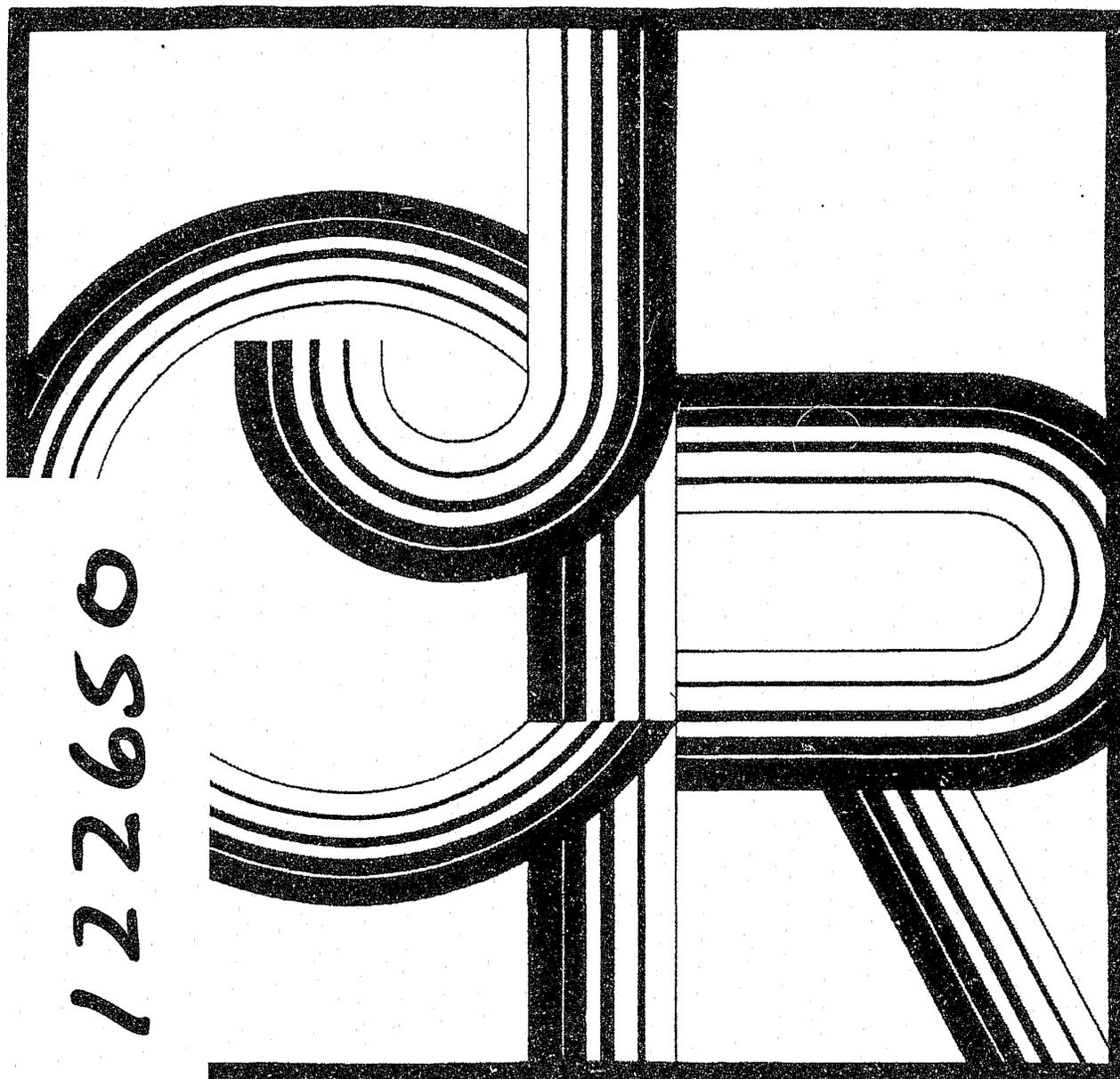




NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT 1988



Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

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1988 NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT



U.S. Department of Justice
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1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT SELECTED FINDINGS

- o 6,683 juvenile cases reached final disposition in Nebraska courts having juvenile jurisdiction in 1988, 151 cases fewer than in 1987.
- o Of all juvenile cases, 3,991 (59.7%) were referred for reasons classified as major offenses, 1,875 (28.1%) for minor or status offenses, and 817 (12.2%) for neglect and dependent reasons.
- o The most common reason for referral to juvenile court was for theft under \$100, involving about 1 in 6 referrals. Possession of Alcohol also accounted for 12.3% of all cases.
- o Juveniles referred for major and minor offenses were most likely to be placed on probation. Just over 40% of all referrals resulted in this disposition. 46.6% of the neglect/dependent cases were referred to a public agency or department and 20% to a private agency.
- o 15, 16, and 17 year-olds comprised the largest group of juvenile cases disposed of in 1988. More than twice as many male than female referrals were recorded.
- o About two-thirds (68.2%) of male referrals were for major offenses, while slightly more than one-third (41.6%) of female referrals were for major offenses.
- o The Separate Juvenile Courts in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties together processed 59% of all juvenile dispositions in 1988.

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INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Court Report presents data collected during calendar year 1988 through the Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR) Program concerning young people who were processed by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in the State of Nebraska. These include 90 county courts and the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties.

The JCR program was instituted in 1971 by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (hereafter referred to as the Commission). The program is based on the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Juvenile Court Statistics Series begun in 1927. In 1973 this program was assumed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice under a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The National Center compiles national statistics on juvenile delinquency using data from state reporting programs such as the one in Nebraska.

In Nebraska, the Commission uses data obtained through the JCR program as a basis for its function of juvenile justice planning. The program is also used as a source of information for agencies and individuals dealing with juvenile delinquency and related issues. Readers are reminded that upon request to the Commission, specific information collected in the program may be provided. While this report represents a large amount of data describing the characteristics of young persons who enter the Nebraska court system, interpretation of the information is beyond its scope.

The many county and juvenile court judges, clerks, probation staff, and other court personnel deserve recognition for their time and effort involved in collecting and reporting case information. Without their cooperation, this publication would not be possible.

JUVENILE COURT REPORTING PROGRAM

One of the primary purposes of this report is to provide information that accurately reflects the level of juvenile crime in the State of Nebraska. In this report, the particular indicator used is the flow of juveniles through the Nebraska juvenile court system (see Figure 1). The sources of the data are the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties and the county courts in the remaining 90 counties. Neither the district courts nor the municipal courts in Lincoln and Omaha report juvenile case data to the Commission. District court cases usually involve older juveniles appearing for serious offenses and the volume of such cases is small compared to the number of juvenile cases handled in juvenile and county courts. In addition, the Commission does not collect data on juvenile traffic offenses or citations.

The 93 courts report cases disposed of to the Commission monthly. For each individual juvenile case disposition, the court fills out a Juvenile Court Statistical Form as shown in Figure 2. The following sections of the form are required information on all cases: A. Court Code; E. Age at Time of Referral; M. Manner of Handling; N. Date of Disposition; and Q. Disposition. The remainder of the form is optional, however, the courts are encouraged to include as much information as they possibly can. In the tables contained in this report, references to missing data mean that not all counties completed the section(s) of the form being discussed.

A Juvenile Court Statistical Form Instruction Manual, which is intended to explain how to complete the form, is available to assist persons responsible for its completion. The instruction manual also provides definitions and other pertinent information on specifics on information which is collected.

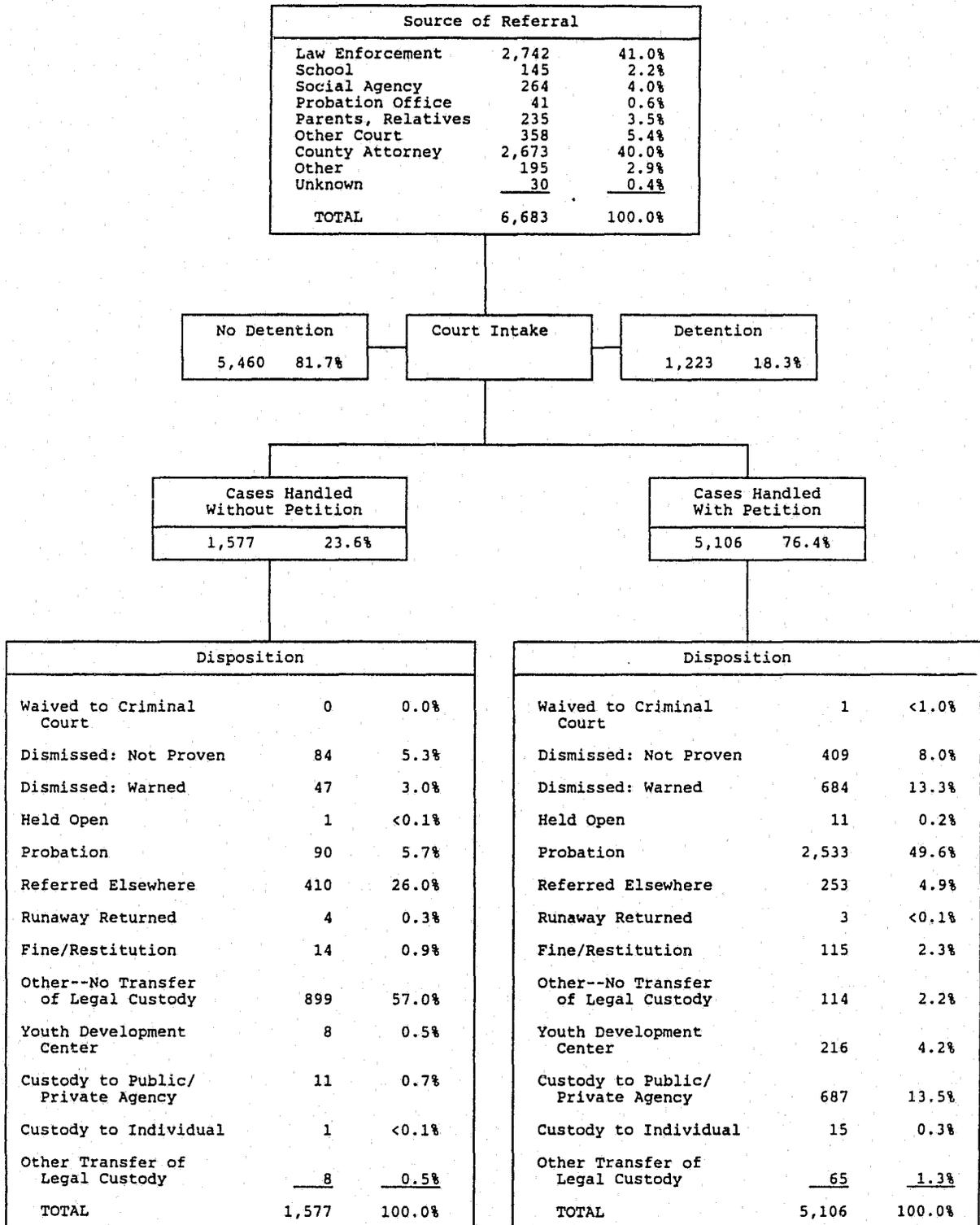
At this time, the Commission has juvenile court data from all counties from 1974 through 1988 and some partial data from 1973.

It is important to note that the information described in this report pertains to dispositions of juvenile cases by county and juvenile courts during calendar year 1988 and not to referrals during that period. Disposition is used in a very broad sense for purposes of most statistics in this report. Disposition refers to those cases filed with a petition as well as those filed without petition. Those wanting strictly disposition cases filed with petition may contact the Commission. The case may have been referred to the court during 1988 or previously. Thus, an accurate count of the number of referrals for a given period is not possible because a statistical form is not received until a final disposition in the case has been determined.

