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Social Statistics

SUPPLEMENT TO VOLUME 11 OF THE CHILD (NOVEMBER 1946 SUPPLEMENT)

Juvenile-Court Statistics, 1944 and 1945

U.S. Department of Justice
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JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS FOR 1944

THE YEAR 1944 is the eighteenth successive calendar year for which the U. S. Children's Bureau has collected statistics on delinquency cases disposed of by juvenile courts. During these 18 years there have been some changes from year to year in the courts making these reports, and fluctuations in the number of courts reporting, but in general the coverage of these statistics has grown from about 15 percent of the population of the United States in 1927 to 37 percent in 1944.

Nine-tenths of the courts reporting in 1944 reported under State plans, that is, reported to State agencies concerned with juvenile-court work or probation service, which then forwarded the data to the Children's Bureau; the other courts reported direct to the Bureau. The courts reporting under State plans served the greater part of the population served by all courts reporting in 1944. The nine States in which the courts reported in this way were Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, and Utah, all with State-wide coverage, and Indiana, Ohio, and Texas, with partial coverage.

PLAN OF PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL

The statistical material in this report is presented in three sections, each dealing with data for a particular group of the reporting courts:

1. Cases disposed of in 1944.—Reports on juvenile-delinquency cases disposed of during 1944 were received for 380 juvenile courts. Data obtained from these reports are presented in tables 1 to 6. Table 1 shows (according to the races of the children involved) the number of cases disposed of by each of the courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more; for the courts that served areas with smaller populations, consolidated data are given for the States in which the courts are located. To assist in the interpretation of the statistics, the ages under which the courts have jurisdiction and the coverage of the reports with respect to both official and unofficial cases are shown in table 1. Tables 2 to 6 present in summary form for the 380 courts an analysis of the data, according to ages of the children involved, reasons for

referral to court, sources of referral, places of detention care, and dispositions of cases. (Source tables for juvenile-court statistics, similar to those published in some earlier reports, have been compiled for 1944 and are available for reference at the Children's Bureau. These source tables give, for individual courts, the data that are summarized in tables 2 to 6.)

2. Decrease in cases, 1943 to 1944.—Of the 380 courts reporting in 1944, 369 had made reports in 1943. There is shown in a text table the percent change from 1943 to 1944, in the number of cases disposed of, for these 369 courts, for those courts that served areas with populations of 100,000 or more, and for those that served areas with smaller populations.

3. Trends in volume of cases, 1938 to 1944.—Of the 380 courts reporting in 1944, 78 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more had made reports for each year since 1938. Table 7 and figure 1 show the trends in volume of delinquency cases disposed of by these 78 courts during the years 1938 through 1944—years that included the prewar period as well as the war years.

DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED OF IN 1944

During 1944, 118,626 delinquency cases were disposed of by the 380 juvenile courts that participated voluntarily in the Children's Bureau juvenile-court-statistics project. Although these participating courts are not representative of all the areas in the country, analysis of the statistics on the delinquency cases disposed of by these courts makes possible some general observations on the volume of work of juvenile courts and on the characteristics of the children dealt with.

Sex and race

Of the 118,626 delinquency cases disposed of in 1944, 81 percent were boys' cases and 19 percent were girls' cases—table 1. The ratio of girls' cases to boys' cases was at a higher level from 1942 to 1944 than in previous years. Of the cases for which the reports included the races of the children, white children were involved in 79 percent, Negro and other nonwhite

children in 21 percent. Regional differences in attitudes toward types of behavior manifested by children of the different racial groups and differences in community provisions for dealing with children of various racial groups have a marked effect on the number of children of each group referred to juvenile courts. Statistics on racial distribution, therefore, can be used most effectively for evaluative and planning purposes in local communities where due consideration can be given to community organization for handling delinquency and to prevalent attitudes on the treatment of children from different population groups.

Ages

Of the cases for which the ages of the children were reported, the greatest concentration—36 percent of the boys' cases and 45 percent of the girls' cases—occurred, as in previous years, in the 14-and-15-year age group—table 2. In 4 percent of the cases the children were under 10 years of age.

The maximum ages of juvenile-court jurisdictions, which in only a few instances extend to persons who have reached their eighteenth birthdays, affect to a great extent the age distribution of cases handled by the courts. Of the 380 courts reporting in 1944, 65 had original jurisdiction in delinquency cases of children under 16 years of age; 192, of children under 17 years of age; 112, under 18 years; and 6, under 21 years. In addition, the 2 courts in Oklahoma had original jurisdiction in delinquency cases of boys under 16 and of girls under 18, and the 3 Texas courts had original jurisdiction in delinquency cases of boys under 17 and of girls under 18.

Reasons for referral to court

The reasons for which boys were most commonly referred to courts differed considerably from those for which girls were most commonly referred—table 3. In 40 percent of the boys' cases for which the reasons for referral were reported, the referrals were for types of stealing (including automobile stealing, burglary or unlawful entry, robbery, and all other types of stealing), and in 20 percent

they were for acts of carelessness or mischief. Among girls' cases, three types of behavior—being ungovernable, running away, and sex offenses—accounted for 60 percent of the cases for which the reasons for referral were reported.

The proportion of all girls' cases that were referred to reporting courts for these three types of behavior was lower in 1944 than at any time since 1939, when it was also 60 percent; in 1941 it was as high as 64 percent. These three reasons are considered together because ungovernable behavior and running away frequently involve sex offenses; moreover, some courts use the term ungovernable behavior to avoid recording sex offenses for girls on official records. However, it should not be assumed that all cases of running away or ungovernable behavior involve sex offenses.

Sources of referral to court

Children are referred to juvenile courts not only by the police but by parents or other relatives, by other individuals, by school authorities, and by social agencies. Analysis of these

sources of referral indicates to some extent the relations of the courts to other community agencies, the effects of community pressures on the work of the courts, and the prevailing community attitudes on the role of the court. For example, the frequency with which cases are referred to courts by parents, relatives, individuals, and social agencies reflects the extent to which the juvenile court is called on to deal with behavior problems other than those coming to the attention of the police—either because there are no other community resources for services to children or because it is felt that the court is the best resource in a particular situation.

The sources of referral to court in the cases for which this information was reported are shown in table 4. Almost three-fourths (74 percent) of the boys' cases were referred by the police; only one-half of the girls' cases were referred by this source. In four of the urban areas (Dallas, Hennepin, Milwaukee, and Ramsey Counties) the police referred three-fourths or more of the girls' cases. Parents or other relatives referred only 4 percent of the

boys' cases, as compared with 17 percent of the girls' cases. In only one of the urban areas (New York City) were 10 percent or more of the boys' cases referred by parents or relatives.

The differences in the sources of referral of boys' cases and of girls' cases may be explained in part by the fact that the largest proportion of the boys' cases were referred for stealing, a type of behavior that is more likely to come to the attention of the police, while in girls' cases two of the principal reasons for referral were being ungovernable and running away, conduct more likely to be referred to court by parents or other relatives.

The proportion of cases referred by each source varies from court to court, but in general the statistics show that social agencies do refer a small proportion of the delinquency cases that come to court. The importance of social agencies in dealing with delinquency problems should not be minimized, however, inasmuch as the small number of referrals to court by these agencies may indicate that they are handling without referral the problems of children that come to their attention.

