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JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS  
1928

✓ BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED  
BY 65 COURTS

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# JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

## THE COURTS COOPERATING

The second annual report of juvenile-court statistics is compiled from information supplied by 65 courts cooperating with the Children's Bureau in the plan for obtaining uniform statistics of delinquency, and dependency and neglect cases dealt with by juvenile courts.<sup>1</sup> The number of courts participating in the plan is steadily increasing. On July 1, 1929, 104 courts were known to be using the cards and 46 more had been supplied with cards and were therefore presumably cooperating.

Sixty-five courts sent in statistical data for the entire calendar year 1928, as compared with 43 for the year 1927.<sup>2</sup> The names of the 65 courts reporting for 1928, with the largest city or town in the area served by each court, are given in Appendix A, page 31. For convenience each court will be designated hereafter only by the territory over which it has jurisdiction. The number of cases dealt with by each court during the year is shown in Table 1—38,882 delinquency cases, 16,289 dependency and neglect cases, and 10,429 cases of children discharged from probation or supervision during the year. Although all the courts have jurisdiction over both delinquency cases and dependency or neglect cases, cards for delinquency cases only were obtained from three of these courts, and one court reported only dependency or neglect cases. No cases of delinquency, dependency, or neglect were reported for two localities from which records of children discharged from probation or supervision were received. Only 62 of the 65 courts, therefore, reported cases of delinquency, 53 courts reported cases of dependency and neglect, 45 courts reported cases of children discharged from probation or supervision. These figures, representing the number of courts reporting each type of case, will be used in the tables and discussion in this report.

As the cards were usually sent by the probation office associated with the court, the organization of this office and its relation to the court affect the completeness with which the work of the court, as to both type and number of cases, is reported.<sup>3</sup> Most of the failures

<sup>1</sup> The basis of the plan is the filling out of statistical cards: A yellow card for each case of delinquency disposed of during a calendar year; a blue card for each case of dependency or neglect disposed of; and a white card for each case of a child discharged from probation (in delinquency cases) or from supervision (in dependency or neglect cases). The yellow and blue cards differ only in the lists of charges and dispositions. The cards have been so arranged that little clerical work is involved; most of the information is entered by checking. Cards and a bulletin of instructions are furnished by the Children's Bureau without charge to cooperating courts, as are franked or addressed envelopes requiring no postage for use in mailing cards back to the bureau. Cards are returned to the bureau for tabulation at least once a year, and preferably several times each year.

<sup>2</sup> The Children's Bureau prepares from the cards a set of tables on printed forms for each court. These are sent to the courts for use in annual reports, if desired. The facts presented in these tables include charges, places of care pending hearing, manner of dealing with cases, and dispositions. The number of different children dealt with, the number of repeaters, and certain social facts are also shown. For cases discharged from probation or supervision the length of the probation or supervision period and the reason for discharge are given. If it so chooses a court may compile its own tables in accordance with the Children's Bureau plan, instead of sending in cards.

<sup>3</sup> Juvenile Court Statistics, 1927. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 105. Washington, 1929.

<sup>4</sup> In some localities the probation office is a separate organization.



uron having the smallest population was in a county having about 13,000 population.

The maximum age of original jurisdiction of these courts varied from 16 to 18 years. Of the 65 courts 25 had jurisdiction over children under 16 years of age; <sup>7</sup> 4 had jurisdiction under 17 years; <sup>8</sup> and 24 had jurisdiction under 18 years. <sup>9</sup> Of the remaining 12 courts, delinquency cases reported by 62 juvenile courts, show a very close agreement with the tables prepared on the basis of 28,387 cases under 16, delinquent girls under 18, and dependent and neglected reported by 42 courts for the calendar year 1927. Although some girls under 17; <sup>10</sup> and 1 (Orange County, Tex.) had jurisdiction over delinquent boys under 17, delinquent girls up to 18, and dependent and neglected children up to 16 years of age.

<sup>7</sup> Bridgeport and Hartford, Conn.; Hudson County and Mercer County, N. J. (girls under 17 may be committed by the Juvenile court to the State home for girls); Buffalo, Chemung County, Clinton County, Columbia County, Delaware County, Erie County, Franklin County, Monroe County, New York City, Ontario County, Orange County, Orleans County, and Westchester County, N. Y.; Bumcombe County and Winston-Salem, N. C.; Allegheny County, Berks County, Lycoming County, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia, Pa.; and Greenville County, S. C.

<sup>8</sup> District of Columbia; Caddo Parish and Ouachita Parish, La.; and Jackson County, Mo.

<sup>9</sup> Polk County, Iowa (this court has concurrent original jurisdiction up to 21 years but seldom exercises this privilege); Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and St. Louis County, Minn.; Auglaize County, Clark County, Cuyahoga County, Franklin County, Hamilton County, Lake County, Mahoning County, Montgomery County, and Sandusky County, Ohio; first district, second district, third district, fourth district, fifth district, Carbon County, and other counties, Utah; Lynchburg, Norfolk, and Roanoke County, Va.; and Pierce County, Wash.

<sup>10</sup> Adams County, Clarke County, Clay County, Jennings County, Lake County, Marion County, Monroe County, Montgomery County, Steuben County, Vermillion County, and Wayne County, Ind.