1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

JUVENILE COURT REPORTING PROGRAM FLOW DIAGRAM

FIGURE 1



Juvenile Court Statistical Form

77400

A. County _____
 Court Code _____
 B. Child's Number _____
 C. Census tract of residence (Douglas County only) _____

D. Date of birth _____
 E. Age at time of referral _____
 F. Sex 1 Male 2 Female _____
 G. Ethnic Group
 1 White
 2 Black
 3 Indian
 4 Mexican-American
 5 Oriental
 6 Other _____

H. Date of Referral _____
 I. Referred By
 1 Law enforcement agency
 2 School
 3 Social agency
 4 Probation officer
 5 Parents or relatives
 6 Other court
 7 County Attorney
 8 Other _____
 J. Prior court referrals
 This calendar year _____
 In prior years _____
 K. Care pending disposition
 0. No detention or shelter care overnight
 Detention or shelter care overnight or longer in:
 1. Jail or police station with separate facilities
 2. Jail or police station with no separate facilities
 3. Detention home
 4. Foster or group home
 5. Other _____

L. Reason Referred (Enter only one code)
 Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults (excluding traffic)
 01 Murder
 02 Manslaughter
 03 Assault; 1st & 2nd degree
 04 Assault; 3rd degree
 05 Sexual Assault; 1st degree
 06 Sexual Assault, 2nd degree
 07 Robbery
 08 Violation of Drug Laws; Felony
 09 Violation of Drug Laws; Misdemeanor
 10 Arson; Felony
 11 Arson; Misdemeanor
 12 Burglary
 13 Unauthorized Use of a Propelled Vehicle
 14 Theft; value over \$1,000
 15 Theft; value over \$300 but less than \$1,000
 16 Theft; value less than \$300
 17 Theft; value less than \$100
 18 Criminal Mischief; Felony
 19 Criminal Mischief; Misdemeanor
 20 Criminal Trespass
 21 Forgery; Felony
 22 Forgery; Misdemeanor
 23 Weapons Offenses; Felony
 24 Weapons Offenses; Misdemeanor
 25 Driving While Intoxicated; 3rd offense
 26 Disturbing the Peace
 27 Other Felony _____
 28 Other Misdemeanor _____
 Offenses applicable only to juveniles (excluding traffic)
 31. Running away
 32. Truancy
 33 Violation of curfew
 Nonoffenses
 51. Neglect
 34. Ungovernable behavior
 35. Possessing or drinking liquor
 39. Other _____
 52. Dependent

M. Manner of handling
 1 Without petition
 2 With petition _____
 N. Date of disposition _____
 O. Disposition (Enter only one code)
 00 Waived to criminal court;
 Complaint not substantiated
 01 Dismissed; Not proved or found not involved
 Complaint substantiated
 No transfer of legal custody
 11 Dismissed; Warned, counseled
 12 Hold open without further action
 13 Formal probation
 14 Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision
 15 Runaway returned
 16 Fine or restitution
 17 Other _____
 Transfer of legal custody to:
 21 Youth Development Center - Kearney or Geneva
 22 Public agency or department (including court or jail)
 23 Private agency or institution (Specify) _____
 24 Individual (Specify relationship) _____
 29 Other _____

The following questions refer to status at time of referral.

P. Diagnostic Services

	NEED FOR DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES	Indicated and provided	Indicated but not available	Not indicated
Psychological	1	2	3	
Psychiatric	1	2	3	
Medical	1	2	3	
Social	1	2	3	

 Q. School attainment
 Grade completed (00-12) _____
 R. Employment and school status

	Out of School	In School
Not employed	1	5
Employed		
Full time	2	6
Part time	3	7
Preschool	4	

 S. Length of residence of child in county
 0 Not currently a resident
 1 Under one year
 2 One year or more _____
 T. Living arrangement of child in home with*
 01 Both parents
 02 Mother and stepfather
 03 Father and stepmother
 04 Mother only
 05 Father only
 Outside own home with
 06 Relatives
 07 Foster or group home
 08 Institution
 09 Independent arrangement
 10 Other
 11 Unknown

U. Marital status of natural parents
 01 Parents married and living together
 One or both parents dead
 02 Both dead
 03 Father dead
 04 Mother dead
 Parents separated
 05 Divorced or legally separated
 06 Father deserted mother
 07 Mother deserted father
 08 Other reason (Specify) _____
 09 Parents not married to each other
 10 Other
 11 Unknown
 V. Combined family annual income
 1. Receiving public assistance
 Not receiving public assistance
 2. Under \$5,000
 3. \$5,000 to \$9,999
 4. \$10,000 to \$24,999
 5. \$25,000 and over
 6. Unknown
 W. Counsel
 1. Court appointed
 2. Retained
 3. Public defender
 4. Not represented
 5. Other _____
 X. Occupation of primary parent or guardian
 01 Professional or technical
 02 Managerial or administrative
 03 Farmer or rancher
 04 Sales worker
 05 Craftsman or other skilled laborer
 06 Clerical
 07 Service workers or other unskilled laborers
 08 Unemployed
 09 Unknown

ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR COURT USE

REFERRAL BACKGROUND

A juvenile may come under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court or a county court sitting as a juvenile court in Nebraska if it is determined that he or she is described in Sections 43-245 through 43-247 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, 1943, Reissue of 1984. For purposes of the Juvenile Court Reporting Program, the following sections are applicable:

- "(1) Any juvenile who has committed an act other than a traffic offense which would constitute a misdemeanor or an infraction under the laws of this state, or violation of a city or village ordinance;
- (2) Any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a felony under the laws of this state;
- (3) Any juvenile (a) who is homeless or destitute, or without proper support through no fault of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who is abandoned by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; whose parent, guardian or custodian neglects or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, or other care necessary for the health, morals, or well-being of such juvenile; whose parent, guardian, or custodian neglects or refuses to provide special care made necessary by the mental condition of the juvenile; or who is in a situation or engages in an occupation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to the health or morals of such juvenile or (b) who, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who deports himself or herself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself, herself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school:"

In this report, referrals to juvenile court are classified into three categories; major offenses, minor offenses, and neglect/dependent cases. Major offense referrals are coded on the Juvenile Court Statistical Form (see Figure 2) under section L. as response 01 through 28. The major offense referrals are coded in categories 31 through 39. Minor offenses are often referred to as "status" offenses and represent offenses applicable only to individuals under 18 years of age. Neglect/dependent referrals are coded as 51 or 52. "Neglect" and "dependent" refer to juveniles described in Section 43-247(3) of Nebraska R.R.S., 1943, Reissue of 1984. The usage of these terms was retained after the definitions of "neglect" and "dependency" were removed from the juvenile code in 1978.

Non-felony motor vehicle related offenses or infraction data are not collected in the JCR program or presented in this report.

1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 1

COUNTY ARREST AND JUVENILE COURT DATA

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS			
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Adams	8,737	160	48	25	0	73 (1.1)
Antelope	2,585	3	15	2	1	18 (0.3)
Arthur	136	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Banner	269	5	1	0	0	1 (0.1)
Blaine	270	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Boone	2,180	5	3	7	0	10 (0.1)
Box Butte	4,068	142	40	15	3	58 (0.9)
Boyd	806	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Brown	1,247	4	3	1	0	4 (0.1)
Buffalo	9,117	219	42	13	0	55 (0.8)
Burt	2,309	25	19	2	6	27 (0.4)
Butler	2,631	31	30	9	1	40 (0.6)
Cass	6,150	67	40	23	30	93 (1.4)
Cedar	3,708	39	5	0	1	6 (0.1)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS				TOTAL CASES (PCT)
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT		
Chase	1,461	3	7	3	4	14 (0.2)	
Cherry	1,906	29	7	1	0	8 (0.1)	
Cheyenne	2,766	76	20	13	1	34 (0.5)	
Clay	2,335	17	17	21	0	38 (0.6)	
Colfax	2,799	19	2	8	2	12 (0.2)	
Cuming	3,534	21	10	5	1	16 (0.2)	
Custer	3,788	64	2	11	5	18 (0.3)	
Dakota	5,419	132	25	17	2	44 (0.7)	
Dawes	2,402	91	52	23	12	87 (1.3)	
Dawson	6,714	156	59	43	0	102 (1.5)	
Deuel	667	1	3	2	0	5 (<0.1)	
Dixon	2,120	16	2	4	1	7 (0.1)	
Dodge	10,037	266	43	33	1	77 (1.1)	
Douglas	115,538	3,909	679	142	276	1,097 (16.4)	
Dundy	698	4	--	--	--	-- (<0.1)	

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS			
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Fillmore	2,146	27	13	40	2	55 (0.8)
Franklin	1,068	16	--	--	--	-- (--)
Frontier	1,010	0	2	2	1	5 (<0.1)
Furnas	1,570	7	2	5	0	7 (0.1)
Gage	6,138	84	54	27	6	87 (1.3)
Garden	658	3	0	1	1	2 (<0.1)
Garfield	640	0	0	4	2	6 (<0.1)
Gosper	591	0	2	1	0	3 (<0.1)
Grant	267	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Greeley	1,077	1	1	4	0	5 (<0.1)
Hall	14,355	638	117	29	67	213 (3.2)
Hamilton	2,818	59	16	9	7	32 (0.5)
Harlan	1,086	2	--	--	--	-- (--)
Hayes	393	1	--	--	--	-- (--)
Hitchcock	1,146	7	4	0	1	5 (<0.1)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS			
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Holt	4,201	17	6	1	2	9 (0.1)
Hooker	261	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Howard	2,079	10	3	1	1	5 (<0.1)
Jefferson	2,346	7	7	2	5	14 (0.2)
Johnson	1,369	24	7	8	8	23 (0.3)
Kearney	1,933	21	--	--	--	-- (<0.1)
Keith	2,725	76	9	11	0	20 (0.3)
Keya Paha	385	0	0	0	0	0 (--)
Kimball	1,440	41	10	15	1	26 (0.4)
Knox	3,300	91	12	7	0	19 (0.3)
Lancaster	47,064	3,151	1,271	339	214	1,824 (27.3)
Lincoln	11,192	410	145	66	0	211 (3.2)
Logan	309	0	1	2	0	3 (<0.1)
Loup	241	0	9	3	0	12 (0.2)
Madison	8,599	166	55	22	24	101 (1.5)

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS				TOTAL CASES (PCT)
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT		
McPherson	161	0	0	0	0	0 (--)	
Merrick	2,746	29	20	19	3	42 (0.6)	
Morrill	1,751	8	4	11	3	18 (0.3)	
Nance	1,394	6	9	4	0	13 (0.2)	
Nemaha	2,075	25	7	7	2	16 (0.2)	
Nuckolls	1,816	33	--	--	--	-- (--)	
Otoe	4,099	79	25	6	2	33 (0.5)	
Pawnee	909	8	2	0	4	6 (<0.1)	
Perkins	1,029	0	1	0	0	1 (<0.1)	
Phelps	2,638	35	0	0	1	1 (<0.1)	
Pierce	2,485	6	9	11	1	21 (0.3)	
Platte	9,002	281	93	106	5	204 (3.0)	
Polk	1,820	29	21	7	4	32 (0.5)	
Red Willow	3,494	72	20	14	2	36 (0.5)	
Richardson	2,806	41	18	1	7	25 (0.4)	

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS				TOTAL CASES (PCT)
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT		
Rock	715	1	3	2	0	51 (<0.1)	
Saline	3,243	57	7	4	3	14 (0.2)	
Sarpy	30,621	1,600	503	511	40	1,054 (15.8)	
Saunders	5,559	37	27	12	11	50 (0.7)	
Scotts Bluff	11,580	228	134	24	6	164 (2.4)	
Seward	4,200	35	50	32	13	95 (1.4)	
Sheridan	2,173	58	12	12	3	27 (0.4)	
Sherman	1,251	1	2	6	5	13 (0.2)	
Sioux	518	0	0	0	0	0 (--)	
Stanton	2,227	1	8	5	1	14 (0.2)	
Thayer	1,941	33	4	7	0	11 (0.7)	
Thomas	297	0	--	--	--	-- (--)	
Thurston	2,450	2	--	--	--	-- (--)	
Valley	1,538	35	11	6	1	18 (0.3)	
Washington	4,652	39	30	7	3	40 (0.6)	