Table 1.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Boys' and girls' cases, by race, disposed of by 89 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more and by 291 courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000¹

Location of areas served by courts and chief cities in certain areas	Age under which court has original jurisdiction ²	Data include unofficial cases?	Juvenile-delinquency cases								
			All races			White ³		Negro and other nonwhite		Race not reported	
			Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Total cases.....			118,626	95,827	22,799	63,351	15,164	15,965	4,331	16,511	3,304
AREAS WITH 100,000 OR MORE POPULATION.....			105,105	84,961	20,154	56,637	13,322	15,435	4,169	12,879	2,603
Arkansas Pulaski County (Little Rock).....	21	Yes.....	858	506	352	274	251	232	101		
California Los Angeles County (Los Angeles) ⁴	21	No.....	4,108	3,459	649	3,154	566	305	83		
San Diego County (San Diego).....	21	Yes.....	2,141	1,589	552	1,495	510	89	33	5	
San Francisco—city and county.....	21	No.....	815	566	249	499	226	55	22	12	1
Connecticut First district (Bridgeport).....	16	Yes.....	1,047	1,416	231	1,307	187	109	44		
Second district (New Haven).....	16	Yes.....	1,090	1,362	298	1,277	205	115	33		
Third district (Hartford).....	16	Yes.....	1,710	1,410	300	1,307	253	103	47		
District of Columbia Washington—city.....	18	Yes.....	3,171	2,770	401	1,270	112	1,401	289		
Florida Dade County (Miami).....	17	No.....	992	685	307					685	307
Georgia Fulton County (Atlanta).....	16	Yes.....	1,376	1,122	254					1,122	254
Indiana Allen County (Fort Wayne).....	18	Yes.....	633	492	141	461	128	31	13		
Lake County (Gary).....	18	Yes.....	461	314	147	252	122	62	25		
Marion County (Indianapolis).....	18	Yes.....	1,948	1,507	441	1,067	316	440	125		
St. Joseph County (South Bend).....	18	Yes.....	1,224	970	254	864	323	106	31		
Vanderburgh County (Evansville).....	18	Yes.....	680	536	144	470	125	66	19		
Iowa Polk County (Des Moines).....	21	Yes.....	764	654	110	554	99	100	11		
Woodbury County (Sioux City).....	21	Yes.....	506	371	135	351	131	20	4		
Louisiana Caddo Parish (Shreveport).....	17	Yes.....	855	639	216	500	140	139	67		
Massachusetts Boston Boston (central section).....	17	No.....	711	496	215					496	215
Brighton.....	17	No.....	47	40	7					40	7
Charlestown.....	17	No.....	69	52	17					52	17
Dorchester.....	17	No.....	235	220	15					220	15
East Boston.....	17	No.....	150	142	8					142	8
Roxbury.....	17	No.....	628	558	70					558	70
South Boston.....	17	No.....	117	108	9					108	9
West Roxbury.....	17	No.....	155	144	11					144	11
Central district of Worcester (Worcester).....	17	No.....	460	398	62					398	62

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Boys' and girls' cases, by race, disposed of by 89 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more and by 291 courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000¹—Continued

Location of areas served by courts and chief cities in certain areas	Age under which court has original jurisdiction ²	Data include unofficial cases?	Juvenile-delinquency cases								
			All races			White ³		Negro and other nonwhite		Race not reported	
			Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Massachusetts—Continued											
East Norfolk district (Quincy)	17	No	315	292	23					292	23
First district of eastern Middlesex (Medford)	17	No	257	213	44					213	44
Lawrence district (Lawrence)	17	No	101	87	14					87	14
Lowell district (Lowell)	17	No	82	73	9					73	9
Second district of Bristol (Fall River)	17	No	163	141	22					141	22
Somerville district (Somerville)	17	No	111	100	11					100	11
Southern Essex district (Lynn)	17	No	148	140	8					140	8
Springfield district (Springfield)	17	No	241	191	50					191	50
Third district of Bristol (New Bedford)	17	No	235	218	17					218	17
Third district of eastern Middlesex (Cambridge)	17	No	300	257	43					257	43
Michigan											
Kent County (Grand Rapids)	17	No	505	430	75	418	71	12	4		
Wayne County (Detroit)	17	No	2,450	1,982	468	1,425	335	557	133		
Minnesota											
Hennepin County (Minneapolis)	18	No	1,270	914	356	873	342	39	13	2	1
Ramsey County (St. Paul)	18	No	684	563	121	538	108	25	13		
Missouri											
Jackson County (Kansas City)	17	Yes	1,858	1,403	455	1,129	389	272	66	2	
St. Louis—city	17	Yes	1,827	1,215	612	753	378	445	215	17	19
St. Louis County (University City)	17	Yes	492	422	70	344	62	78	8		
New Jersey											
Hudson County (Jersey City)	16	No	423	361	62					361	62
Union County (Elizabeth)	16	No	263	226	37					226	37
New York											
Albany County (Albany)	16	No	253	205	48					205	48
Broome County (Binghamton)	16	No	110	84	26					84	26
Chautauque County (Jamestown)	16	No	158	136	22					136	22
Dutchess County (Poughkeepsie)	16	No	82	66	16					66	16
Erie County (Buffalo)	16	No	537	470	67					470	67
Monroe County (Rochester)	16	No	218	182	36					182	36
Nassau County (Hempstead)	16	No	213	184	29					184	29
New York—city	16	No	6,665	5,622	1,043	3,615	618	2,007	425		
Niagara County (Niagara Falls)	16	No	254	178	76					178	76
Oneida County (Utica)	16	No	191	144	47					144	47
Onondaga County (Syracuse)	16	No	343	280	63					280	63
Orange County (Newburgh)	16	No	90	71	19					71	19
Rensselaer County (Troy)	16	No	226	170	56					170	56
Schenectady County (Schenectady)	16	No	188	159	29					159	29
Suffolk County (Patchogue)	16	No	85	73	13					73	13
Westchester County (Yonkers)	16	No	360	310	50					310	50
Ohio											
Butler County (Hamilton City)	18	Yes	989	742	247	682	216	58	31	2	
Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)	18	Yes	3,760	2,823	937	2,065	621	723	301		15
Franklin County (Columbus)	18	Yes	1,179	798	381	585	312	198	68		1
Hamilton County (Cincinnati)	18	Yes	3,825	3,037	788	2,339	610	993	178		
Lorain County (Elyria)	18	Yes	364	257	107	227	95	29	12		
Mahoning County (Youngstown)	18	Yes	1,682	1,318	264	1,003	161	313	103	2	
Montgomery County (Dayton)	18	Yes	1,813	1,454	359	1,171	285	256	71	27	2
Stark County (Canton)	18	Yes	112	82	30	72	20	9	1		
Summit County (Akron)	18	Yes	1,942	1,638	304	1,404	253	174	51		
Trumbull County (Warren)	18	Yes	474	386	88	329	71	55	16	1	
Oklahoma											
Tulsa—city	16, 18	Yes	1,245	837	408	693	339	144	69		
Oregon											
Multnomah County (Portland)	18	Yes	3,205	2,800	405					2,800	405
Pennsylvania											
Allegheny County (Pittsburgh)	18	No	3,238	2,557	681	1,939	453	618	228		
Berks County (Reading)	18	No	220	196	24	182	23	14	1		
Montgomery County (Norristown)	18	No	297	270	27	229	19	41	8		
Philadelphia—city and county	18	Yes	9,395	7,959	1,436	4,336	764	3,623	672		
Rhode Island											
State (Providence)	18	No	1,000	899	101	868	134	31	14		
South Carolina											
Greenville County (Greenville)	16	Yes	433	338	95	241	64	95	33		
Texas											
Bexar County (San Antonio)	17, 18	Yes	2,658	1,928	730	1,761	636	165	66		
Dallas County (Dallas)	17, 18	Yes	2,382	1,855	527	1,300	312	546	215		
Utah											
First district (Orderville)	18	Yes	1,627	1,431	196	1,408	103	23	3		
Second district (Salt Lake City)	18	Yes	2,472	2,123	349	2,110	346	13	2		1
Third district (Provo)	18	Yes	1,681	1,436	245	1,432	243	4	2		
Virginia											
Norfolk—city	18	No	1,316	970	346	558	247	412	99		
Washington											
Pierce County (Tacoma)	18	Yes	440	350	90					350	90
Spokane County (Spokane)	18	Yes	546	407	139					407	139
Wisconsin											
Milwaukee County (Milwaukee)	18	Yes	6,617	5,728	891	5,426	820	300	71		
AREAS WITH LESS THAN 100,000 POPULATION											
			13,521	10,876	2,645	6,714	1,842	530	162	3,632	641
Indiana: 33 courts	18	Yes	1,928	1,414	514	1,367	477	57	37		
Massachusetts: 54 courts	17	No	2,024	1,820	195					1,820	195
Missouri: 112 courts	17	Yes	1,780	1,422	358	1,321	331	63	19	38	8
Montana: Yellowstone County	18	Yes	495	391	104	357	103	4	1		
New York: 42 courts	16	No	1,628	1,333	295					1,333	295
Ohio: 45 courts	18	Yes	3,985	3,149	836	2,915	760	181	43	53	23
Oklahoma: Tulsa County—exclusive of city	16, 18	Yes	232	191	41	163	71	8			
Texas: Wichita County	17, 18	Yes	490	340	150					340	150
Utah: Fourth district	18	Yes	368	326	42	326	42				
Virginia: Danville—city	18	No	692	472	130	255	68	217	62		