## DELINQUENCY CASES

The tables which summarize the information in regard to the 38,882 cases reported by 62 juvenile courts, show a very close agreement with the tables prepared on the basis of 28,387 cases under 16, delinquent girls under 18, and dependent and neglected reported by 42 courts for the calendar year 1927. Although some differences were found in the cases reported by individual courts which sent cards for both years, the combined figures seem little affected by these variations or by the addition of data from more courts. Because of the similarity of the findings in the two years only the significant points of difference will be noted.

Since approximately a third of the cases were reported by courts in New York City and Philadelphia, an analysis was made of the extent to which the policies and procedures in these courts may have affected the combined figures for all courts. On the whole, the figures obtained from these two courts correspond fairly closely with the average of the figures from all other courts except in a few instances which will be discussed in connection with the tables in which they occur.

## DELINQUENCY RATIOS

The ratios of delinquent children to 1,000 children of juvenile-court age in the estimated population have been calculated for courts serving areas having 100,000 or more estimated population which reported their cases to the Children's Bureau during either 1927 or 1928. These ratios are shown in Table 2.

Several factors other than variation in the amount of delinquency affect the ratios in a given locality. In this connection the age jurisdiction of the court is of special importance. Although in a number of courts having jurisdiction over children under 18 years of age the delinquency ratios were low, they would have been materially lower if children 16 and 17 years of age had been excluded; these children constituted about a third of the children reported by such courts (Table 3), whereas children of 16 and 17 years constituted a much smaller proportion of all the children of juvenile-court age in the localities.

Although all the courts for which ratios were calculated were serving populations of 100,000 or more, 5 of these <sup>11</sup> were situated in cities of less than 50,000 population. The proportion of nonurban residents in the population of the area over which the court has jurisdiction materially affects the number of cases brought before the court unless the organization of the court provides for definite services throughout the area of its jurisdiction; even then it is probable that fewer cases in proportion to the population will be found in nonurban areas, though little statistical evidence on this subject is available. In the 9 localities <sup>12</sup> in which one-fourth or more of the population served by the courts were living in rural areas, the delinquency ratios for boys were below 10 except in Kent County, Mich., Montgomery County, Ohio, and the State of Utah.

<sup>11</sup> Lake County, Ind.; Orange County, N. Y.; Montgomery County, Pa.; Greenville County, S. C.; Dane County, Wis.

<sup>12</sup> Kent County, Mich.; Orange County, N. Y.; Montgomery County, Ohio; Berks County and Montgomery County, Pa.; Greenville County, S. C.; Pierce County, Wash.; Dane County, Wis.; and the State of Utah.

TABLE 2.—Ratio of delinquent boys and girls to 1,000 estimated population of juvenile-court age of the same sex and color dealt with by certain specified courts reported for 1927 and 1928<sup>1</sup>

Court	Estimated population of juvenile-court jurisdiction age, July 1, 1928	Age of original juvenile-court jurisdiction	Ratio of delinquent children to 1,000 estimated population of juvenile-court age of the same sex			
			Boys 1927	Boys 1928	Girls 1927	Girls 1928
California: San Francisco (city)	109,091	Under 21	14.5	(?)	1.3	(?)
Connecticut:						
Bridgeport (city)	27,471	Under 10	27.6	24.2	4.6	5.5
Hartford (city)	21,857	do	41.5	38.1	6.5	7.4
District of Columbia:						
White	71,961	Under 17	40.2	41.7	6.6	6.0
Colored			20.8	24.2	2.5	2.2
Indiana:						
Lake County	40,778	Under 10(B), 18(G)	10.3	15.0	7.9	6.7
Marion County	64,896	do	19.3	15.2	8.1	7.7
White			15.7	12.2	5.6	6.0
Colored			38.8	38.7	28.6	17.2
Iowa: Polk County	35,100	Under 18	(?)	30.1	(?)	7.7
Louisiana: Caddo Parish	21,105	Under 17	(?)	24.5	(?)	5.5
Michigan: Kent County	30,023	do	19.2	(?)	(?)	(?)
Minnesota:						
Hennepin County	80,324	Under 18	18.7	20.5	4.5	5.5
Ramsey County	40,007	do	11.0	12.7	2.9	3.3
New Jersey:						
Hudson County	121,198	Under 10	20.3	21.5	2.8	3.3
Mercer County	31,149	do	10.9	14.7	1.1	1.1
New York:						
Buffalo (city)	88,852	do	16.9	17.0	1.1	1.1
Erie County (excluding Buffalo)	20,157	do	11.8	13.3	1.4	1.1
Monroe County	60,678	do	(?)	6.0	(?)	1.1
New York City:						
White	1,016,901	do	8.3	11.6	1.4	1.1
Colored			8.0	10.9	1.3	1.1
Orange County	18,082	Under 10	(?)	2.5	(?)	0.7
Westchester County	70,162	do	22.8	18.7	3.8	3.1
White			22.0	17.5	3.2	2.2
Colored			38.2	57.8	19.7	10.1
Ohio:						
Franklin County	57,777	Under 18	20.4	10.8	6.8	6.1
White			16.3	14.1	5.7	6.1
Colored			53.5	40.1	18.1	12.1
Hamilton County	88,702	Under 18	24.9	22.1	(?)	(?)
White			10.4	18.8	(?)	(?)
Colored			84.8	60.8	(?)	(?)
Mahoning County	46,786	Under 18	48.6	53.5	11.0	10.8
Montgomery County	42,572	do	(?)	14.2	(?)	8.4
White			(?)	11.7	(?)	6.1
Colored			(?)	60.8	(?)	40.1
Pennsylvania:						
Allegheny County	231,187	Under 10	(?)	7.0	(?)	1.4
White			(?)	7.0	(?)	1.1
Colored			(?)	17.5	(?)	7.0
Berks County	30,630	Under 10	2.0	4.2	0.5	1.0
Montgomery County	36,818	do	2.1	2.7	0.7	0.6
Philadelphia (city) <sup>2</sup>	315,169	do	27.5	20.0	4.0	4.2
South Carolina: Greenville County	23,197	do	(?)	6.3	(?)	1.0
White			(?)	5.3	(?)	2.1
Colored			(?)	9.4	(?)	0.3
Tennessee: Memphis (city)	29,553	Under 17	30.9	(?)	8.4	(?)
White			27.7	(?)	8.7	(?)
Colored			50.3	(?)	8.0	(?)
Utah: (entire State)	131,514	Under 18	(?)	29.6	(?)	4.1
Third District <sup>3</sup>	44,036	do	(?)	27.0	(?)	4.2
Virginia: Norfolk (city)	26,815	do	41.2	34.0	8.8	10.2
White			31.9	20.0	5.0	7.3
Colored			57.1	49.5	12.0	14.6
Washington: Pierce County	20,023	Under 18	6.4	8.1	1.0	2.0
Wisconsin: Dane County	18,674	Under 17(B), 18(G)	4.5	(?)	2.8	(?)