Table 1 - County Arrest and Juvenile Court Data
Continued

COUNTY	JUVENILE* POPULATION (Age 1-17)	JUVENILE** ARRESTS	JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS			
			MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	TOTAL CASES (PCT)
Wayne	2,317	25	19	3	1	23 (0.3)
Webster	1,258	23	7	5	0	12 (0.2)
Wheeler	352	0	1	1	0	2 (<0.1)
York	4,114	213	29	23	10	62 (0.9)
TOTAL	448,035	13,403	3,991	1,875	817	6,683

-- Data not available

* Population based on 1980 Census; Bureau of Business Research

** Arrest data from 1988 Nebraska Uniform Crime Report

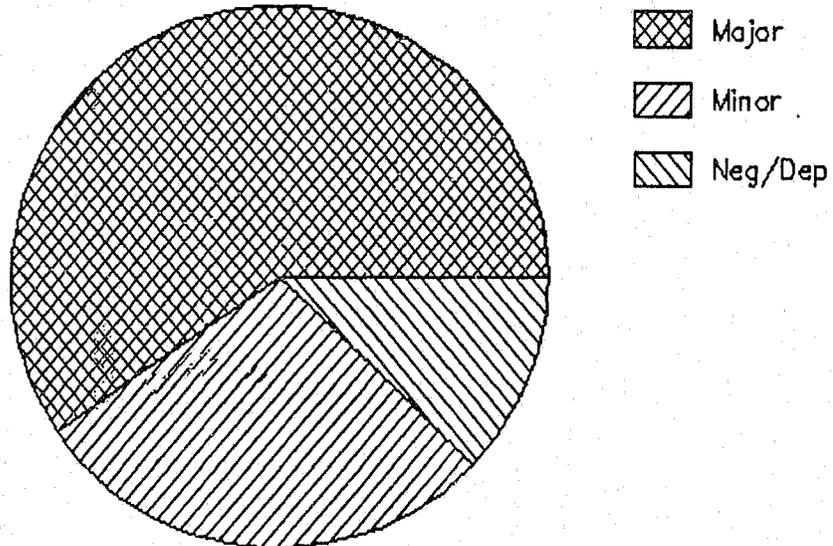
REFERRALS

There were 6,683 juvenile court referrals reported to the Commission in the Juvenile Court Reporting Program in 1988. Of these, 5,106 (76.4%) were handled with petition, while 1,577 (23.7%) were handled without petition.

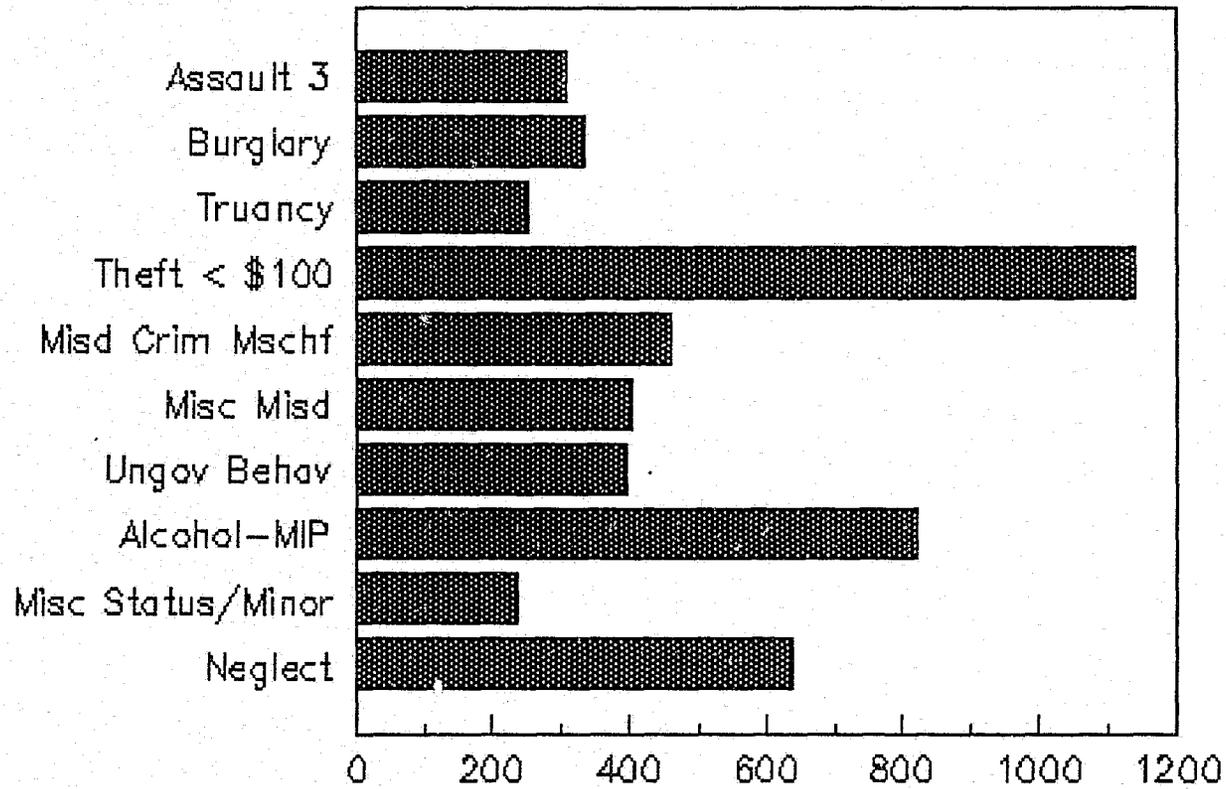
Referrals for major offense categories accounted for 59.7% or 3,991 of the total number of cases. Minor offense referrals comprised 28.1% or 1,875 of the total, while 12.2% or 818 neglect/dependent cases were reported. Breakdowns of the reasons for referral are given in Tables 2, 3, and 4 and figures for major, minor, and neglect/dependent cases, respectively.

Offenses involving theft of less than \$100 were the most common reason for referral to juvenile court, with about 28.4% of major offense referral cases and 17.1% of all cases disposed of in 1988. As in the past, theft under \$100, misdemeanor criminal mischief, and burglary were the three largest major offense referral categories. Approximately half of all juveniles referred for major offenses were in these categories. For status offenses, minor in possession was the most frequent with 44% (824) of all referrals in this category and 12.3% of all referrals. Referrals for reasons of neglect accounted for almost 10% of total cases.

REFERRAL TYPES



TOP 10 REASONS FOR REFERRAL



1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 2

MAJOR OFFENSE FREQUENCIES

OFFENSE TYPE	FREQUENCY	% OF MAJOR	% OF TOTAL
Murder	0	---%	---%
Manslaughter	1	<0.1%	<0.1%
Assault 1 and 2	24	0.6%	0.3%
Assault 3	311	7.8%	4.6%
Sex Assault 1	29	0.7%	0.4%
Sex Assault 2	38	0.9%	0.6%
Robbery	26	0.6%	0.4%
Drug Laws (Felony)	12	0.3%	0.2%
Drug Laws (Misdemeanor)	79	2%	1.2%
Arson (Felony)	11	0.3%	0.2%
Arson (Misdemeanor)	19	0.5%	0.3%
Burglary	334	8.4%	5.0%
Unauthorized Vehicle Use	139	3.5%	2.0%
Theft Over \$1000	87	2.2%	1.3%
Theft \$300-\$1000	107	2.7%	1.6%

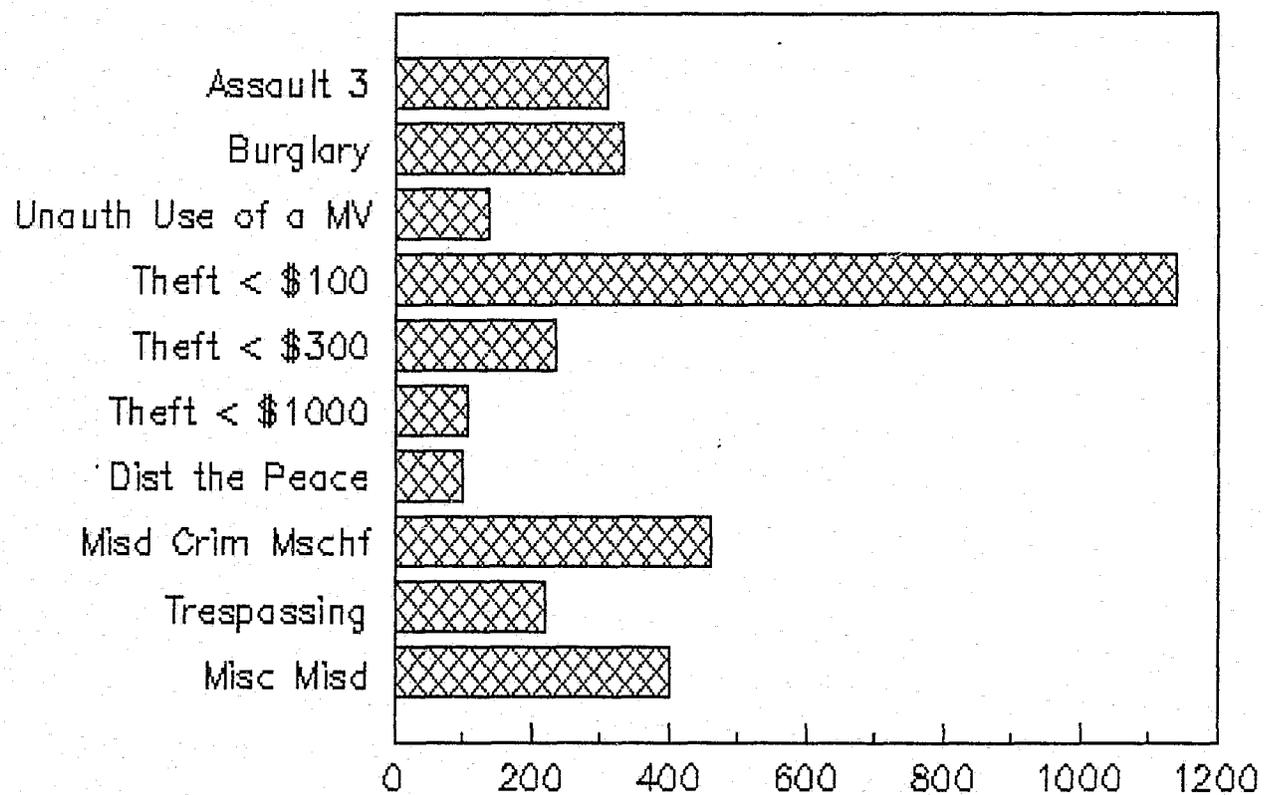
1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 2

MAJOR OFFENSE FREQUENCIES

OFFENSE TYPE	FREQUENCY	% OF MAJOR	% OF TOTAL
Theft Under \$300	235	5.9%	3.5%
Theft Under \$100	1,141	28.6%	17.1%
Criminal Mischief (Felony)	58	1.4%	0.9%
Criminal Mischief (Misdemeanor)	461	11.5%	6.9%
Trespassing	219	5.5%	3.3%
Forgery (Felony)	15	0.4%	0.2%
Forgery (Misdemeanor)	42	1.0%	0.6%
Weapons Laws (Felony)	6	0.1%	<0.1%
Weapons Laws (Misdemeanor)	39	1.0%	0.6%
DWI (3rd Offense)	15	0.4%	0.2%
Disturbing the Peace	98	2.4%	1.5%
Other Felony	43	1.1%	0.6%
Other Misdemeanor	402	10.1%	6.0%
TOTAL	3991	100.0%	59.7%