¹ Population according to 1940 census.

² Where age under which court has original jurisdiction is different for boys and for girls, the age for boys appears first.

³ Includes all Mexicans.

⁴ For uniformity of reporting, data for this court include cases of truancy and incorrigibility with delinquency, although the court does not consider these as delinquency cases.

⁵ Excludes traffic violations.

⁶ Juvenile courts in New Jersey have authority to adjudicate cases involving adolescent offenders (between ages of 16 and 18 years) charged with indelible offenses if certified by prosecutor of pleas or other specified authorities.

⁷ Children's courts in New York State have jurisdiction over children up to 18 years of age in cases involving violation of the Education Law.

⁸ Before the juvenile-court reorganization in July 1944 this area was composed of 12 districts. In July 1944 the age under which the juvenile court in Rhode Island has jurisdiction over delinquent children was raised from 16 to 18 years.

⁹ Reported by State totals; break-downs for individual districts are estimated.

Places of detention care

The places in which children are cared for overnight or longer, pending hearing or disposition of their cases, and the extent of the care given them are dependent in part on the facilities available in local communities and in part on community attitudes on the need for detention. In some localities children brought to court in delinquency cases are detained for almost all types of offenses, whereas in others only certain types of delinquency are considered serious enough to warrant detention care.

Desirable standards of juvenile-court work require that children shall never be detained in jails or police stations. They should be allowed to remain in their own homes unless home conditions make immediate removal necessary, or unless the children are so far beyond the

control of their parents or guardians that there is danger of repetition of behavior menacing to themselves or to their communities, or unless detention is the only way that the children's presence in court can be assured. If detention is deemed necessary, suitable facilities other than jails or police stations should be used. These standards are widely accepted in principle, as is evidenced by legal restrictions placed on most juvenile courts against detaining children in jails or police stations; yet in practice extensive use of improper facilities for detention continues to be reported—table 5.

Delinquent children were detained overnight or longer pending hearing or disposition of their cases in 33,809 of the 77,859 cases for which information on detention care was reported. In 25 percent of these 33,809 cases the children

were detained at least part of the time in jails or police stations. The place of detention care most frequently reported for both boys' and girls' cases was a detention home; the reported use of boarding homes for detention care was negligible.

Disposition of cases

The disposition of cases by the various courts depends on the practices of the courts and on the availability of facilities for court supervision, for institutional care of children needing such service, or for other services to children.

The disposition most frequently made in 1944 in both boys' and girls' cases was "dismissed, adjusted, or held open without further action"—table 6. This disposition was made in 46 percent of the boys' cases and in 35 percent of the

Table 2.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Ages of boys and of girls when referred to court, in cases disposed of by 380 courts

Age of child when referred to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	118,626	95,827	22,799			
Age reported	107,508	86,724	20,784	100	100	100
Under 10 years	4,141	3,730	411			
10 years, under 12	7,779	6,905	784	4	4	2
12 years, under 14	17,892	14,744	3,148	17	17	15
14 years, under 16	40,581	31,304	9,277	38	38	45
16 years and over	37,115	29,951	7,164	34	35	34
Age not reported	11,118	9,103	2,015			

Table 4.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Sources of reference to court, in boys' and in girls' cases disposed of by 380 courts

Source of reference to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	118,626	95,827	22,799			
Source of reference reported	94,344	75,915	18,429	100	100	100
Police	65,478	56,809	9,169	69	74	50
School department	7,486	5,089	2,397	8	7	13
Probation officer	2,685	1,935	750	3	2	4
Other court	1,688	1,368	320	2	2	2
Social agency	1,643	681	962	2	1	5
Parents or relatives	6,362	3,099	3,263	7	4	17
Other individual	7,812	6,573	1,239	8	9	7
Other source	1,190	801	389	1	1	2
Source of reference not reported	24,282	19,912	4,370			

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Reason for reference to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases.....	118, 026	95, 827	22, 799			
Reason for reference reported.....	109, 068	88, 027	21, 041	100	100	100
Stealing.....	37, 217	35, 035	2, 182	34	40	10
Act of carelessness or mischief.....	19, 120	17, 858	1, 262	18	20	6
Traffic violation.....	8, 736	8, 504	172	8	10	1
Truancy.....	9, 226	6, 352	2, 874	8	7	14
Running away.....	9, 088	5, 419	4, 269	9	6	20
Being ungovernable.....	9, 553	5, 236	4, 617	9	6	22
Sex offense.....	6, 433	2, 681	3, 752	6	3	18
Injury to person.....	3, 290	2, 855	435	3	3	2
Other reason.....	5, 505	4, 027	1, 478	5	5	7
Reason for reference not reported.....	9, 558	7, 800	1, 758			

Places of detention care

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10 years, under 12.....	7,779	6,995	784	7	8	4
12 years, under 14.....	17,892	14,744	3,148	17	17	15
14 years, under 16.....	40,581	31,304	9,277	38	36	45
16 years and over.....	37,115	29,951	7,164	34	35	34
Age not reported.....	11,118	9,103	2,015			

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Total cases.....	118,626	95,827	22,799			
Reason for reference reported.....	109,068	88,027	21,041	100	100	100
Stealing.....	37,217	35,035	2,182	34	40	10
Act of carelessness or mischief.....	19,120	17,858	1,262	18	20	6
Traffic violation.....	8,736	8,504	232	8	10	1
Truancy.....	9,226	6,352	2,874	8	7	14
Running away.....	9,688	5,419	4,269	9	6	20
Being ungovernable.....	9,853	5,230	4,623	9	6	22
Sex offense.....	6,433	2,681	3,752	6	3	18
Injury to person.....	3,200	2,855	345	3	3	2
Other reason.....	5,505	4,027	1,478	5	5	7
Reason for reference not reported.....	9,558	7,800	1,758			

Table 4.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Sources of reference to court, in boys' and in girls' cases disposed of by 380 courts

Source of reference to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases.....	118,626	95,827	22,799			
Source of reference reported.....	94,344	75,915	18,429	100	100	100
Police.....	65,478	56,309	9,169	69	74	50
School department.....	7,486	5,089	2,397	8	7	13
Probation officer.....	2,685	1,935	750	3	2	4
Other court.....	1,688	1,368	320	2	2	2
Social agency.....	1,643	681	962	2	1	5
Parents or relatives.....	6,362	3,099	3,263	7	4	17
Other individual.....	7,812	6,573	1,239	8	9	7
Other source.....	1,190	861	329	1	1	2
Source of reference not reported.....	24,282	19,912	4,370			

Table 5.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Places of detention care of boys and of girls, in cases disposed of by 380 courts

Place of detention care	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases.....	118,626	95,827	22,799			
Detention care reported.....	77,859	62,364	15,495	100	100	100
No detention care overnight.....	44,050	36,363	7,687	57	58	50
Detention care overnight or longer.....	33,809	26,001	7,808	43	42	50
Boarding home.....	132	82	50	(1)	(1)	(1)
Detention home ²	23,032	17,254	5,778	29	28	37
Other institution.....	713	460	253	1	1	2
Jail or police station ³	8,616	7,211	1,405	11	11	9
Other place of care ⁴	504	355	149	1	1	1
Place of care not reported.....	812	639	173	1	1	1
Detention care not reported.....	40,767	33,463	7,304			

¹ Less than 0.5 percent.