<sup>1</sup> Includes courts serving cities or counties having 100,000 or more estimated population except St. Louis, County, Minn., which reported for only the southern half of the county and Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which reported unofficial cases for only 6 months of 1928. Color is shown for those courts serving cities or counties of this size having at least 10,000 or 10 per cent colored population in 1920.

<sup>2</sup> Not reported.

<sup>3</sup> Number of colored delinquent children not reported; ratios based on estimates for white children only.

<sup>4</sup> Figures incomplete; children whose cases were pending on Jan. 1, 1927, not included.

<sup>5</sup> Figures for white and colored children not reported separately.

<sup>6</sup> Includes Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties.

The extent to which the court is relied upon to deal with children exhibiting conduct problems is possibly the most significant factor to be considered in analyzing delinquency ratios of juvenile courts. The relation between the juvenile court and the police department varies greatly in different localities. In some places all children arrested by the police are referred to the juvenile court, whereas in others the police themselves deal with many children, especially those committing minor offenses and violating traffic rules. The school department may deal with nearly all truancy problems through its own agencies, or it may refer large numbers of attendance cases to the court. If the school system includes such facilities for constructive work with problem children as a child-study department, visiting teachers, and well-trained attendance officers, it is probable that many cases, including other behavior problems as well as truancy, which would otherwise be dealt with by the courts will be cared for by the schools.<sup>13</sup> The extent to which agencies doing case work with problem children or their families are available in the community and the place which the court holds in the estimation of social agencies and the public also influence the number of children referred. Another closely related factor is the amount of unofficial work done by the court and the completeness with which this work is reported. The amount of unofficial work done is partly dependent on court policy and procedure and partly on the number of minor cases accepted by the court.

Some indications of the situations in the communities for which delinquency ratios have been calculated are shown in several of the tables of this report. The table showing source of complaint in delinquency cases (Table IV, p. 46) gives some evidence of the relation of the court to other agencies. One indication of the extent to which the court is regarded as a general agency for dealing with conduct problems of children is the proportion of cases involving very young children. (See Table IIa, p. 36.) The extent to which minor cases are referred to the court is another indication. Although it is difficult to determine the seriousness of an offense committed by a child from the charge preferred or from the manner of dealing with it, some indication of the extent to which minor cases are referred may be obtained from the tables showing charges (Tables VIa and VIb, pp. 50 and 52) and the table showing the percentage of cases handled unofficially (Table I, p. 33).

Ratios have been calculated separately for white and colored children for all courts serving areas in which 10 per cent or more than 10,000 of the population were colored. As is shown in Table 2, the ratios for colored children are consistently higher than for white children, with the exception of those for girls in two southern courts (Memphis, Tenn., and Greenville County, S. C.). The highest ratio for colored boys was in the District of Columbia, and the highest ratio for colored girls was in Montgomery County, Ohio. The lowest ratios for both colored boys and colored girls were in Greenville County, S. C.

The extent to which a high delinquency ratio for colored children affects the general delinquency ratio of the court will depend upon

<sup>13</sup> The practice in some jurisdictions of proceeding against the parents in cases of truancy reduces the number of children brought to court on that charge.

the relative number of white and colored children in the community. The greatest variations in 1928 between the ratios for all boys' cases and all girls' cases and those for white boys and girls are found in the District of Columbia and in Norfolk, Va. In both these cities the colored group comprises more than 25 per cent of the total population.