TOP 10 MAJOR OFFENSES

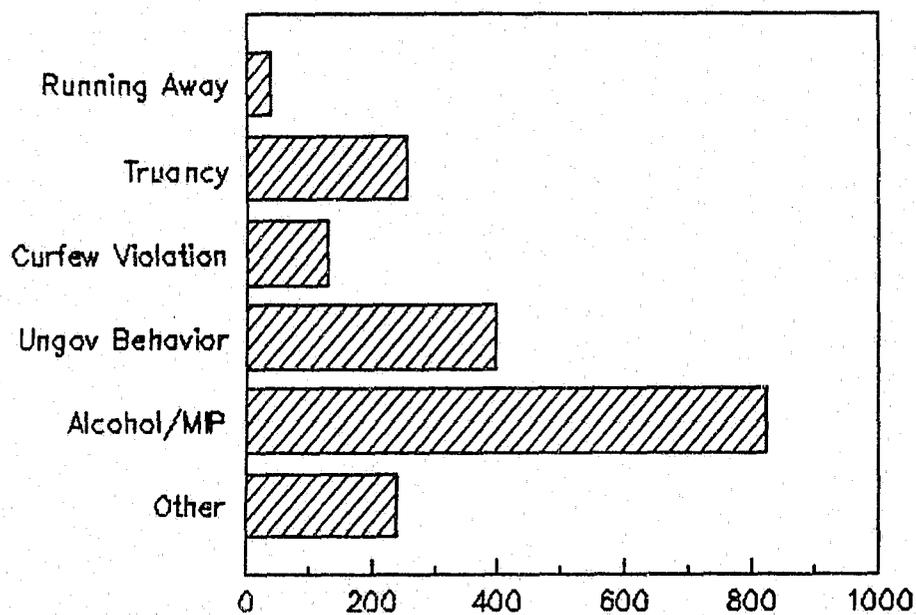


1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 3

MINOR OFFENSE FREQUENCIES

OFFENSE TYPE	FREQUENCY	% OF MINOR	% OF TOTAL
Running Away	36	1.9%	0.5%
Truancy	254	13.6%	3.8%
Curfew Violation	127	6.8%	1.9%
Ungovernable Behavior	396	21.0%	5.9%
Possession/Drinking Alcohol	824	44.0%	12.3%
Other	238	12.7%	3.6%
TOTAL	1,875	100.0%	28%

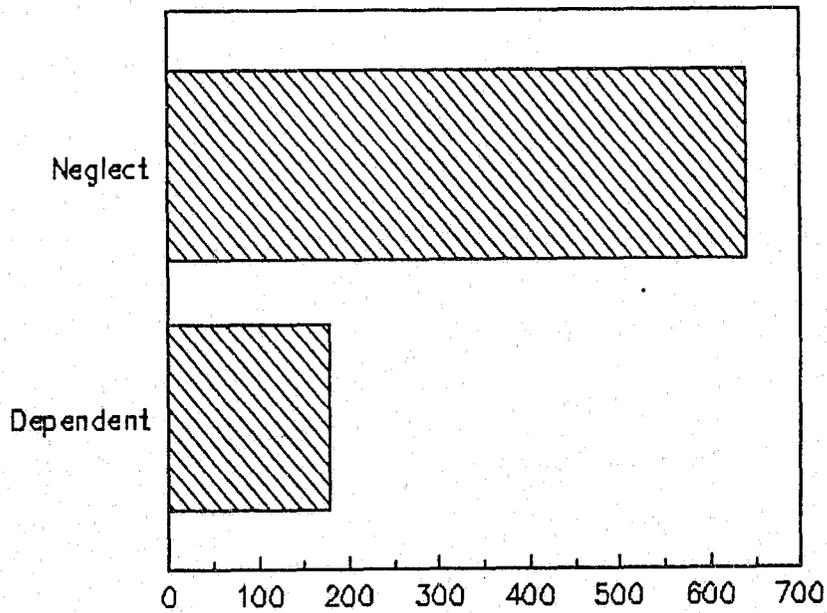


1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 4

NEGLECT/DEPENDENT REFERRAL FREQUENCIES

REFERRAL REASON	FREQUENCY	% OF NEG/DEP	% OF TOTAL
Neglect	639	78.2%	9.6%
Dependent	178	21.8%	2.7%
TOTAL	817	100.0%	12.3%



The category of major offenses may be subdivided into smaller categories of offenses against persons and offenses against property (see Table 5). Offenses against persons, which include murder, manslaughter, assault, sexual assault, and robbery, comprised 10.8% of major offenses and 6.4% of all referrals. Property offenses such as arson, burglary, theft, and forgery constituted the largest proportion of major (and total) referrals, representing 42.9% of all referrals and 71.8% of major offenses referrals. Other major offense referrals which could not be categorized as offenses against persons or as property offenses, such as Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Disturbing the Peace, and drug violations, comprised the remainder of major offense referrals and of the total referrals (17.4% and 10.4% respectively).

TABLE 5

REASON REFERRED

REASON REFERRED	FREQUENCY	% OF TOTAL	% OF MAJOR
All Major Offenses	3,991	59.7%	100.0%
a. Persons	429	6.4%	10.8%
b. Property	2,866	42.9%	71.8%
c. Other Major	696	10.4%	17.4%
Minor Offenses	1,875	28.1%	--
Neglect/Dependent	817	12.2%	--
TOTAL	6,683	100.0%	--

Major, minor, and neglect/dependent disposition trends are illustrated in Table 6, along with percentage changes for each year from 1977 to 1988. The positive change from 1979 to 1981 in the number of major offense dispositions reversed a decreasing trend since 1975. Although there was minor change in the number of cases processed, there was a shift in the types of referrals. Major and minor offense categories contained the bulk of this, with major offense cases decreasing and minor offense cases increasing.

Year-to-year changes in the number of reported juvenile court dispositions may be the result of several factors. In some years certain jurisdictions were or were not reporting. Also, some jurisdictions may have changed their policies or procedures for the processing of young persons in juvenile court.

It should also be noted that these aggregate figures represent the state as a whole and tend to obscure changes that may have occurred over time in individual jurisdictions or groups of jurisdictions in the referral, intake, scheduling, and processing policies that are applied to individual cases.

As will be explained in another section of this report, all state total data are heavily weighted toward the juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties. In fact, about 60% of all dispositions were reported from these counties. This does not imply, however, that the data are unrepresentative of the state as a whole, but that about 40% of the state's estimated juvenile population live in these counties.

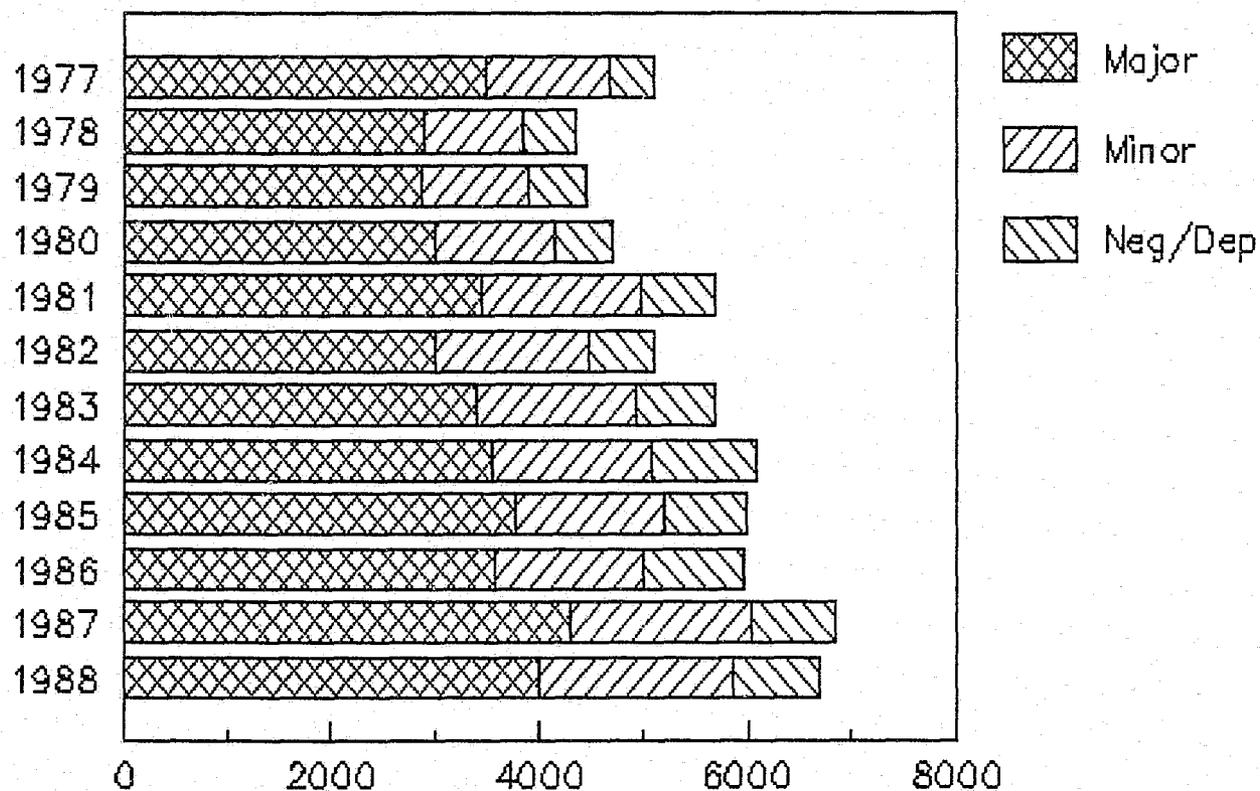
1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 6

JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS BY YEAR: 1977-1988

DISPOSITION YEAR	MAJOR OFFENSES	MINOR OFFENSES	NEGLECT/ DEPENDENT	YEAR TOTAL
1977	3,502	1,182	428	5,112
% chg 1976	(- 4.9%)	(- 2.5%)	(- 7.6%)	(- 4.6%)
1978	2,896	962	493	4,351
% chg 1977	(-17.3%)	(-18.6%)	(+15.2%)	(-14.9%)
1979	2,862	1,045	551	4,458
% chg 1978	(- 1.2%)	(+ 8.6%)	(+11.8%)	(+ 2.5%)
1980	2,992	1,161	540	4,693
% chg 1979	(+ 4.5%)	(+11.1%)	(- 2.0%)	(+ 5.3%)
1981	3,439	1,545	698	5,682
% chg 1980	(+14.9%)	(+33.1%)	(+29.3%)	(+21.0%)
1982	2,981	1,498	625	5,104
% chg 1981	(-13.3%)	(- 3.0%)	(-10.5%)	(-10.2%)
1983	3,391	1,547	748	5,686
% chg 1982	(+13.8%)	(+ 3.3%)	(+19.7%)	(+10.2%)
1984	3,543	1,542	1,006	6,091
% chg 1983	(+ 4.5%)	(- 0.3%)	(+34.5%)	(+ 7.1%)
1985	3,782	1,425	767	5,974
% chg 1984	(+ 6.7%)	(- 7.6%)	(-23.8%)	(- 1.9%)
1986	3,567	1,434	950	5,951
% chg 1985	(- 5.7%)	(+ 0.6%)	(+23.9%)	(- 0.4%)
1987	4,307	1,719	808	6,834
% chg 1986	(+20.7%)	(+19.9%)	(-14.9%)	(+14.8%)
1988	3,991	1,875	817	6,683
% chg 1987	(- 7.3%)	(+ 9.1%)	(+ 1.1%)	(- 2.2%)