² Includes cases of children cared for part of the time in detention homes and part of the time elsewhere but excludes cases of children also cared for in jails or police stations.

³ Includes cases of children cared for part of the time in jails or police stations and part of the time elsewhere.

⁴ Includes cases of children cared for in more than one place but in places other than detention homes, jails, or police stations.

girls' cases for which disposition was reported. The high proportion of dismissals, especially in boys' cases, may mean that many children are being brought into court needlessly or that they need services other than those the courts are equipped to provide. In approximately one-third of both boys' and girls' cases the children were placed under the supervision of probation officers. Of the boys' cases, 8 percent were disposed of by commitment or referral to an institution, and 3 percent by commitment or referral to an agency or individual. The differences between the dispositions in boys' cases and those in girls' cases may be attributed partly to differences in the types of behavior for which boys and girls were most frequently referred to court. (See section REASON FOR REFERRAL TO COURT.)

DECREASE IN CASES, 1943 TO 1944

Of the 380 courts reporting on delinquency cases disposed of in 1944, 369 had reported also in 1943. The number of cases disposed of by these 369

courts decreased from 1943 to 1944, to the following extent:

Percent decrease, 1943 to 1944, in cases disposed of—	All cases	Boys' cases	Girls' cases
By 369 courts.....	5	5	4
By 88 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more.....	4	4	3
By 281 courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000.....	12	12	10

It will be noted that both in boys' cases and in girls' cases the percent de-

Table 6.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1944: Dispositions of boys' and of girls' cases, disposed of by 380 courts

Disposition of case	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases.....	118,626	95,827	22,799			
Disposition reported.....	109,745	88,555	21,190	100	100	100
Case dismissed, adjusted, or held open without further action.....	47,010	40,556	7,354	44	46	35
Child supervised by probation officer.....	35,022	28,027	6,995	32	32	33
Child committed or referred to an institution.....	9,913	7,280	2,633	9	8	12
State institution for delinquent children.....	6,093	4,679	1,414	5	5	7
Other institution for delinquent children.....	2,881	1,959	912	3	2	4
Penal institution.....	173	167	6	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other institution.....	766	465	301	1	1	1
Child committed or referred to an agency or individual.....	4,308	2,669	1,639	4	3	8
Public department.....	1,202	741	461	1	1	2
Other agency or individual.....	3,106	1,928	1,178	3	2	6
Other disposition of case.....	12,592	10,023	2,569	11	11	12
Disposition not reported.....	8,881	7,272	1,609			

¹ Less than 0.5 percent.

crease was greater for the courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000 than for the courts serving areas with larger populations.

During the war period, when year-to-year increases were noted in the number of delinquency cases disposed of by reporting courts, the increases were not as marked for courts serving areas with

Table 7.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1938-44: Number of cases disposed of by 78 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more¹

Location of areas served by courts and chief city in area	Population change (percent) ²	Juvenile-delinquency cases						
		1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Total cases.....		53,134	57,601	55,545	60,644	65,351	86,006	84,879
Arkansas.....	+6.2	701	858	644	888	859	981	858
Pulaski County (Little Rock).....								
California.....	+12.8	2,438	2,046	2,046	3,172	3,378	4,458	4,108
Los Angeles County (Los Angeles) ³	+42.0	2,045	2,102	2,235	1,304	1,709	1,805	2,141
San Diego County (San Diego).....	+8.7	664	623	582	621	591	946	815
San Francisco—city and county.....								
District of Columbia.....	+24.2	1,867	2,723	2,597	3,094	2,860	3,204	3,171
Washington—city.....								
Florida.....	+10.0	816	573	670	640	635	823	992
Dade County (Miami).....								
Georgia.....	+4.2	1,121	1,049	1,079	1,164	1,192	1,549	1,376
Fulton County (Atlanta).....								
Indiana.....	-1.5	107	92	102	125	138	779	633
Allen County (Fort Wayne).....	+4.1	244	247	227	312	417	472	461
Lake County (Gary).....	+7.3	617	425	424	807	1,358	2,019	1,048
Marion County (Indianapolis).....	+7.0	450	644	689	853	1,012	1,579	1,324
St. Joseph County (South Bend).....	+15.7	153	171	239	263	490	740	680
Vanderburgh County (Evansville).....								
Iowa.....	-13.4	954	1,087	772	405	342	407	506
Woodbury County (Sioux City) ⁴								
Louisiana.....	-7.0	281	280	360	358	319	436	383
Cade Parish (Shreveport) ⁵								
Massachusetts.....								
Boston.....	-5.1	544	372	385	454	520	835	711
Boston (central section).....	-5.1	26	38	46	41	60	69	47
Brighton.....	-5.1	75	78	85	66	82	92	69
Charlestown.....	-5.1	107	140	182	141	134	154	235
Dorchester.....	-5.1	258	267	292	206	160	160	166
East Boston.....	-5.1	486	350	331	398	387	542	628
Roxbury.....	-5.1	129	128	111	82	105	115	117
South Boston.....	-5.1	141	110	98	133	114	179	165
West Roxbury.....	-5.1	354	322	324	347	373	373	450
Central district of Worcester (Worcester).....	-0.2	147	124	151	165	173	276	315
East Norfolk district (Quincy).....	-5.1	140	169	140	193	166	232	257
First district of eastern Middlesex (Medford).....	-5.1	70	79	71	100	118	73	82
Lawrence district (Lawrence).....	-5.1	112	115	97	58	80	70	103
Lowell district (Lowell).....	-0.1	140	121	163	124	146	239	111
Second district of Bristol (Fall River).....	-5.1	84	76	102	55	128	146	148
Somerville district (Somerville).....	-5.1	118	111	81	112	150	227	241
Southern Essex district (Lynn).....	-2.9	160	160	143	148	213	269	235
Springfield district (Springfield).....	-6.1	145	212	140	170	219	230	300
Third district of Bristol (New Bedford).....	-5.1	138	92	135	220			
Third district of eastern Middlesex (Cambridge).....								
Michigan.....	-6.1	442	420	406	372	368	587	505
Kent County (Grand Rapids).....	+8.0	1,854	1,885	2,000	2,220	2,196	2,720	2,450
Wayne County (Detroit).....								
Minnesota.....	-2.2	964	919	860	932	985	1,277	1,270
Hennepin County (Minneapolis) ⁶	-3.3	405	481	510	468	460	720	684
Ramsey County (St. Paul).....								