No conclusions as to the community conditions that lie back of the delinquency ratios in different localities can be formulated from this statistical material, but it furnishes the basis on which studies of the actual conditions existing in these communities can be planned more intelligently.

Slight variations in ratios during the two years are shown for most of the courts. In some instances the small increase or decrease may be the normal variation from year to year in the number of cases coming before the court; in others the difference may be due to more complete reporting or to changes in court policy or personnel which affected the number of cases reported. Delinquency ratios for several successive years will give much valuable information as to trends in juvenile delinquency.

#### CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE CASES<sup>11</sup>

##### Age and sex.

As a number of the children came before the courts more than once, the 38,882 delinquency cases reported for 1928 by the 62 courts represented 34,764 children—29,151 boys and 5,613 girls. The extent to which the age period of original jurisdiction of the court affected the number of children coming before the court is shown in Table 3. The children of 16 and 17 years constituted nearly a third of the total number of children before the courts having jurisdiction over children under 18 years of age, and nearly equaled the number of 14 and 15 year old children who constituted the largest group in courts having a lower age jurisdiction.

A few children beyond the age of original jurisdiction were reported by the courts. This may be explained by the fact that some courts have jurisdiction beyond the age of original jurisdiction in certain situations; for example, a case in which the offense was committed before the age limit was reached, even though the case did not come to the attention of the court until afterward, and a case in which a child made a ward of the court before reaching the age limit was before the court on a new charge. All but five of the courts reported some cases of children under 10 years of age, most of them boys. In 32 courts reporting 50 or more children these children under 10 constituted more than 5 per cent of all the children appearing before the court for delinquency. (See Table IIa, p. 35.)

<sup>11</sup> In this section information about the child contained in the record of the first case disposed of during the year was used.

TABLE 3.—Ages of boys and girls dealt with in delinquency cases by 62 courts during 1928, and age limitation of original court jurisdiction<sup>12</sup>

Age and sex of child	Children dealt with in delinquency cases					
	Age limitation of original court jurisdiction					
	Total	Under 16 years <sup>13</sup>	Under 17 years	Under 18 years	Number	Per cent distribution
		Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	34,764	10,743	—	2,102	—	12,829
Boys	29,151	17,006	—	1,851	—	10,204
Age reported	29,700	16,953	100	1,837	100	10,000
Under 10 years	2,108	1,308	8	162	9	638
10 years, under 12	4,042	2,700	16	239	13	1,097
12 years, under 14	7,407	5,062	30	432	24	1,013
14 years, under 16	11,500	7,699	45	622	34	3,185
16 years, under 18	3,673	173	1	379	21	3,121
18 years and over	63	5	(?)	3	(?)	55
Age not reported	352	143	—	14	—	195
Girls	5,613	2,647	—	341	—	2,025
Age reported	5,560	2,631	100	338	100	2,591
Under 10 years	222	117	4	25	7	80
10 years, under 12	382	212	8	43	13	127
12 years, under 14	1,152	645	25	86	25	421
14 years, under 16	2,711	1,578	60	117	35	1,016
16 years, under 18	1,079	73	3	66	20	940
18 years and over	14	6	(?)	1	(?)	7
Age not reported	53	16	—	3	—	34

<sup>11</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>12</sup> Includes truancy cases in Westchester County, N. Y. (where jurisdiction to 17 years authorized by the state-wide education law is exercised); also certain cases of girls to 17 years in Hudson and Mercer Counties, N. J. (where the juvenile court may commit girls of this age to the State school for girls).

<sup>13</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

##### Color and nativity.

Absence of information for the communities included as to age distribution according to color, nativity, and nativity of parents makes impossible a comparison of the percentages of white and colored children, native and foreign-born children, and children of foreign or mixed parentage coming before the courts, with the percentages of children of the same ages, and race, nativity, and parentage in the population of the area served by the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases. Although this exact comparison with children of juvenile-court age can not be made, comparisons with the total population in the reporting area are of interest.

In the total population<sup>14</sup> in the jurisdiction area 95 per cent were white and 5 per cent were colored, including both negro and other colored races. Table 4a shows, however, that the proportion of colored children appearing before the courts was 16 per cent, more than three times as large as in the total population. The percentage of colored girls was slightly higher than the percentage of colored boys.

Foreign-born white children constituted a very small proportion of the children before the courts in 1928.<sup>15</sup> (Table 4a.) Comparison

<sup>14</sup> Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, vol. 3, Population. Washington, 1922.

<sup>15</sup> A larger percentage of the children reported in 1927 were classified as foreign born.

can not be made with the 24 per cent foreign-born white population in the jurisdiction area of the reporting courts since adults constitute a much larger percentage of the foreign-born than of the native-born population in the United States.

TABLE 4A.—Color and nativity of boys and girls dealt with in delinquency cases by 62 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Color and nativity	Children dealt with in delinquency cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	34,764		29,151		5,613	
Color reported.....	34,721	100	29,111	100	5,610	100
White.....	29,070	83	21,620	75	4,450	79
Native.....	25,350	73	21,272	73	4,078	73
Foreign born.....	651	2	531	2	117	2
Nativity not reported.....	3,650	9	2,814	10	235	5
Colored.....	5,651	16	4,191	15	1,160	21
Color not reported.....	11		40		3	

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 16 boys and 2 girls colored other than negro.