REFERRAL TRENDS 1978 - 1988



REFERRAL TRENDS 1978 - 1988

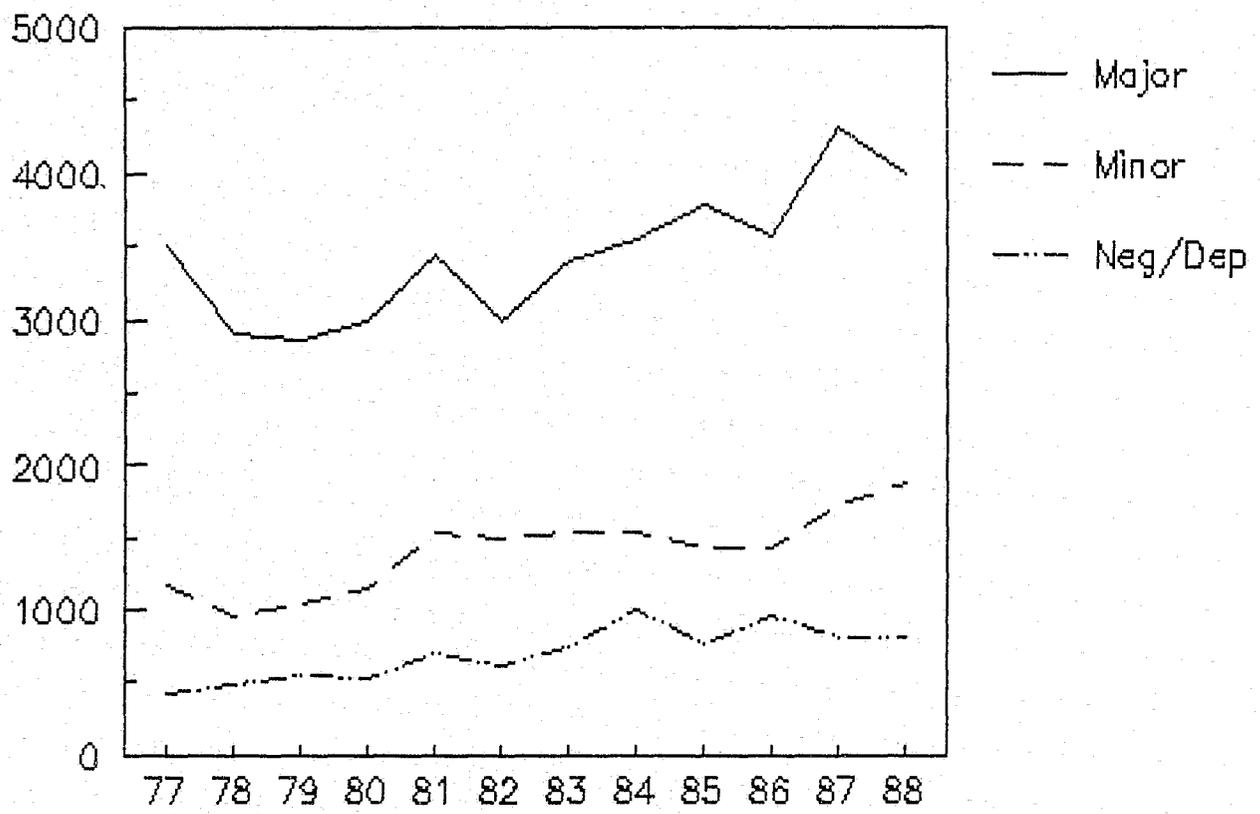


Table 7 includes figures showing the sources of referrals to Nebraska juvenile courts for major, minor, and neglect/dependent cases. The largest number of major offense referrals were from law enforcement (54%). Referrals from the county attorney comprised the next largest category (34.7%) of sources of referral. The vast majority of all cases (81.4%) were referred by law enforcement agencies and the county attorneys. The county attorneys and social agencies were responsible for (88%) of the neglect/dependent cases referred.

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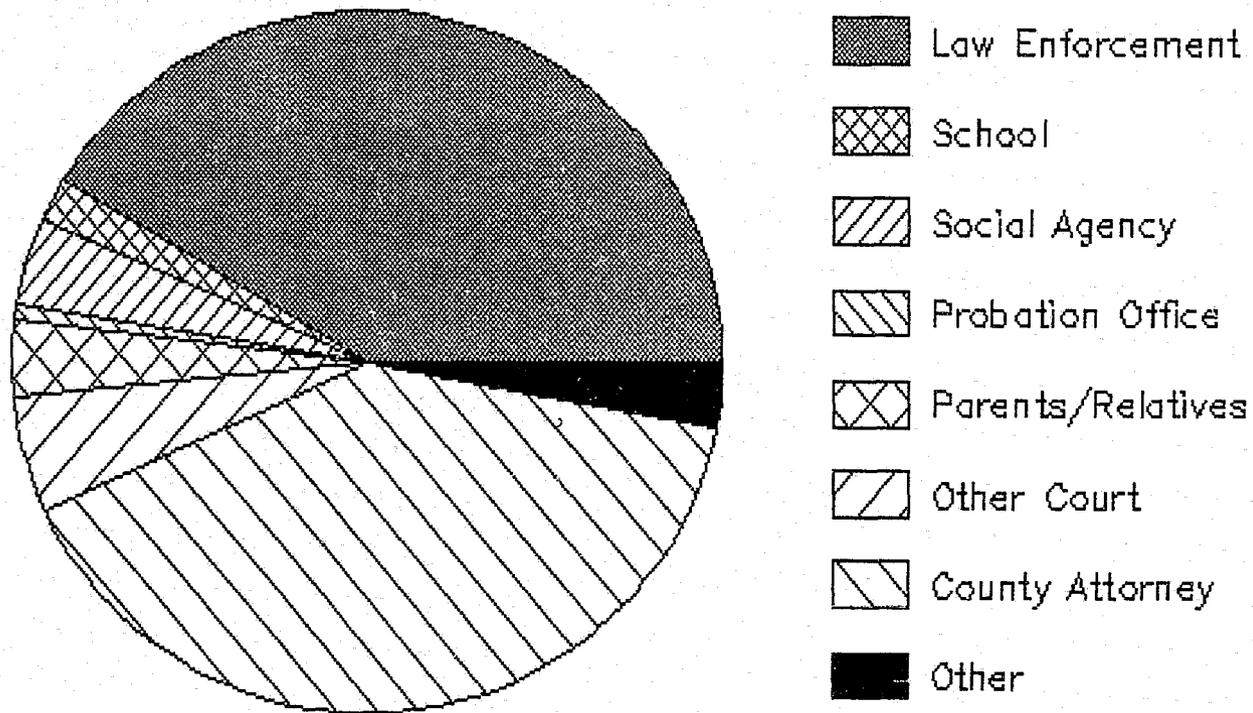
TABLE 7

SOURCE OF COURT REFERRALS

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	MAJOR OFFENSES (%)	MINOR OFFENSES (%)	NEGLECT/DEPENDENT (%)	TOTAL (%)
Law Enforcement	2,145 (54.0%)	540 (28.9%)	57 (7.0%)	2742 (41.2%)
School	7 (0.2%)	132 (7.1%)	6 (0.7%)	145 (2.2%)
Social Agency	5 (0.1%)	8 (0.4%)	251 (30.8%)	264 (4.8%)
Probation Office	7 (0.2%)	30 (1.6%)	4 (0.5%)	41 (0.6%)
Parents/Relatives	4 (0.1%)	221 (12.1%)	6 (0.7%)	235 (3.5%)
Other Court	252 (6.3%)	85 (4.6%)	21 (2.6%)	358 (5.4%)
County Attorney	1,381 (34.7%)	826 (44.4%)	466 (57.2%)	2,673 (40.2%)
Other	174 (4.4%)	17 (0.9%)	4 (0.5%)	195 (2.9%)
TOTAL*	3,975 (100%)	1,863 (100%)	815 (100%)	6,653 (100%)

*Does not include 30 cases with missing data

SOURCES OF REFERRALS



One measure of juvenile recidivism in the criminal justice system is the number of young persons who have been previously referred to a juvenile court. For all juvenile cases disposed of during 1988, about one-fourth (24.2%) had been previously referred to the reporting court.

Table 8a and 8b present detailed information on prior referrals. Table 8a shows the number of previous referrals to that court, while Table 8b shows the referrals within 1988 and Table 8c shows the number of referrals prior to 1987. Because referrals to courts outside the reporting court's jurisdiction are not included, the data probably presents a conservative estimate of actual prior court referrals. In addition, data on the nature of previous referrals is not collected and it is therefore not possible to identify repeat offenders for certain offenses or types of referrals. The information in the tables does indicate, however, that a significant number of juveniles have appeared previously in juvenile court for one reason or another.

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TABLE 8a

NUMBER OF JUVENILES BY TOTAL PRIOR REFERRALS BY REASON FOR REFERRAL

REASON REFERRED	Number of Prior Referrals						TOTAL
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
All Major Offenses	2,834	547	245	120	71	127	3,944
a. Persons	281	64	30	19	8	21	423
b. Property	2,063	385	178	74	51	81	2,832
c. All Other	490	98	37	27	12	25	689
Minor Offenses	1,443	221	70	38	16	22	1,810
Neglect/Dependent	697	89	14	4	2	3	809
TOTAL*	4,974	857	329	162	89	152	6,563
(%)	(75.8%)	(13.1%)	(5.0%)	(2.5%)	(1.4%)	(2.3%)	(100%)

*Does not include 120 cases with missing data

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TABLE 8b

NUMBER OF JUVENILES WITH PRIOR REFERRALS IN 1988 BY REASON FOR REFERRAL

REASON REFERRED	Prior Referrals This Year						TOTAL
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
All Major Offenses	3,289	449	139	47	16	12	3,952
a. Persons	347	42	25	3	4	2	423
b. Property	2,369	321	94	37	12	6	2,839
c. All Other	573	86	20	7	0	4	690
Minor Offenses	1,604	166	29	12	2	2	1,815
Neglect/Dependent	780	21	6	2	0	0	809
TOTAL*	5,673	636	174	61	18	14	6,576
(%)	(86.3%)	(9.7%)	(2.6%)	(0.9%)	(0.3%)	(0.2%)	(100%)

*Does not include 107 cases with missing data.