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1938-44: Number of cases disposed of by 78 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more¹—Continued

Location of areas served by courts and chief city in area	Population change (percent) ²	Juvenile-delinquency cases						
		1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Missouri.....								
Jackson County (Kansas City).....	+1.7	974	1,181	966	1,200	1,414	1,804	1,858
New Jersey.....	-8.4	321	357	270	275	311	335	423
Hudson County (Jersey City) ¹⁰								
New York.....								
Albany County (Albany).....	-5.0	369	323	298	295	282	304	253
Broome County (Binghamton).....	-0.8	146	129	64	212	103	131	110
Chautauqua County (Jamestown).....	-7.9	167	128	129	217	176	159	158
Dutchess County (Poughkeepsie).....	-5.3	44	75	72	65	83	114	82
Erie County (Buffalo).....	-0.4	807	886	762	981	790	1,114	837
Monroe County (Rochester).....	-4.5	140	160	177	150	153	234	218
Nassau County (Hempstead).....	+4.3	179	199	156	197	162	271	213
New York—city.....	-0.9	4,850	5,265	3,920	4,409	4,800	6,444	6,605
Niagara County (Niagara Falls).....	+1.1	78	105	106	121	100	101	254
Oneida County (Utica).....	-0.9	199	228	160	208	254	327	191
Onondaga County (Syracuse).....	-4.0	347	297	296	323	304	471	343
Orange County (Newburgh).....	-6.5	13	57	71	64	83	131	90
Rensselaer County (Troy).....	-8.4	233	225	225	175	307	198	226
Schenectady County (Schenectady).....	+2.0	90	121	103	107	106	91	188
Suffolk County (Patchogue).....	+1.2	72	84	118	116	74	142	86
Westchester County (Yonkers).....	-8.9	252	305	284	293	345	427	360
Ohio.....								
Butler County (Hamilton City).....	+2.6	834	978	757	702	983	1,103	989
Franklin County (Columbus).....	+7.3	1,137	1,183	1,015	1,086	1,342	1,342	1,179
Hamilton County (Cincinnati).....	-4.9	3,321	3,436	3,203	3,319	3,128	4,117	3,325
Lorain County (Elyria).....	+1.0	113	108	113	113	113	113	364
Montgomery County (Dayton).....	+14.6	1,112	1,188	1,463	1,338	1,341	1,933	1,813
Stark County (Canton).....	+5.4	143	160	127	42	90	94	96
Summit County (Akron).....	+7.1	850	1,137	1,106	1,073	1,311	2,060	1,942
Trumbull County (Warren).....	+2.8	375	237	293	260	387	492	474
Oklahoma.....								
Tulsa—city ¹¹	+10.3	101	194	97	147	159	340	282
Oregon.....								
Multnomah County (Portland).....	+26.2	832	889	830	957	1,208	2,719	3,205
Pennsylvania ¹²								
Allegheny County (Pittsburgh).....	-6.3	1,493	1,641	2,612	2,663	2,709	3,165	3,238
Berk County (Reading).....	-7.8	117	124	135	137	155	228	220
Montgomery County (Norristown).....	+4.8	90	128	155	182	252	262	297
Philadelphia—city and county.....	+0.8	4,507	5,313	6,430	6,841	7,335	9,433	9,395
Rhode Island.....								
State (Providence) ¹³	-2.0	556	540	441	481	537	820	1,047
South Carolina.....								
Greenville County (Greenville).....	-2.8	191	241	202	270	292	300	433
Utah ¹⁴								
First district (Ogden).....	+12.3	597	593	558	624	901	1,321	1,027
Second district (Salt Lake City).....	+0.1	997	1,111	1,099	1,245	1,738	2,813	2,472
Third district (Provo).....	+2.1	440	513	642	1,071	1,131	1,713	1,681
Virginia.....								
Norfolk—city.....	+50.8	833	679	484	646	785	1,182	1,316
Washington.....								
Pierce County (Tacoma).....	+20.6	145	174	159	245	277	416	440
Spokane County (Spokane).....	+6.0	511	512	481	559	503	1,005	546
Wisconsin.....								
Milwaukee County (Milwaukee).....	-0.6	4,846	5,720	4,802	5,973	6,086	6,881	6,617

¹ Report includes courts, serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more according to 1940 census, for which data are available since 1938; for age jurisdictions of courts and indication whether data include unofficial cases, see table 1.

² Estimated percent change in civilian population, April 1, 1940, to November 1, 1943. Bureau of the Census: Population—Special Reports, Series P-44, No. 3 (Washington, February 15, 1944).

³ For uniformity of reporting, data for this court include cases of truancy and incorrigibility with delinquency, although the court does not consider these as delinquency cases.

⁴ In March 1941 the age under which juvenile courts in Indiana have jurisdiction over delinquent boys was raised from 16 to 18 years.

⁵ In July 1941 an amendment to the law authorized filing of petitions in juvenile courts in Iowa for any minor over 18 instead of only to 18 years of age.

⁶ Includes official cases only for all years shown, although data including unofficial cases are available for some years (see table 1, and previous reports).

⁷ Estimate based on population of juvenile courts in Michigan, formerly exclusive over children between ages of 17 and 21 years committing certain offenses, was made concurrent over children between ages of 17 and 19 committing such offenses.

⁸ Excludes traffic violations.

⁹ In April 1943 an amendment to the 1929 Juvenile Court Act gave juvenile courts in New Jersey authority to adjudicate cases involving adolescent offenders (between ages of 16 and 18 years) charged with indictable offenses if certified by prosecutor of pleas or other specified authorities.

¹⁰ In May 1941 the age under which juvenile courts in Oklahoma have jurisdiction over delinquent girls was raised from 16 to 18 years.

¹¹ In September 1939 the age under which juvenile courts in Pennsylvania have jurisdiction over delinquent children was raised from 16 to 18 years.

¹² Before the juvenile-court reorganization in July 1944 this area was composed of 12 districts. In July 1944 the age under which the juvenile court in Rhode Island has jurisdiction over delinquent children was raised from 16 to 18 years.

¹³ Before the juvenile-court reorganization in March 1942 the first district was composed of the first and second districts, the second district was designated as the third district, and the third district was composed of the fourth and seventh districts.

¹⁴ Estimated.

small populations as for those serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more. Migration of people from rural areas to industrial centers and the greater disruption of normal family life in those urban areas—because of housing shortages, employment of women, and strains on community services—may explain these greater increases in earlier years and the smaller decrease in 1944 for courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more. However, the data for the courts serving areas with smaller populations represent only 11 percent of the total number of cases reported for 1944 by the 369 courts.

TRENDS IN VOLUME OF CASES, 1938 TO 1944

Trends in the volume of delinquency cases disposed of from 1938 to 1944 are described here on the basis of reports from 78 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more for which data are available for these 7 years—table 7 and figure 1. Though the number of cases disposed of by these 78 courts was slightly lower in 1944 than in 1943, there has been a substantial over-all increase since 1938, as is shown in table 8.

The decrease from 1943 to 1944 in the number of girls' cases was the first break in a progressive year-to-year increase that had been noted since 1939.

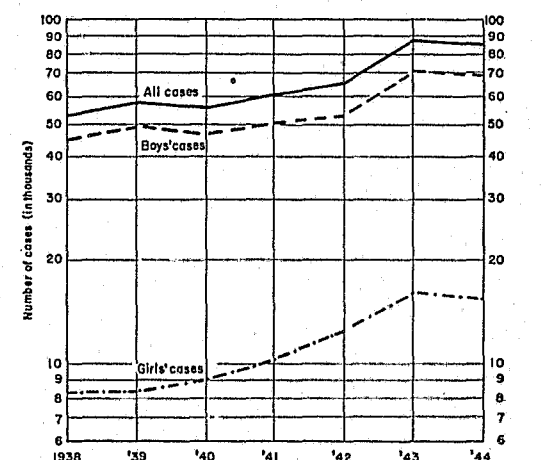


Figure 1.—Ratio chart: Juvenile-delinquency cases disposed of from 1938 to 1944 by 78 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more.

The over-all increase between 1938 and 1944 was substantially greater for girls' cases than for boys' cases.

