a crime under the laws of this State or another State if the act occurred in that State or under Federal law or local ordinances.

**DETENTION** — legal authorized confinement of a juvenile, subject to juvenile court proceedings, until committed to a correctional facility or released.

**DISPOSITION** — a final determination of a case.

**EXCEPTION** — a formal objection to the action of the Court during a hearing in which the party excepting seeks to reverse the Court's decision at a later proceeding.

**HEARING OFFICER** — a Court employee assigned to preside at domestic relations preliminary conference.

**HEARING** —

**ADJUDICATORY** — juvenile hearing to determine if child is either dependent or delinquent based on evidence presented at hearing.

**CERTIFICATION** — a hearing to determine if a juvenile should be tried as an adult in criminal court.

**DETENTION** — held within 72 hours of juvenile's detention. At this hearing a judicial determination is made as to the release or continued detention of the juvenile pending a further court hearing.

**PRE-TRIAL** — hearing held after intake interview at Youth Study Center, before a Judge, at which time it is determined if the case should be disposed of or scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

**REVIEW** — involves a case already under Court supervision which is returned to Court for review or amendment of the original disposition.

**INTAKE INTERVIEW** — an informal conference presided over by an intake interviewer authorized to screen all delinquent cases to determine if the Court has jurisdiction. If the case comes under the Court's jurisdiction, the interviewer hears the facts of the case and either disposes of the case or refers it to Court. Pending the court hearing, the child is either released to the parent(s), guardian or detained.

**INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION** — the termination of parental rights with respect to a child.

**IV D PROGRAM** — a federally funded program under the Social Security Act which provides incentives and reimbursement funds to local domestic relations offices for increased efforts in collecting AFDC and non-AFDC child support monies.

**MASTER** — (a) an attorney employed by the Court to hear cases involving financial support of families; or, (b) one who presides at review hearings involving delinquent or dependent children who have been committed or placed outside the home; (c) an attorney appointed by the Court to make recommendation with respect to issues in a divorce case.

**MOTION** — an oral or written request made to a court at any time before, during, or after court proceedings, asking the Court to make a specified finding, decision, or order.

**PETITION** — a written request made to the Court asking exercise of judicial powers of the Court in relation to a specific matter.

**PERMANENT HEARING OFFICER** — see Master (a).

**PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE** — a domestic relations proceeding, in which a hearing officer, acting as a mediator, attempts to effect an agreement between both parties concerning financial support of children and spouses and/or matters involving custody, visitation of mutual children.

**PROBATION** — the placing of a delinquent child under the supervision of the Court's probation staff.

**PROBATION OFFICER** — a Court employee responsible for the supervision of juvenile offenders placed on probation.

**PROTECTIVE CUSTODY** — an emergency measure taking physical custody of a child where there is reasonable cause to believe that the health or safety of the child is in imminent danger, or that the child may abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the Court.

**PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION** — supervision of dependent children by the Court's probation staff or the Department of Human Services.

**REFERRAL** —

**NEW** — family or individual's first time contact with Family Court.

**SOURCE** — person or agency formally bringing the case to the attention of the Court.

**REIMBURSEMENT ORDER** — an order of the Court directing parents to reimburse the County for care of a child committed or accepted into an agency or institution.

**RESTITUTION** — a court order directing a juvenile to reimburse his/her victim for any loss due to the juvenile's action.

**REVIEW HEARING** — see hearing.

**SUPPORT ORDER** — an order of the Court directing the defendant in a domestic relations case to pay a specified sum on a regular basis to a spouse and/or children.

**VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT** — a procedure whereby the natural parents of a child (under eighteen years) petition the Court to relinquish forever all parental rights and duties with respect to their child.