The largest proportion of the delinquent children dealt with by the courts were native-born white boys and girls. Information as to the nativity of their parents was obtained for most of these children. Table 4b shows the nativity of parents reported for the native-born white boys and girls. An interesting difference is shown between the boys and the girls. Less than half of the girls (45 per cent) had parents one or both of whom were foreign born, and the percentage is slightly lower than that of the native-born females of foreign or mixed parentage in the white population of the reporting area (48 per cent). More of the boys (56 per cent) had parents at least one of whom was foreign born, and the percentage was much higher than that of the native-born males of foreign or mixed parentage in the white population of the reporting area (47 per cent). Accordingly, it may be said that the delinquency rate among native-born boys of foreign or mixed parentage was high.

TABLE 4B.—Nativity of parents of native white boys and girls<sup>1</sup> dealt with in delinquency cases by 62 courts during 1928<sup>2</sup>

Nativity of parents	Children dealt with in delinquency cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	24,135	100	20,160	100	3,975	100
Native parentage.....	11,118	46	8,934	44	2,184	55
Foreign or mixed parentage.....	13,017	54	11,226	56	1,791	45

<sup>1</sup> Excludes those for whom nativity of parents was not reported.

<sup>2</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

#### Where living when referred to court.

A rather striking difference is shown in Table 5 between the proportions of boys (71 per cent) and of girls (52 per cent) who were living with both their own parents at the time they committed the offenses for which they were brought to court in the first delinquency case disposed of during the year. This would seem to indicate that the lack of normal family life is a more significant factor in the delinquency of girls than of boys. The difficulties which bring girls into court are usually more serious in character and more closely related to home conditions than the difficulties of boys.

TABLE 5.—Whereabouts when referred to court in first case disposed of during the year for boys and girls dealt with in delinquency cases by 62 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Whereabouts of child	Children dealt with in delinquency cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	34,764		29,151		5,613	
Whereabouts reported.....	31,264	100	26,206	100	5,058	100
with both own parents.....	21,263	68	18,653	71	2,610	52
with mother and stepfather.....	1,565	5	1,391	5	364	7
with father and stepmother.....	780	2	607	2	173	3
with mother only.....	3,900	12	3,039	12	851	17
With father only.....	1,598	5	1,216	5	352	7
Adoptive home.....	141	(1)	90	(1)	48	1
Other family home.....	1,621	5	1,110	4	514	10
Institution.....	227	1	165	1	62	1
Other.....	173	1	89	(1)	84	2
Whereabouts not reported.....	3,500		2,945		555	

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

#### Previous court experience.

Only information regarding the number of times children were dealt with as delinquents in previous years, that is, prior to the first case disposed of during 1928, has been tabulated. Table 6 shows that 78 per cent of the boys and 87 per cent of the girls were before the court for the first time in 1928. Apparently the greater part of the work of the courts is with children dealt with for the first or the second time rather than with repeated offenders. The extent to which these children were before the courts more than once during 1928 is indicated by a comparison of the total number of delinquency cases disposed of in 1928 (38,882) with the number of children involved (34,764).

The courts were asked to report as a separate case each time a child was dealt with on a new offense. It is impossible to formulate a definition which does not permit some difference in the interpretation of "new offense." Some probation offices in dealing with a child who is under the care of the court and commits a new offense do not consider it a new case unless the new offense is so serious that the probation officer can not deal with it and refers the child to the judge.

Others consider as a new case the reference of a child to the judge for general lack of progress or adjustment of conditions that may have arisen, when no new offense may have been committed.

TABLE 6.—Number of times boys and girls dealt with in delinquency cases by 62 courts during 1928 had been dealt with in delinquency cases prior to 1928<sup>1</sup>

Number of times dealt with in delinquency cases prior to 1928	Children dealt with in delinquency cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	34,784	.....	29,181	.....	5,613	.....
Reported whether dealt with.....	31,609	100	29,029	100	5,580	100
Number of times:						
None.....	27,524	80	22,004	78	4,830	87
One.....	3,871	11	3,388	12	483	9
Two.....	1,468	4	1,330	5	129	2
Three.....	655	2	610	2	45	1
Four.....	320	1	306	1	14	(1)
Five or more.....	357	1	334	1	3	1
Not reported.....	414	1	338	1	76	1
Not reported whether dealt with.....	155	.....	122	.....	33	.....

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

#### SOURCES OF COMPLAINT

The sources of complaint and especially the extent to which such sources as parents and relatives, other individuals, and social agencies refer cases to the courts are some indication of whether the court is regarded as the agency to deal with all conduct problems or only those more serious ones where authority which only the court has is needed. The percentage of cases referred from specified sources as shown in Table 7 is definitely affected by the inclusion of New York and Philadelphia. (See Table IV, p. 46.) The percentage of cases in which the source of complaint was the police was much higher in these two cities than the average for all other courts, and the percentage of complaints made by the school department was much lower.

Although some cases of delinquency come directly to the attention of probation officers, the number reported in 1928 is larger than would be expected. It is possible also that courts may have reported in some cases the person signing the petition rather than the person making the original complaint, thus reporting "probation officer" as the source in cases actually referred by others. The fact that in some courts serving rural districts probation officers are sometimes also law-enforcing officers in their communities may account for this in part.