Changes in volume of juvenile-court cases, particularly during the war years, should be considered in relation to shifts in population with the attendant changes in the number of children subject to the jurisdiction of the various juvenile courts. The effect of population changes on volume of delinquency cases may be studied by comparing the number of cases disposed of in areas where the population increased with the number disposed of in areas where the population decreased. For the areas served by the 78 courts considered here, figures on population changes between 1940 and 1943 are available.¹ In the areas served by 36 of the courts the population increased; in the areas served by 42 courts it decreased. For both groups of courts there were increases between 1940 and

¹ Estimated Civilian Population of the United States, by Counties: November 1, 1948. Bureau of the Census: Population—Special Reports, Series P-44, No. 3 (Washington: February 15, 1944).

1944 in the number of delinquency cases disposed of. The percent increases were as follows:

Percent increase, 1940 to 1944, in cases disposed of—	All cases	Boys' cases	Girls' cases
By 36 courts serving areas where population increased.....	59	55	82
By 42 courts serving areas where population decreased.....	42	39	58

The greater increases in delinquency cases disposed of in the areas that gained in population may be the result not only of an increase in the number of children under juvenile-court jurisdiction in those areas but also of conditions such as overcrowding and inadequate educational and recreational

facilities that were found in most areas with war-swollen populations. The large increase (42 percent) from 1940 to 1944 in delinquency cases disposed of in the areas whose populations decreased indicates that factors related generally to the war contributed substantially to the increase in delinquency cases during that period. Some of these factors were the absence of one or both parents from home, shortages of trained personnel to deal with children's problems, wartime anxieties and strains, and unwholesome surroundings and associations of children in some types of employment.

Table 8.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1938–44: Changes from year to year in cases disposed of by 78 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more

Year	Number disposed of			Percent change from preceding year			Percent change from 1938		
	All cases	Boys' cases	Girls' cases	All cases	Boys' cases	Girls' cases	All cases	Boys' cases	Girls' cases
1938.....	53, 134	44, 819	8, 315	—	—	—	—	—	—
1939.....	57, 601	49, 223	8, 378	+8	+10	+1	+8	+10	+1
1940.....	55, 545	46, 544	9, 001	-4	-5	+7	+5	+4	+8
1941.....	60, 644	50, 329	10, 315	+9	+8	+15	+14	+12	+24
1942.....	65, 351	52, 837	12, 514	+8	+5	+21	+23	+18	+50
1943.....	86, 906	70, 784	16, 122	+33	+34	+29	+64	+58	+94
1944.....	84, 879	69, 235	15, 644	-2	-2	-3	+60	+54	+84

Limitations of Juvenile-Court Statistics

Statistics on juvenile-delinquency cases disposed of present a general picture of the volume of the work of juvenile courts in dealing with delinquent behavior. The number of cases reported by different courts is influenced greatly by variations in the administrative practices of the courts. Some courts report only cases that they have disposed of officially—that is, after the filing of legal papers necessary to have the cases placed on the court calendar. Other courts report, in addition, the cases disposed of unofficially—without formal action—by judges, probation officers, or referees. Some courts may handle certain types of cases as dependency or neglect cases whereas the same cases in other courts might be handled as delinquency cases.

Another factor affecting the number of delinquency cases reported (and thus affecting the comparability of the reports) is the age jurisdiction of the courts. The age limit for children coming under juvenile-court jurisdiction is established by State law and in most instances is uniform throughout a

State, though it varies from State to State as is shown in table 1. The data are influenced also by other factors such as the personnel and facilities of the courts, the relations of the courts to other agencies serving youth and to law-enforcement agencies in the communities, and the development of necessary community services for children.

Juvenile-court statistics as collected by the U. S. Children's Bureau refer to the number of cases disposed of by courts rather than to the number of children involved. One child may appear before the court two, three, or more times during the year, for the same reason or for different reasons, and each appearance is counted as another case if a new complaint is filed and dealt with separately. In planning a program of services directed toward the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency by community welfare agencies, it is important to know the number of children who are likely to need such services.

Statistics on delinquency cases disposed of by juvenile courts, even if they

were Nation-wide in coverage, would not truly indicate the volume of delinquent behavior in the United States as a whole, just as statistics on cases disposed of by an individual court are not an accurate indication of the volume of delinquency in the community served by that court. Many children whose behavior may be classed as delinquent are not represented in juvenile-court statistics, either because they are dealt with by the police, social agencies, schools, public or private youth-serving agencies, or other resources in the community and are not referred to a court. For example, the decline between 1943 and 1944 in the number of cases disposed of by the St. Louis (city) court, 40 percent, and by the Polk County (Des Moines) court, 24 percent, reflect the effects of the establishment of juvenile divisions in the police departments that made it unnecessary for some children involved in delinquent behavior to appear in court. The extent to which situations of this sort obtain varies from city to city and often from year to year within the same city.

(Continued on page 11)

JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS FOR 1945

REPORTS on the number of juvenile-delinquency cases disposed of during 1945 were received for 374 juvenile courts. The data obtained from these reports are presented in tables 1 to 6 and are comparable in form and content to those appearing in tables 1 to 6 for 1944. There were few changes in the courts reporting in 1945 as compared with 1944, and the number of courts from which reports were received differed only slightly from the preceding year.

Review of the data for 1945 indicates that there have been no marked changes from 1944 in the relative distribution for each of the factors analyzed (for example, age and reason for referral to court) and that the general observations on the 1944 data are applicable also to the data for 1945.

Of the 374 courts reporting on delinquency cases disposed of in 1945, 364 had reported also in 1944. The total number of delinquency cases disposed of by these 364 courts in 1945 was 6 percent higher than in 1944; the number of boys' cases was 8 percent higher and the number of girls' cases was 4 percent lower than in 1944. In girls' cases disposed of, the decrease (8 percent) for courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000 was more pronounced than the decrease (3 percent) for courts serving areas with larger populations.

For 76 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more, comparable data are available since 1938. For these 76 courts the decrease of 5

percent from 1944 to 1945 in the number of girls' cases continued the decrease noted from 1943 to 1944, which had interrupted a constant increase since 1939. The increase of 8 percent from 1944 to 1945 in the number of boys' cases, which comprise more than four-fifths of the total number of cases disposed of, reverses the decrease noted from 1943 to 1944 and continues the upward trend of the last several years.

The increase in the number of delinquency cases disposed of by juvenile courts in 1945 as compared with 1944 emphasizes the importance of strengthening programs of services for children. The end of the war should not lead to a relaxation of community efforts in this direction.

Table 1.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1945: Boys' and girls' cases, by race, disposed of by 88 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more and by 286 courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000¹