DISPOSITIONS

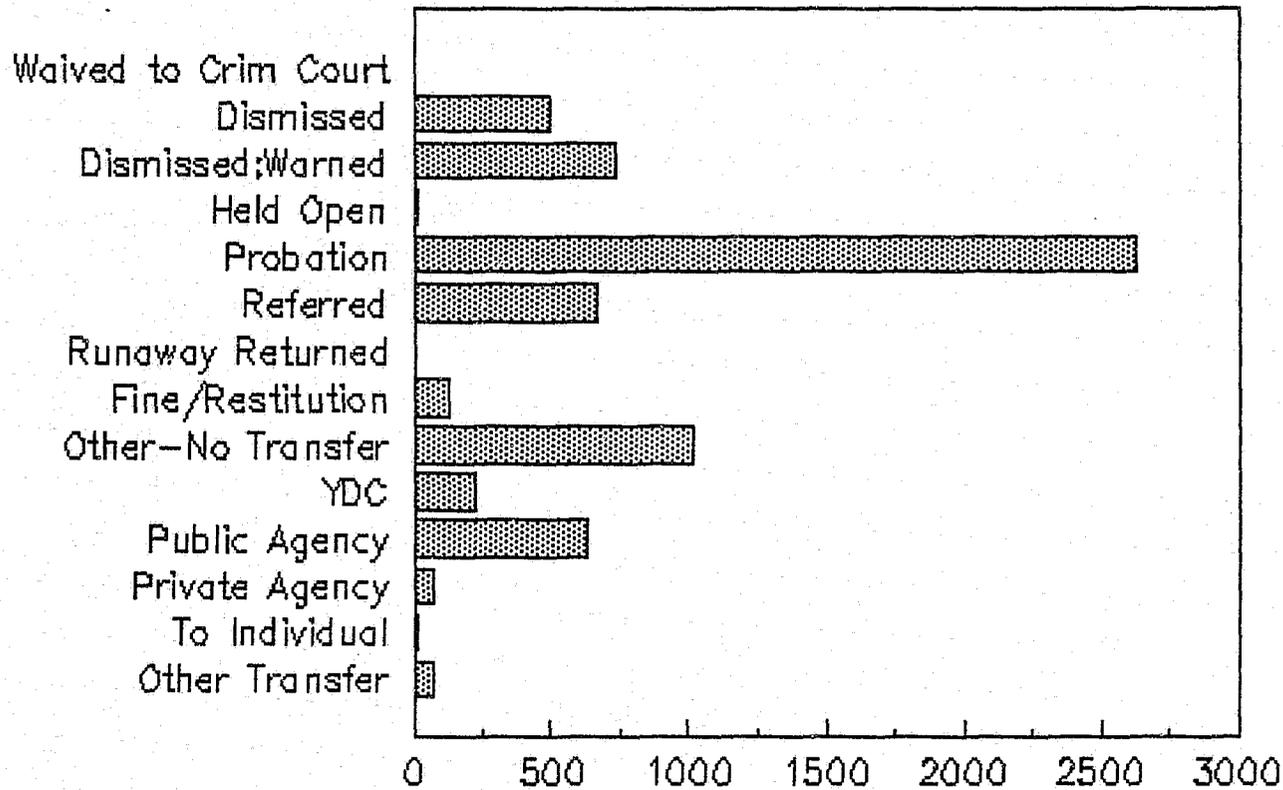
Information on juvenile court disposition activity is contained in Tables 9 and 10. Once a juvenile case has been referred to court, the hearing and adjudication process has taken place, and a final disposition is determined, the court submits a Juvenile Court Statistical Form to the Commission.

The disposition outcomes listed in Table 9 summarize the types of determinations which may be made in most juvenile cases. In general, there are three possible outcomes described on the reporting form: the case may be waived to criminal court (only 1 of the total 1988 cases), it may be dismissed because of insufficient grounds (7.4% of the total), or a final determination may be reached based on the substantiation of a complaint and/or petition (the remaining 92.5% were in this category). If the court determines that there is evidence to substantiate the complaint and/or petition, a decision regarding legal custody of the juvenile may be reached. Of these cases, and across all reasons for referral, approximately 15.2% involved a transfer of legal custody of the juvenile to one of the Youth Development Centers or some other agency or individual. The remaining juvenile cases which were not dismissed or waived to criminal court involved no transfer of legal custody, but rather the imposition of a sentence such as probation, restitution, or a fine.

The largest proportion of cases referred to court for a major offense resulted in a disposition of formal probation (45.9%). This was also true for status offense referrals, of which 40.4% resulted in a disposition of formal probation.* Almost half (49.1%) of the neglect/dependent referrals resulted in transfer of custody to a public or private agency or department.

*This is consistent with prior years' disposition outcomes.

DISPOSITIONS



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TABLE 9

JUVENILE COURT DISPOSITIONS

DISPOSITION	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Waived to Criminal Court	0 (--)	1 (<0.1%)	0 (--)	1 (<0.1%)
<u>COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED</u>				
Dismissed	345 (8.7%)	67 (3.6%)	81 (9.9%)	493 (7.4%)
<u>COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY:</u>				
Dismissed; Warned	332 (8.3%)	279 (14.8%)	120 (14.7%)	731 (10.9%)
Hold Open Without Further Action	5 (0.1%)	6 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)	12 (0.2%)
Formal Probation	1,832 (45.9%)	757 (40.4%)	34 (4.2%)	2,623 (39.2%)
Referred to Another Agency or Individual	262 (6.6%)	266 (14.2%)	135 (16.5%)	663 (9.9%)
Runaway Returned	0 (---%)	7 (0.4%)	0 (---%)	7 (0.1%)
Fine or Restitution	62 (1.6%)	67 (3.6%)	0 (---%)	129 (1.9%)
Other	785 (19.7%)	219 (11.7%)	9 (1.1%)	1,013 (15.2%)
<u>LEGAL CUSTODY TRANSFER TO:</u>				
Youth Development Center	202 (5.1%)	20 (1.1%)	2 (0.2%)	224 (3.4%)
Public Agency or Department	98 (2.5%)	148 (7.9%)	381 (46.6%)	627 (9.4%)
Private Agency or Department	41 (1.0%)	10 (0.5%)	20 (2.5%)	71 (1.1%)
Individual	0 (---%)	5 (0.3%)	11 (1.4%)	16 (0.2%)
Other	27 (0.7%)	23 (1.2%)	23 (2.8%)	73 (1.1%)
TOTAL	3,991 (100%)	1,875 (100%)	817 (100%)	6,683 (100%)

Detailed processing times for juvenile court referrals are presented in Table 10. More than one-third of all juvenile court cases (34.9%) were disposed of within 30 days of referral. This proportion was lower for neglect/dependent referrals (14.1% within 30 days) and higher for minor status offense referrals (40.2% within 30 days) and for major offense referrals (36.4% within 30 days).

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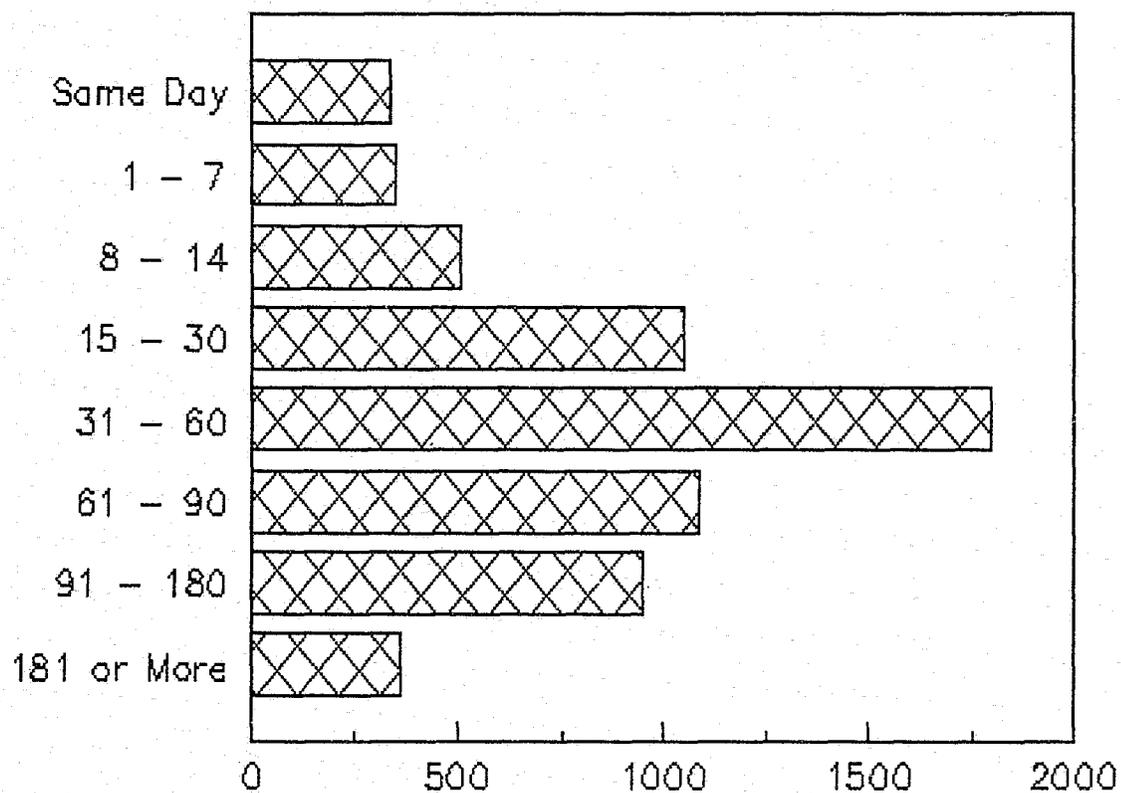
TABLE 10

ELAPSED TIME IN DAYS BETWEEN
REFERRAL AND DISPOSITION

Number of Days from Referral to Disposition	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Same Day	193 (8.5%)	135 (7.4%)	8 (1.1%)	336 (5.2%)
1- 7 Days	228 (5.9%)	112 (6.2%)	12 (1.6%)	352 (5.5%)
8- 14 Days	341 (8.8%)	147 (8.1%)	18 (2.4%)	506 (7.9%)
15- 30 Days	649 (16.7%)	336 (18.5%)	66 (9.0%)	1,051 (16.3%)
31- 60 Days	1,079 (27.8%)	512 (28.2%)	205 (27.9%)	1,796 (27.9%)
61- 90 Days	648 (16.7%)	271 (14.9%)	168 (22.8%)	1,087 (16.9%)
91-180 Days	548 (14.1%)	201 (11.1%)	198 (26.9%)	947 (14.7%)
181+ Days	200 (5.1%)	99 (5.5%)	61 (8.3%)	360 (5.6%)
TOTAL*	3,886 (100%)	1,813 (100%)	736 (100%)	6,435 (100%)

*Does not include 248 cases with missing or invalid data.

ELAPSED TIME IN DAYS BETWEEN REFERRAL AND DISPOSITION



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TABLE 11

COURT ACTIVITY BY MONTH OF DISPOSITION

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
January	496 (7.4%)
February	501 (7.5%)
March	450 (6.7%)
April	589 (8.8%)
May	561 (8.4%)
June	581 (8.7%)
July	487 (7.3%)
August	689 (10.3%)
September	596 (8.9%)
October	566 (8.5%)
November	568 (8.5%)
December	599 (<u>9.0%</u>)
TOTAL	6,683 (100%)

AGE

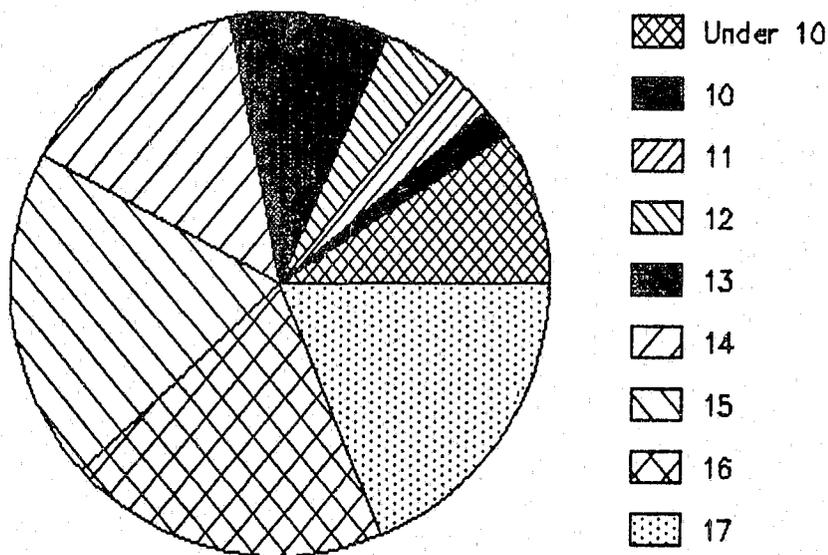
Information concerning the age of juveniles referred to court is presented in Table 12. In proportion to juveniles referred, generally speaking, the older juveniles were referred for major and minor offenses, and the younger primarily for neglect/dependency.

In the under 10 year-old age group, 78.3% of the referrals were described as neglect/dependent. The under 10 age group as a whole, however, represented only 9.3% of all juvenile referrals. Of these, 59% of all neglect/dependent referrals were in the under 10 year-old age group. The remainder of neglect/dependent referrals were distributed fairly even across age categories.