TABLE 7.—Source of complaint in delinquency cases dealt with by 62 courts during 1928

Source of complaint	Delinquency cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	38,882	.....
Source of complaint reported.....	38,798	100
Police.....	21,829	56
Parents or relatives.....	3,630	9
Other individual.....	6,004	14
School department.....	4,186	11
Probation officer.....	2,104	6
Social agency.....	833	2
Other.....	511	1
	84	.....
Source of complaint not reported.....		

#### PLACES OF CARE PENDING HEARING OR DISPOSITION

The facilities used by the 62 courts for the detention of delinquent children varied greatly in different localities. Less than half the 62 courts reported the use of detention homes, and most of these were situated in cities or counties of 100,000 or more population. A number of the courts serving less populous districts which reported a few dependent or delinquent children held in a detention home may have used this name for some institution used primarily for another purpose. Courts that had no detention-home facilities provided for the detention of children in a variety of ways. The institutional resources of private agencies were used by a number of courts, notably by the New York City court. Boarding-home care had not been developed to any extent by any of the courts, although a few children were detained in boarding homes in a number of localities. Many of the courts using boarding homes also had detention-home facilities. A few courts stated that a "detention room" for children was located in the courthouse or in the jail. Detention in the same building as the jail was classified as detention in jail.

Table 8 shows that more than half the children were not detained, but were left in their own homes or their cases were disposed of on the day the complaint was made. For the children who were detained a marked difference is shown in the type of detention used for those under 16 years of age and for older children. A smaller percentage of the older children than of the younger children were detained in detention homes and other institutions, and a larger percentage were detained in jails. It is probable that a number of the children detained in jail were held for short periods, possibly not overnight, although the instruction to courts using the cards was that a child held for a few hours only should not be considered detained. Nevertheless, the detention of 1,305 children, 548 of whom were under 16 years of age, in jails and police stations shows the widespread use of these places for holding young children and the urgent need for more adequate provision for meeting this problem. The percentage of children detained in institutions other than detention homes reflects

the use of this method of detention by the New York City court, since more than nine-tenths of the children detained in "other institutions" were in New York City. (See Table V, p. 48.)

TABLE 8.—Place of care pending hearing or disposition, and ages of children represented in boys' and girls' delinquency cases dealt with by 62 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Place of care	Delinquency cases										
	Total		Under 14 years		14 years, under 16		16 years, under 18		18 years and over		
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	
Boys' cases	32,822		15,221		12,965		4,132		74		430
Place of care reported	32,540	100	13,000	100	12,847	100	4,105	100	73	100	425
Own home or case disposed of same day	10,250	30	9,407	63	7,122	55	2,370	58	47	64	205
Boarding home	68	(1)	32	(2)	7,20	(2)	10	(2)			60
Detention home or other institution <sup>2</sup>	11,700	36	5,402	36	5,171	40	1,000	24	13	18	123
Detention home <sup>3</sup>	8,813	27	3,978	26	3,719	29	991	24	13	18	112
Other institution	2,806	9	1,424	9	1,452	11	9	(1)			3
Jail or police station	1,195	4	119	1	373	3	686	17	11	15	6
Only place of care	1,014	3	98	1	303	2	507	15	11	15	5
One of the places of care	181	1	21	(2)	70	1	89	2			(1)
More than one place of care <sup>4</sup>	255	1	105	1	133	1	16	(2)			(1)
Other place of care	63	(1)	25	(2)	22	(2)	14	(2)	2	3	
Place of care not reported	282		131		118		27		1		5
Girls' cases	6,000		1,807		2,935		1,149		15		61
Place of care reported	5,892	100	1,876	100	2,912	100	1,130	100	10	(4)	60
Own home or case disposed of same day	3,024	50	1,124	60	1,316	45	540	48	8		33
Boarding home	41	1	11	1	10	1	10	1			2
Detention home or other institution <sup>2</sup>	2,672	45	607	37	1,454	50	480	43	8	24	40
Detention home <sup>3</sup>	1,823	31	447	24	938	32	203	41	7	18	30
Other institution	709	13	250	13	516	18	26	2	1	0	10
Jail or police station	110	2	13	1	43	1	52	5	1	1	2
Only place of care	93	2	11	1	35	1	43	4	1		
One of the places of care	17	(1)	2	(2)	5	(2)	8	1			2
More than one place of care <sup>4</sup>	50	1	18	1	37	1	4	(2)			
Other place of care	80	1	13	1	43	1	29	3			2
Place of care not reported	69		21		26		19		1		1

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> 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 held in jails or police stations.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes cases of children held in jails, police stations, or detention homes.

<sup>5</sup> Not shown, as number of cases is less than 50.

#### CHARGES

Although an attempt is being made to secure uniformity in the use of terms, the charges on which children were dealt with as delinquents by the courts give a very incomplete picture of their behavior problems. A child may have committed several offenses at or about the

same time but be referred to the court on only one of them. The specific offense with which he is charged may be much less serious than offenses discovered in the course of the social investigation. When the case is investigated before the filing of a petition instead of afterward, the formal charge is usually more accurate, but even in such cases the offense stated in the complaint may reflect the desire of the court to protect the child. For instance, in some courts a girl is charged with incorrigibility instead of a sex offense, and Table VIa seems to show that a boy is sometimes charged with mischief instead of stealing. These differences in the attitudes and practices of the courts are shown very clearly by the character of the charges in the cases reported by each court. (See Tables VIa, VIb, pp. 50, 52.)