Location of areas served by courts and chief cities in certain areas	Age under which court has original jurisdiction ²	Data include unofficial cases?	Juvenile-delinquency cases							
			All races		White ³		Negro and other nonwhite		Race not reported	
			Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Total cases.....			122, 851	101, 240	21, 611	57, 124	12, 222	15, 802	3, 996	28, 314
AREAS WITH 100,000 OR MORE POPULATION.....			108, 469	89, 322	19, 147	50, 556	10, 680	15, 058	3, 823	23, 708
Arkansas Pulaski County (Little Rock).....	21	Yes	1, 437	784	653	376	512	408	141	—
California Los Angeles County (Los Angeles).....	21	No	4, 004	3, 887	717	3, 276	402	305	78	306
San Diego County (San Diego).....	21	Yes	2, 033	1, 597	466	1, 484	437	83	29	177
San Francisco—city and county.....	21	Yes ⁴	2, 468	1, 706	662	1, 503	175	63	25	402
Connecticut First district (Bridgeport).....	16	Yes	1, 505	1, 298	207	1, 211	171	87	36	—
Second district (New Haven).....	16	Yes	1, 508	1, 379	219	1, 260	182	119	37	—
Third district (Hartford).....	16	Yes	1, 435	1, 204	231	1, 116	212	88	19	—
District of Columbia Washington—city.....	18	Yes	3, 202	2, 806	396	1, 205	126	1, 601	270	—
Georgia Fulton County (Atlanta).....	16	Yes	1, 597	1, 299	298	—	—	—	—	1, 299
Indiana Allen County (Fort Wayne).....	18	Yes	613	505	108	403	97	42	11	298
Lake County (Gary).....	18	Yes	363	283	80	246	57	37	23	—
Marion County (Indianapolis).....	18	Yes	2, 542	2, 036	506	1, 410	382	626	124	—
St. Joseph County (South Bend).....	18	Yes	1, 617	1, 284	333	1, 154	281	130	52	—
Vanderburgh County (Evansville).....	18	Yes	808	678	130	595	115	83	15	—
Iowa Polk County (Des Moines).....	21	Yes	839	725	114	119	34	23	6	583
Woodbury County (Sioux City).....	21	Yes	583	466	118	—	—	—	—	465
Louisiana Caddo Parish (Shreveport).....	17	Yes ⁴	671	543	128	432	79	111	49	—
Massachusetts Boston: Boston (central section).....	17	No	706	491	215	—	—	—	—	491
Brighton.....	17	No	49	48	1	—	—	—	—	48
Charlestown.....	17	No	85	82	3	—	—	—	—	82
Dorchester.....	17	No	176	163	13	—	—	—	—	163
East Boston.....	17	No	133	122	11	—	—	—	—	122
Roxbury.....	17	No	663	587	76	—	—	—	—	587
South Boston.....	17	No	168	152	16	—	—	—	—	152
West Roxbury.....	17	No	228	212	16	—	—	—	—	212
Central district of Worcester (Worcester).....	17	No	404	432	32	—	—	—	—	432
East Norfolk district (Quincy).....	17	No	248	220	18	—	—	—	—	220
First district of eastern Middlesex (Medford).....	17	No	282	257	25	—	—	—	—	257
Lawrence district (Lawrence).....	17	No	88	79	9	—	—	—	—	79
Lowell district (Lowell).....	17	No	118	110	8	—	—	—	—	110

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1945: Boys' and girls' cases, by race, disposed of by 88 courts serving areas with populations of 100,000 or more and by 286 courts serving areas with populations of less than 100,000—Continued

Location of areas served by courts and chief cities in certain areas	Age under which court has original jurisdiction ²	Data include unofficial cases?	Juvenile-delinquency cases								
			All races			White ³		Negro and other nonwhite		Race not reported	
			Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Massachusetts—Continued											
Second district of Bristol (Fall River)	17	No	117	108	9					108	9
Somerville district (Somerville)	17	No	113	104	9					104	9
Southern Essex district (Lynn)	17	No	155	145	10					145	10
Springfield district (Springfield)	17	No	291	248	43					248	43
Third district of Bristol (New Bedford)	17	No	233	223	15					223	15
Third district of eastern Middlesex (Cambridge)	17	No	333	300	33					300	33
Michigan											
Kent County (Grand Rapids)	17	No	556	487	69	473	59	14	10		
Wayne County (Detroit)	17	No	1,990	1,606	384	1,219	280	387	104		
Minnesota											
Hennepin County (Minneapolis)	18	No	1,454	1,065	389					1,065	389
Ramsey County (St. Paul)	18	No	632	512	120	502	116	10	4		
Missouri											
Jackson County (Kansas City)	17	Yes	2,105	1,600	505	1,329	432	269	72	2	1
St. Louis—city	17	Yes	1,671	1,107	564	740	329	356	224	11	11
St. Louis County (University City)	17	Yes	477	406	71	361	50	45	21		
New Jersey											
Hudson County (Jersey City)	16	No	602	506	96					506	96
Union County (Elizabeth)	16	No	231	193	38					193	38
New York											
Albany County (Albany)	16	No	196	175	21					175	21
Broome County (Binghamton)	16	No	142	115	27					115	27
Chautauqua County (Jamestown)	16	No	138	130	8					130	8
Dutchess County (Poughkeepsie)	16	No	86	71	15					71	15
Erie County (Buffalo)	16	No	695	607	88					607	88
Monroe County (Rochester)	16	No	305	261	44					261	44
Nassau County (Hempstead)	16	No	288	258	30					258	30
New York—city	16	No	7,037	6,058	979	3,948	541	2,110	438		
Niagara County (Niagara Falls)	16	No	200	147	53					147	53
Oneida County (Utica)	16	No	144	123	21					123	21
Onondaga County (Syracuse)	16	No	436	384	52					384	52
Orange County (Newburgh)	16	No	129	115	14					115	14
Rensselaer County (Troy)	16	No	242	183	59					183	59
Schenectady County (Schenectady)	16	No	153	126	27					126	27
Suffolk County (Patchogue)	16	No	143	127	16					127	16
Westchester County (Yonkers)	16	No	375	319	56					319	56
Ohio											
Butler County (Hamilton City)	18	Yes	1,098	838	260	693	202	144	58	1	1
Cuyahoga County (Cleveland)	18	Yes	4,268	3,328	940					3,328	940
Franklin County (Columbus)	18	Yes	1,101	793	308	588	249	205	59		
Hamilton County (Cincinnati)	18	Yes	3,498	2,872	626	2,158	405	713	221	1	
Lorain County (Elyria)	18	Yes	408	338	70	317	64	21	6		
Lucas County (Toledo)	18	Yes	1,173	923	250	778	213	145	37		
Mahoning County (Youngstown)	18	Yes	1,623	1,456	167	1,109	101	345	64	2	2
Montgomery County (Dayton)	18	Yes	1,857	1,542	315	1,235	241	298	74	9	
Stark County (Canton)	18	No	179	152	27	127	26	25	1		
Summit County (Akron)	18	Yes	1,758	1,480	278	1,330	220	150	58		
Trumbull County (Warren)	18	Yes	386	322	64	275	56	47	8		
Oklahoma											
Tulsa—city	16, 18	Yes ⁴	1,143	759	384	599	279	160	105		
Oregon											
Multnomah County (Portland)	18	Yes	(2,852)								
Pennsylvania											
Allegheny County (Pittsburgh)	18	No	3,417	2,740	677	2,145	462	595	215		
Berks County (Reading)	18	No	173	161	12	55	12	16		90	
Montgomery County (Norristown)	18	Yes ⁶	717	576	141	208	24	16	10	353	107
Philadelphia—city and county	18	Yes	9,652	8,252	1,400	4,583	749	3,009	651		
Rhode Island											
State (Providence)	18	No	1,960	1,692	268	1,572	248	120	20		
South Carolina											
Greenville County (Greenville)	16	Yes	340	270	70	167	30	103	40		
Texas											
Bexar County (San Antonio)	17, 18	Yes	2,032	2,275	657	2,102	592	173	65		
Dallas County (Dallas)	17, 18	Yes	2,203	1,707	556	1,244	383	463	173		
Utah											
First district (Ogden)	18	Yes	1,845	1,640	205					1,640	205
Second district (Salt Lake City)	18	Yes	3,410	3,157	253					3,157	253
Third district (Provo)	18	Yes	1,579	1,413	166					1,413	166
Virginia											
Norfolk—city	18	No	1,055	812	273	432	199	380	74		
Washington											
Pierce County (Tacoma)	18	Yes	490	376	114					376	114
Spokane County (Spokane)	18	Yes	554	454	100					454	100
Wisconsin											
Milwaukee County (Milwaukee)	18	Yes	6,583	5,091	802	5,417	796	274	96		
AREAS WITH LESS THAN 100,000 POPULATION			14,382	11,918	2,464	6,598	1,542	744	173	4,600	749
Indiana: 34 courts	18	Yes	2,121	1,670	451	1,578	432	92	19		
Louisiana: East Baton Rouge Parish	17	No	343	296	77	114	40	152	31		
Massachusetts: 54 courts	17	No	2,259	2,042	217					2,042	217
Missouri: 112 courts	17	Yes	1,990	1,653	337	1,531	313	66	15	56	9
Montana: Yellowstone County	18	Yes	400	331	69	324	65	7	4		
New York: 42 courts	16	No	1,515	1,288	227					1,288	227
Ohio: 38 courts	16, 18	Yes ¹⁰	3,579	3,168	711	2,764	641	211	40	193	21
Oklahoma: Tulsa County—exclusive of city	16, 18	Yes	107	109	88					109	88
Texas: Wichita County	17, 18	Yes	487	371	116					371	116
Utah: Fourth district	18	Yes	588	547	41					547	41
Virginia: Danville—city	18	No	573	473	100	257	46	216	55		