The 15 and 16 year-old age groups had the largest proportion of referrals for major offenses categories; together, 42% of all major offense referrals involved these age groups. Those from 14 to 17 accounted for three-fourths of the major offenses.

Across all referral categories, the 15, 16, and 17 year-olds accounted for the largest number of referrals, each accounting for about 19%.

The average age at time of referral for all juvenile cases disposed of during 1988 was 13.9. The average age at time of referral for major offenses cases was 14.6, status offense cases was 15, and neglect/dependent cases was 7.8. The status category experienced a slight decrease in average ages while the major disposition age had no change from 1987. However, the average age for neglect/dependent juveniles increased from 6.2 to 7.8 years.



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TABLE 12

REASON REFERRED BY AGE

AGE	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Under 10	80 (2.0%)	54 (2.9%)	484 (59.2%)	618 (9.3%)
10	71 (1.8%)	13 (0.7%)	39 (4.8%)	123 (1.8%)
11	133 (3.3%)	23 (1.2%)	46 (5.6%)	202 (3.0%)
12	210 (5.3%)	49 (2.6%)	29 (3.6%)	288 (4.3%)
13	466 (11.7%)	138 (7.3%)	37 (4.5%)	641 (9.6%)
14	649 (16.3%)	260 (13.9%)	44 (5.4%)	953 (14.3%)
15	857 (21.5%)	409 (21.8%)	53 (6.5%)	1,319 (19.7%)
16	827 (20.7%)	408 (21.8%)	50 (6.1%)	1,285 (19.2%)
17	698 (17.5%)	521 (27.9%)	35 (4.3%)	1,254 (18.8%)
T O T A L*	3,991 (100%)	1,875 (100%)	817 (100%)	6,683 (100%)

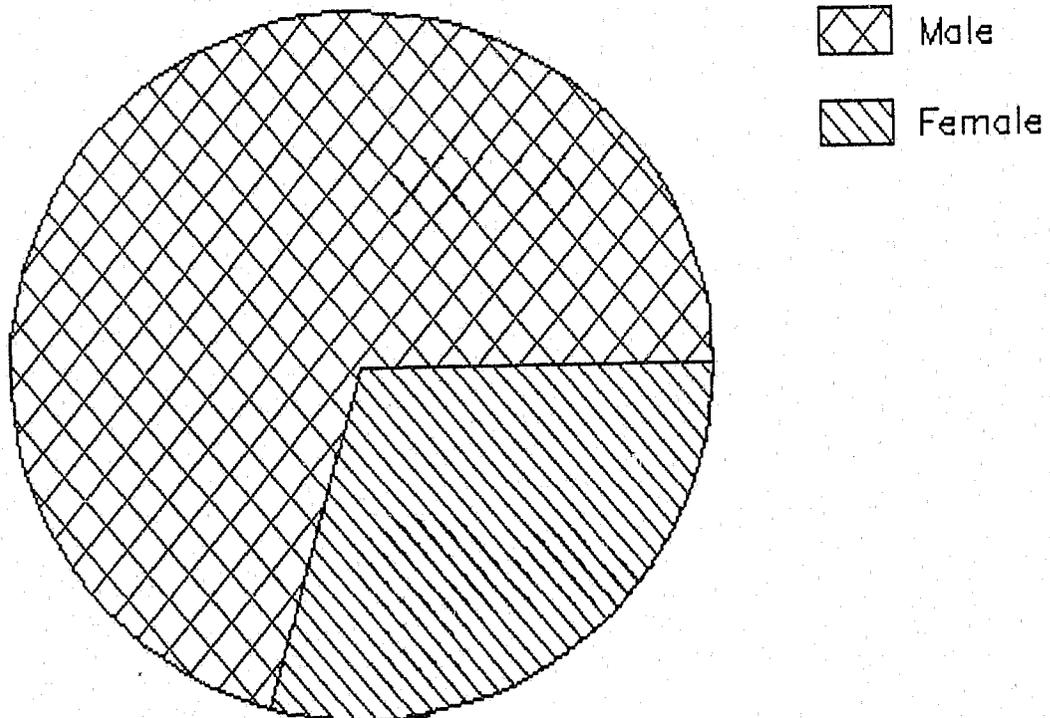
SEX

More than two times as many males were referred to juvenile courts in Nebraska than females in 1988. This breakdown was similar to 1986 and 1987. The 4,718 males comprised about 71% of all referrals while 1,965 (29.4%) females composed the remainder.

The proportion of male referrals was even higher for major offenses where over 4 of 5 referrals were male. Minor offenses were more equal in proportion to male and female dispositions, with 58% of minor referrals being male. However, there were virtually equal number of males and females in the neglect/dependent referral category. This continues a pattern of the last few years with the gap being smaller.

Distribution of females in the three different referral categories was not as uneven as that of males. Males were referred on major offenses 68.2% of the time, over two times as much as the other categories combined.

As Table 14 indicates, the most frequent disposition category for both males and females was formal probation. Over two-fifths (41.9%) of male referrals resulted in probation while just under one third (32.9%) of female referrals resulted in probation. It should be noted, however, that the proportions of males and females referred for various reasons were quite different and this could have a direct effect on the proportions of males and females in the various disposition categories.



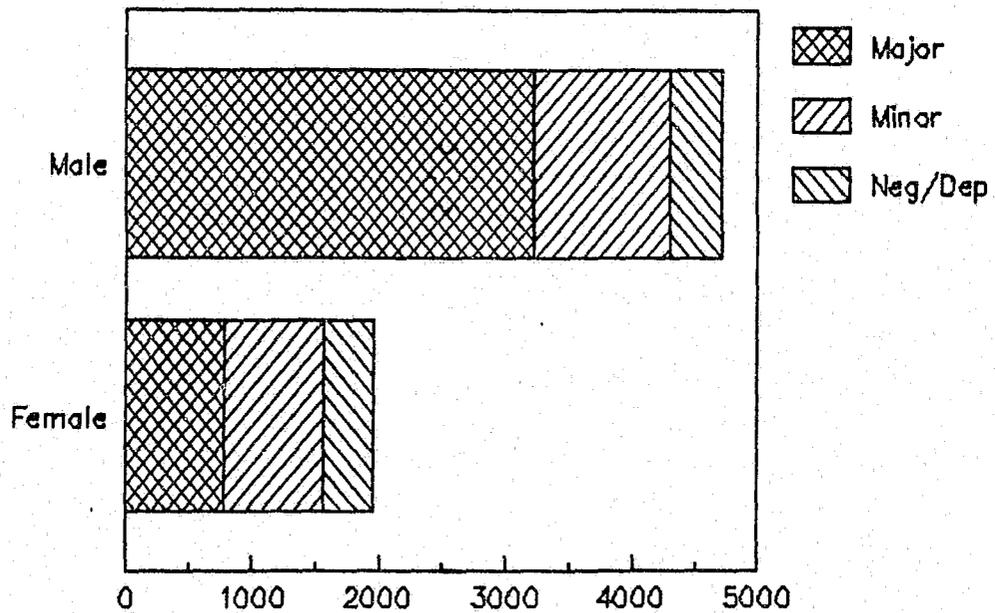
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TABLE 13

REASON REFERRED BY SEX

SEX	REFERRAL CATEGORY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
Male	3216 (80.6%)	1086 (58.0%)	416 (50.9%)	4718 (70.6%)
Female	775 (19.4%)	789 (42.0%)	401 (49.1%)	1965 (29.4%)
TOTAL	3991 (100%)	1875 (100%)	817 (100%)	6683 (100%)

REFERRAL TYPES BY SEX



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TABLE 14

DISPOSITION BY SEX

DISPOSITION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	<u>Number (%)</u>	<u>Number (%)</u>	<u>Number (%)</u>
Waived to Criminal Court	1 (<0.1%)	0 (-- %)	1 (<0.1%)
<u>COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED</u>			
Dismissed	355 (7.5%)	138 (7.0%)	493 (7.4%)
<u>COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED - NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY</u>			
Dismissed; Warned	500 (10.6%)	231 (11.8%)	731 (10.9%)
Hold Open Without Further Action	7 (0.1%)	5 (0.3%)	12 (0.2%)
Formal Probation	1,976 (41.9%)	647 (32.9%)	2,623 (39.2%)
Referred to Another Agency/Individual	439 (9.3%)	224 (11.4%)	663 (9.9%)
Runaway Returned	4 (0.1%)	3 (0.2%)	7 (0.1%)
Fine or Restitution	85 (1.8%)	44 (2.2%)	129 (1.9%)
Other	729 (15.5%)	284 (14.5%)	1013 (15.2%)
<u>LEGAL CUSTODY TRANSFER TO:</u>			
Youth Development Center	197 (4.2%)	27 (1.4%)	224 (3.4%)
Public Agency or Department	326 (6.9%)	301 (15.3%)	627 (9.4%)
Private Agency or Department	45 (1.0%)	26 (1.3%)	71 (1.1%)
Individual	14 (0.3%)	2 (<0.1%)	16 (0.2%)
Other	40 (0.8%)	33 (1.7%)	73 (1.1%)
TOTAL	4,718 (100%)	1,965 (100%)	6,683 (100%)

ETHNIC GROUP

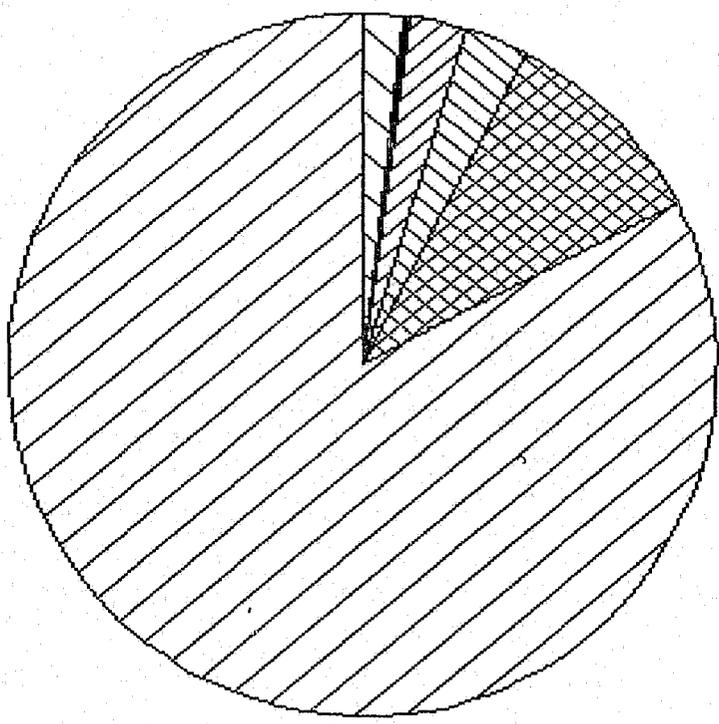
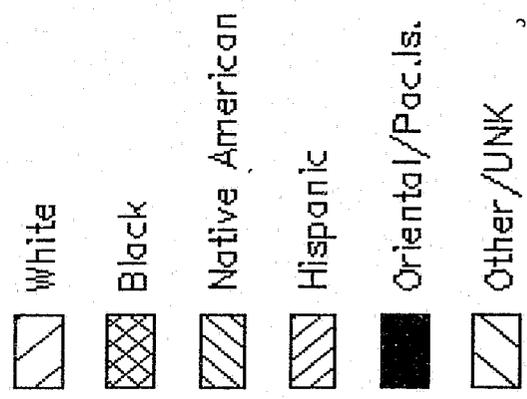
Data collected by the Commission on the ethnic group or race of young persons referred to juvenile court included the categories of White, Black, Native American, Hispanic, Oriental and Other. It should be noted that the proportion of minority group juveniles in Nebraska's population is quite small outside counties such as Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Scotts Bluff. As a result, measures of delinquency among ethnic groups in the state are difficult to estimate. The information below does suggest, however, that there is some variation among racial groups in the proportion of referrals for major, minor, and neglect/dependent reasons.