It is generally accepted that the offenses with which boys and girls are charged represent different delinquency problems. Table 9a shows that "stealing or attempted stealing" and "acts of carelessness or mischief" were the most usual charges in boys' cases, whereas the closely related charges of "running away," "ungovernable or beyond parental control," and "sex offense" appeared more often in girls' cases.

TABLE 9A.—Charges in boys' and girls' delinquency cases dealt with by 62 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Charge	Delinquency cases			
	Total		Boys	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	38,892		32,822	
Charge reported	38,688	100	32,667	100
Stealing or attempted stealing	14,701	39	14,064	43
Automobile stealing	1,357	5	1,831	6
Burglary or unlawful entry	4,282	11	4,239	13
Robbery	730	2	698	2
Other type of stealing	5,134	13	4,729	14
Type of stealing not reported	2,779	7	2,567	8
Truancy	3,032	9	2,880	9
Running away	2,913	8	2,005	6
Ungovernable or beyond parental control	3,987	10	2,274	7
Sex offense	1,722	4	564	2
Injury or attempted injury to person	1,071	3	922	3
Act of carelessness or mischief	9,625	25	9,110	28
Violating liquor or drug law, or intoxication	405	1	340	1
Other charge	539	1	472	1
Charge not reported	194		155	

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

Running away was a larger problem in New York City and in Philadelphia than in most of the other localities, and the inclusion of such cases from these courts materially increased the percentage of children charged with this offense. On the contrary, the number of children referred to these two courts on truancy charges was very small and correspondingly lowered the percentage of children charged with truancy.

The interests and pursuits of children of different ages are reflected in the types of offenses which they commit. Table 9b shows that the offenses committed by girls under 12 years of age corresponded more closely to those committed by boys of those ages than did the offenses of older girls. The percentage charged with "acts of carelessness and mischief" decreased steadily as the age of the children increased, while sex offenses and the violation of the liquor or drug law or intoxication, constituted an increasing percentage of the offenses charged in both boys' and girls' cases, from the lower to the higher age groups. A most interesting difference is shown in the ages of boys and girls charged with being ungovernable. The largest percentages of boys charged with this offense were in the age groups under 10 and 10, under 12 years, whereas among the girls the age group under 10 showed a smaller percentage than any other. Truancy among the boys and running away among the girls occurred more often among the children of 14, under 16 years, than among the children of any other age group. Stealing, the most common charge, appeared approximately in the same proportions of boys' cases in all age groups, although the type of stealing changed as the boys grew older.

TABLE 9b.—*Per cent distribution of charges reported in boys' and girls' delinquency cases dealt with by 62 courts during 1928, by age of child<sup>1</sup>*

Charge	Total	Delinquency cases							Not reported	
		Age of child								
		Under 10 years	10 years, under 12	12 years, under 14	14 years, under 16	16 years, under 18	18 years and over			
<b>Boys' cases</b>										
Stealing or attempted stealing	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Automobile stealing	43	39	45	40	43	39	49	26		
Burglary or unlawful entry	6	1	1	3	8	12	15	2		
Robbery	13	14	15	15	12	9	16	7		
Other type of stealing	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1		
Type of stealing not reported	14	15	18	17	13	11	8	9		
Truancy	8	8	8	9	8	5	8	7		
Running away	6	6	7	8	11	9	7	6		
Ungovernable or beyond parental control	7	8	8	7	7	6	3	3		
Sex offense	2	2	1	1	2	3	5	2		
Injury or attempted injury to person	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2		
Act of carelessness or mischief	28	35	29	28	26	28	18	42		
Violating liquor or drug law, or Intoxication	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	1	4	14	2		
Other charge	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	2		
<b>Girls' cases</b>										
Stealing or attempted stealing	100	100	100	100	100	100	(2)	100		
Automobile stealing	12	15	23	17	10	8	—	11		
Burglary or unlawful entry	(2)	1	(2)	(2)	(2)	1	—	—		
Robbery	1	1	2	1	(2)	1	—	—		
Other type of stealing	7	8	12	10	6	4	—	5		
Type of stealing not reported	4	3	7	4	3	2	—	5		
Truancy	12	9	14	10	14	13	—	—		
Running away	15	6	10	13	10	11	—	11		
Ungovernable or beyond parental control	29	14	24	32	30	27	—	26		
Sex offense	19	8	7	16	19	30	—	8		
Injury or attempted injury to person	3	7	4	3	2	3	—	3		
Act of carelessness or mischief	8	40	18	8	5	6	—	26		
Violating liquor or drug law, or Intoxication	1	—	(2)	1	1	2	—	8		
Other charge	1	1	(2)	1	1	2	—	—		

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> Not shown, as number of cases is less than 50.