¹ Population according to 1940 census.
² Where age under which court has original jurisdiction is different for boys and for girls, the age for boys appears first.
³ Includes all Mexicans.
⁴ For uniformity of reporting, data for this court include cases of truancy and incorrigibility with delinquency, although the court does not consider these as delinquency cases.
⁵ Data for official cases only, comparable to those reported in previous years, are as follows, for total cases, boys' cases, and girls' cases, respectively: California, San Francisco city and county—782, 571, and 211; Louisiana, Caddo Parish—300, 207, and 93; Oklahoma, Tulsa city—180, 130, and 50; Pennsylvania, Montgomery County—257, 223, and 34.
⁶ Excludes traffic violations; data are estimated.
⁷ Juvenile courts in New Jersey have authority to adjudicate cases involving adolescent offenders (between ages of 16 and 18 years) charged with indictable offenses if certified by prosecutor of pleas or other specified authorities.
⁸ Children's courts in New York State have jurisdiction over children up to 18 years of age in cases involving violation of the Education Law.
⁹ Data for Multnomah County, Ore., are not included in total cases for all courts inasmuch as the break-down by sex is not available.
¹⁰ Belmont County reported official cases only.

Table 2.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1945: Ages of boys and of girls when referred to court, in cases disposed of by 374 courts

Age of child when referred to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	122,851	101,240	21,611			
Age reported	110,415	91,435	18,980	100	100	100
Under 10 years	4,172	3,763	409	4	4	2
10 years, under 12	8,032	7,311	721	7	8	4
12 years, under 14	18,362	15,558	2,804	17	17	15
14 years, under 16	40,872	32,645	8,227	37	36	43
16 years and over	38,977	32,158	6,819	35	35	36
Age not reported	12,436	9,805	2,631			

Table 3.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1945: Reasons for reference to court, in boys' and in girls' cases disposed of by 374 courts

Reason for reference to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	122,851	101,240	21,611			
Reason for reference reported	111,939	92,671	19,268	100	100	100
Stealing	40,879	38,610	2,269	37	42	12
Act of carelessness or mischief	19,241	17,779	1,462	17	19	8
Traffic violation	9,852	9,659	193	9	10	1
Truancy	8,681	6,164	2,517	8	7	13
Running away	9,307	5,652	3,655	8	6	19
Being ungovernable	9,840	5,542	4,298	9	6	22
Sex offense	5,990	2,570	3,411	5	3	18
Injury to person	3,224	2,828	396	3	3	2
Other reason	4,925	3,858	1,067	4	4	5
Reason for reference not reported	10,912	8,569	2,343			

Limitations

(Continued from page 8)

Data on the number of delinquency cases disposed of include not merely the most serious offenses, but many types of alleged delinquency from the most serious to the most trivial. Moreover, juvenile-court statistics include not only cases in which children are adjudged to be delinquent but all cases brought before a court in which delinquency is alleged.

Because of their limitations, juvenile-court statistics alone do not provide a reliable index of delinquency in each community. These statistics are apt to be particularly misleading if used to make comparisons between one community and another respecting the extent of delinquency.

On the back cover of this supplement are described revisions of the Children's Bureau reporting program that it is hoped will improve these juvenile-court statistics.

Table 4.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1945: Sources of reference to court, in boys' and in girls' cases disposed of by 374 courts

Source of reference to court	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	122,851	101,240	21,611			
Source of reference reported	96,262	79,534	16,728	100	100	100
Police	68,682	60,049	8,633	71	75	52
School department	6,976	5,027	1,949	7	6	12
Probation officer	2,974	2,224	750	3	2	4
Other court	1,590	1,343	247	2	1	1
Social agency	1,592	752	840	2	1	5
Parents or relatives	5,751	2,951	2,800	6	4	17
Other individual	7,477	6,304	1,173	8	8	7
Other source	1,220	884	336	1	1	2
Source of reference not reported	26,589	21,706	4,883			

Table 5.—Juvenile-delinquency cases, 1945: Places of detention care of boys and of girls, in cases disposed of by 374 courts

Place of detention care	Juvenile-delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	122,851	101,240	21,611			
Detention care reported	76,002	62,353	13,649	100	100	100
No detention care over- night	43,100	36,824	6,276	57	59	46
Detention care over- night or longer	32,902	25,529	7,373	43	41	54
Boarding home	331	292	39	(1)	1	(1)
Detention home 2	22,659	16,948	5,711	30	27	42
Other institution	760	503	257	1	1	2
Jail or police station 3	8,735	7,507	1,228	12	12	9
Other place of care 4	156	75	81	(1)	(1)	1
Place of care not re- ported	261	204	57	(1)	(1)	(1)
Detention care not reported	46,849	38,887	7,962			

Improvement of Juvenile-Court Statistics

To increase the significance and effective use of juvenile-court statistics and to achieve greater efficiency and economy in their collection and tabulation, the U. S. Children's Bureau initiated on January 1, 1946, a revision of its juvenile-court statistical reporting program. Under the revised reporting plan, the Children's Bureau discontinued the direct collection of statistical reports from individual courts and will tabulate only summary reports received from State agencies concerned with juvenile-court or probation work (e. g., departments of welfare, State-wide juvenile courts, departments of probation and correction). These summary reports will be based on individual court reports to the State agencies.

State-agency collection of juvenile-court statistics will extend materially the geographic coverage of the series to include more urban and rural courts in all sections of the United States. This arrangement will be advantageous also to individual courts because they will be able to seek advice and consultation on statistical reporting procedures and related matters from agencies in their own States.

The revised reports will include (1) a count and analysis of all children's cases—delinquency, dependency and neglect, and special proceedings—disposed of officially (formally) and unofficially (informally) during the calendar year, and (2) an unduplicated count of the number of different children involved in all children's cases disposed of during the calendar year. Reports of this nature will present a better picture of the work of juvenile courts and will be extremely useful in State and local planning of programs of preventive and treatment services for children.

Another approach to the improvement of statistics on delinquency is described in a recently released report on an experimental registration of juvenile delinquency undertaken in the District of Columbia by the U. S. Children's Bureau in cooperation with the Washington Council of Social Agencies.¹ The experiment employed

the technique of central registration of children whose behavior was reported as delinquent by each of the six official agencies in the city concerned with juvenile behavior.

The results of this study indicated that a large number of children alleged to be delinquent were not known to the juvenile court during the registration year, having been dealt with by the police or by other agencies without referral to court. The study also indicated that, because of duplication in the statistics for any two agencies, central registration may be the only feasible method for completely unduplicating on a community-wide basis the count of children alleged to be delinquent. Central registration may be a step toward improved measurement of juvenile delinquency and may hold possibilities as a tool for better community planning of services for children and youth. However, the procedures involved need to be tested in additional areas to ascertain the effect of differing community provisions and interagency relations before general conclusions and recommendations for its use can be made.

¹ *A Community Experiment in the Measurement of Juvenile Delinquency*, by Edward E. Schwartz. National Probation Association Yearbook, 1945 (New York: 1946). Pp. 157-181. A limited number of reprints of this article are available from the U. S. Children's Bureau.

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