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TABLE 15

REASON REFERRED BY ETHNIC GROUP

ETHNIC GROUP	REFERRAL CUSTODY			TOTAL Number (%)
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	
White	3,235 (81.1%)	1,685 (89.8%)	607 (74.3%)	5,527 (82.7%)
Black	431 (10.8%)	77 (4.1%)	141 (17.3%)	649 (9.7%)
Native Am.	124 (3.1%)	28 (1.5%)	41 (5.0%)	193 (2.9%)
Hispanic	119 (3.0%)	38 (2.0%)	19 (2.3%)	176 (2.6%)
Oriental	13 (0.3%)	5 (0.3%)	0 (---%)	18 (0.3%)
Other	69 (1.7%)	42 (2.2%)	9 (1.1%)	120 (1.8%)
TOTAL	3,991 (100%)	1,875 (100%)	817 (100%)	6,683 (100%)



LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Table 16 presents information concerning the living arrangements of juveniles at the time of referral. For major and minor offenses referrals, the most common living situation was at home with both parents; over one third of the juveniles referred in these categories lived at home with both parents. The next largest category of major and minor offense referrals was juveniles living at home with the mother only. Just over 35% of the neglect/dependent cases involved a home with only the mother present while the same was true for about one-third of the major referrals.

Just over one-third (37.1%) of all referrals to juvenile courts in 1988 came from single-parent families. For neglect/dependent referrals the proportion was slightly higher with 40.3% of those referrals being from single-parent families. It is significant to note that for the 2,001 referrals from single-parent families, 82% were from single mother families, while 13% were from single father families. This is the exact pattern as seen in 1987. Any consideration or conclusions drawn from them should include the number of households of this type.

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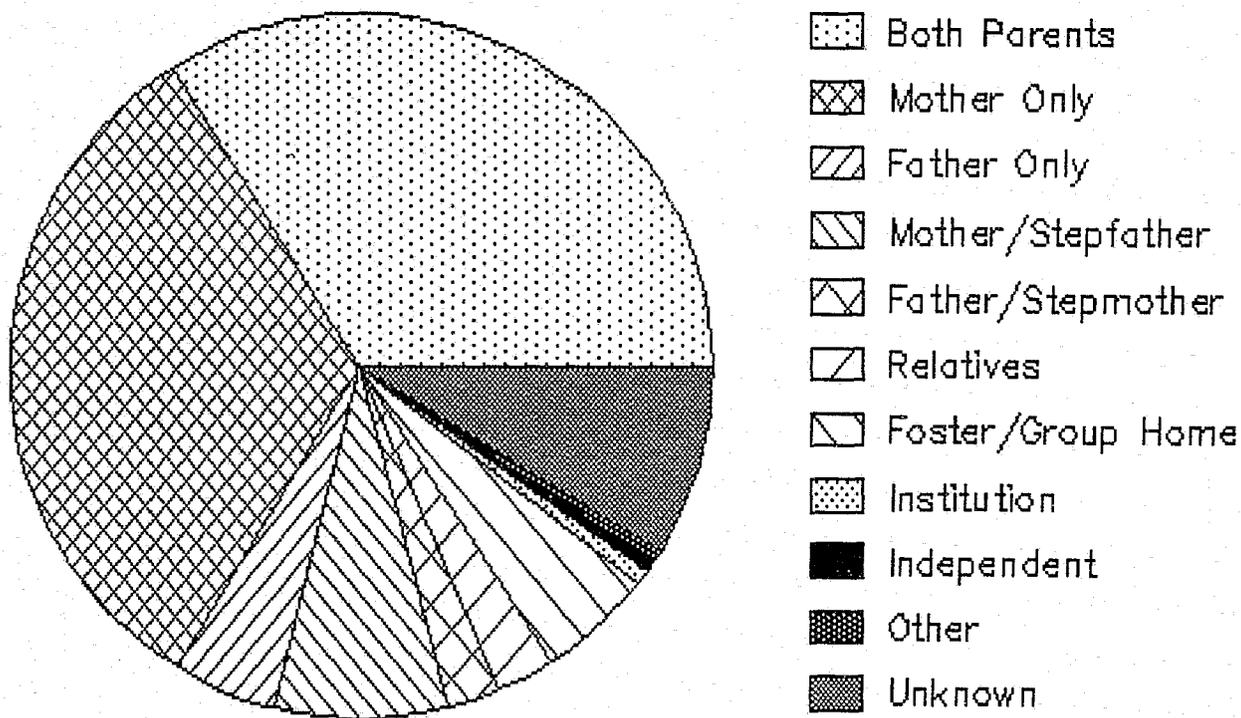
TABLE 16

REASON REFERRED BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT

LIVING ARRANGEMENT	REFERRAL CATEGORY			
	MAJOR Number (%)	MINOR Number (%)	NEGLECT/DEP Number (%)	TOTAL Number (%)
Both Parents	1,165 (34.7%)	493 (37.0%)	172 (24.8%)	1,830 (34.0%)
Mother Only	1,103 (32.8%)	393 (29.5%)	245 (35.3%)	1,741 (32.3%)
Father Only	168 (5.0%)	57 (4.3%)	35 (5.0%)	260 (4.8%)
Mother/Stepfather	264 (7.9%)	112 (8.4%)	57 (8.2%)	433 (8.0%)
Father/Stepmother	79 (2.4%)	36 (2.7%)	11 (1.6%)	126 (2.3%)
Relatives	99 (3.0%)	25 (1.9%)	20 (2.9%)	144 (2.7%)
Foster/Group Home	165 (4.9%)	34 (2.6%)	85 (12.3%)	284 (5.3%)
Institution	28 (0.8%)	7 (0.5%)	3 (0.4%)	38 (0.7%)
Independent	19 (0.6%)	12 (0.9%)	1 (0.1%)	32 (0.6%)
Other	8 (0.2%)	7 (0.5%)	9 (1.3%)	24 (0.4%)
Unknown	262 (7.8%)	155 (11.6%)	56 (8.1%)	473 (8.9%)
TOTAL*	3,360 (100%)	1,331 (100%)	694 (100%)	5,385 (100%)

*Does not include 1,298 cases with missing data.

REFERRALS BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT



SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS

Referrals to the separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties constituted approximately 50% of all juvenile court referrals across the state. It should be noted that the information presented in Tables 17 and 18 (as well as all other data in this report) is based on counts of dispositions during 1988 rather than referrals during 1988, and therefore provides only a partial estimate of the activity of the juvenile court. It is likely that the intake activity of juvenile courts involved many more young persons during a given year than are reflected in these disposition statistics.

The procedures involved in referral to juvenile court may vary across jurisdictions and influence the number of cases reported in the Juvenile Court Reporting Program. In addition, the policies of prosecutors, juvenile service agencies, and judges may vary in different jurisdictions, influencing the nature and number of juvenile referrals reported to the Commission. As an example, the three separate juvenile courts in Nebraska have some differences in processing procedures which result in differing reporting results.

The Douglas County attorney's office acts as the court intake for all juvenile referrals in Douglas County. This means that the only juvenile cases reported to the Commission are those which are filed with petition by the county attorney's office.

In Lancaster County, the juvenile probation office serves the court intake function. Cases that come to the attention of the juvenile probation office (regardless of the source of referral) are reported to the Commission. Cases formally disposed of by the court represent those filed with petition, while cases handled informally by the juvenile probation office represent cases handled without petition.

In Sarpy County, the county attorney's office is the beginning of processing juvenile referrals. If the county attorney's office files a petition, then the juvenile goes to juvenile court; however, if certain criteria are met, the juvenile may get the opportunity to participate in the pretrial diversion program called the Sarpy County Juvenile Intake/Program.

Differences among the three separate juvenile courts in the receipt of referrals are indicated in Table 17. The largest proportion of referrals in the three juvenile courts vary somewhat with 57.2% of Douglas County's referrals from law enforcement agencies, while 41% of Lancaster County's were from the same source. Douglas County had a larger proportion of referrals from social agencies than either of the other two courts. Sarpy County's largest number of referrals (97.5%) were from law enforcement. The county courts also had their largest proportion of referrals from the county attorney (70.4%). Some of these differences may be attributable to procedural or classification differences.

The distribution of disposition categories in the three separate juvenile courts is presented in Table 18. There were several differences among the courts in the distribution of dispositions. This is most likely due to the varying types of cases referred to each court and the court's own policies and practices.

1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 17

SOURCES OF REFERRAL IN DOUGLAS, LANCASTER, SARPY
SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS AND ALL OTHER COUNTIES*

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	DOUGLAS COUNTY	LANCASTER COUNTY	SARPY COUNTY	ALL OTHER COUNTIES
	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)
Law Enforcement	626 (57.2%)	341 (41.0%)	615 (97.5%)	635 (25.1%)
School	23 (2.1%)	50 (6.0%)	1 (0.2%)	10 (0.4%)
Social Agency	246 (22.5%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.3%)	7 (0.3%)
Probation office	0 (0%)	29 (3.5%)	3 (0.5%)	5 (0.2%)
Parents/Relatives	96 (8.8%)	51 (6.1%)	3 (0.5%)	6 (0.2%)
Other Courts	70 (6.4%)	43 (5.2%)	0 (0%)	57 (2.3%)
County Attorney	30 (2.7%)	293 (35.3%)	7 (1.1%)	1,779 (70.4%)
Other	3 (0.3%)	24 (2.9%)	0 (--)	27 (1.1%)
TOTAL**	1,094 (100%)	831 (100%)	631 (100%)	2,526 (100%)

* Only cases filed with petition were figured.

** Does not include 24 cases with missing data.

1988 JUVENILE COURT REPORT

TABLE 18

DISPOSITIONS IN DOUGLAS, LANCASTER, SARPY
SEPARATE JUVENILE COURTS AND ALL OTHER COUNTIES*

SOURCE OF REFERRAL	DOUGLAS COUNTY ----- Number (%)	LANCASTER COUNTY ----- Number (%)	SARPY COUNTY ----- Number (%)	ALL OTHER COUNTIES ----- Number (%)
Waived to Criminal Court	0 (---%)	0 (---%)	0 (---%)	1 (<0.1%)
<u>COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED</u>				
Dismissed	196 (17.9%)	51 (6.1%)	1 (0.2%)	161 (6.3%)
<u>COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY</u>				
Dismissed; warned	82 (7.5%)	82 (9.9%)	312 (49.1%)	208 (8.2%)
Hold Open Without Further Action	0 (---%)	0 (---%)	1 (0.2%)	10 (0.4%)
Formal Probation	390 (35.6%)	419 (50.4%)	271 (42.7%)	1,453 (57.1%)
Referred to Another Agency/Individual	6 (0.5%)	125 (15.0%)	2 (0.3%)	120 (4.7%)
Runaway Returned	0 (---%)	0 (---%)	0 (---%)	3 (0.1%)
Fine/Restitution	14 (1.3%)	0 (---%)	1 (0.2%)	100 (3.9%)
Other	4 (0.4%)	5 (0.6%)	0 (---%)	105 (4.1%)
<u>LEGAL CUSTODY TRANSFER TO</u>				
Youth Development Center	76 (6.9%)	29 (3.5%)	4 (0.6%)	107 (4.2%)
Public Agency or Department	275 (25.1%)	116 (14.0%)	40 (6.3%)	185 (7.3%)
Private Agency/Department	50 (4.6%)	4 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	16 (0.6%)
Individual	1 (0.1%)	0 (---%)	1 (0.2%)	13 (0.5%)
Other	0 (---%)	0 (---%)	1 (0.2%)	64 (2.5%)
TOTAL	1,094 (100%)	831 (100%)	635 (100%)	2,546 (100%)

* Only cases filed with petition were figured.