## DISPOSITIONS

### Official cases

Table 10a shows the extent to which different types of dispositions were used in official cases by the courts reporting delinquency cases. Placing the child on probation was the disposition most often used. The number of children whose cases were dismissed or continued indefinitely<sup>17</sup> was also large, as was the number committed to institutions. Only about one-eighth of the cases were disposed of in other ways than by one of these three methods. Although about the same percentage of boys and of girls were placed on probation, the percentage of cases dismissed or continued indefinitely was larger for boys than for girls, and the percentage of commitments to institutions was higher for girls. Other slight differences in the methods of dealing with boys' and girls' cases are shown in Table 10a.

Individual courts showed wide variation in the extent to which different types of dispositions were used. (See Tables VIIa, VIIb, pp. 55, 57.) Such variations are due in many instances to differences in court procedure and practice. For instance, the number of official cases dismissed or continued indefinitely is small if cases are investigated before the filing of a petition and trivial cases are dealt with unofficially or dropped. The proportion of cases in which the child is placed on probation is influenced by several factors, among them the number of cases dismissed or continued indefinitely upon first hearing, the extent to which unofficial probation is used, the local institutions available for short-time commitments, and the care with which children are selected for probation both as to those likely to profit by it and as to the court's facilities for giving adequate supervision.

The percentage of children's cases dismissed or continued indefinitely and the percentage of cases in which the children were committed to institutions were slightly affected by the cases reported from the New York and Philadelphia courts. The dispositions made by these courts as compared with those of all the other courts included a larger percentage of cases dismissed or continued indefinitely and a smaller percentage of children committed to institutions. The dispositions of the cases reported in 1927 compared fairly closely with those shown in Table 10a for 1928. In 1927 a slightly larger percentage of the cases were dismissed or continued indefinitely, with a corresponding decrease in those in which the children were placed on probation.

<sup>17</sup> The classification "case dismissed" was used for cases closed without further action, cases referred to other courts for commitment to institutions for the feeble-minded, and cases dismissed because of lack of jurisdiction in the juvenile court. Cases were considered as "continued indefinitely" when no further action was taken or supervision given the children, but when jurisdiction was maintained so that if a like situation arose later the case might be brought into court again without the filing of a new petition. Cases of children placed on probation to parents or committed to institutions with commitment suspended when no further action was contemplated were also classed as "continued indefinitely."

TABLE 10A.—Disposition in boys' and girls' official delinquency cases dealt with by 61 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Disposition	Official delinquency cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
Total	27,885		23,399		4,486	
Disposition reported	27,863	100	23,379	100	4,481	100
Dismissed or continued indefinitely	8,039	29	7,016	30	993	22
Child placed on probation	11,914	43	10,051	43	1,820	41
Child committed to institution	4,119	16	3,211	14	1,178	26
State institution for delinquent children						
Other institution for delinquent children	1,792	6	1,334	6	458	10
Type of institution for delinquent children not reported	2,130	8	1,636	7	600	13
Other institution	202	1	235	1	57	1
100	1	136	1	63	1	
Restitution, fine, or costs	1,726	6	1,715	7	61	1
Fine imposed or payment of costs ordered	1,393	5	1,334	6	49	1
Restitution or reparation ordered	393	1	381	2	12	(0)
Other disposition	1,715	6	1,323	6	392	9
Child placed under supervision of individual other than probation officer	410	2	335	1	84	2
Child committed to board, department, or agency	963	3	743	3	220	5
Child returned home <sup>2</sup>	135	(0)	84	(0)	51	1
Child referred for criminal prosecution	85	(0)	62	(0)	3	(0)
Child otherwise cared for	143	1	109	(0)	31	1
Disposition not reported	22		20		2	

<sup>1</sup> Only 61 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported official delinquency cases. Of these 61 courts only 57 reported girls' official delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> Applies only to runaways or children living away from own home at time referred to court.

Both the age of a child and the character of his offense affect the disposition of his case. Table 10b shows the dispositions of the cases by the age of the child, and Table 10c shows the relation between the offenses charged and the disposition of the cases.

Except for the larger percentage of boys under 10 years of age whose cases were dismissed or continued indefinitely and the steadily increasing percentage who were committed to institutions in each higher age period, no significant variations occur in the dispositions made of cases of boys under 16 years of age. A comparison of the dispositions in the cases of boys 16 and over and of each age group under 16 shows that a smaller percentage in the older than in the younger groups were dismissed or continued indefinitely or were placed on probation. In a larger percentage of the cases of older boys commitments to institutions were made or fines were imposed or costs ordered. The percentage of cases of boys 16 or over referred for criminal prosecution was small, and these constitute the majority of the cases dealt with in this way.

Possibly because of the differences in the kinds of offenses with which girls under 12 were charged as compared with older girls, a much larger percentage of the cases of girls in the age groups under 10 and 10, under 12 years of age were dismissed or continued indefinitely.

As in boys' cases, commitment to institutions constituted an increasing percentage of the dispositions from the lower to the higher age periods.

TABLE 10B.—Per cent distribution of disposition reported for each age group of boys and girls referred in official delinquency cases dealt with by 61 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Disposition	Official delinquency cases							
	Age of child							
	Total	Under 10 years	10 years, under 12	12 years, under 14	14 years, under 16	16 years, under 18	18 years and over	Age not reported
Boys' cases	100	100	100	100	100	100	(0)	100
Dismissed or continued indefinitely	30	39	31	30	30	23		40
Child placed on probation	43	42	46	45	43	36		26
Child committed to institution	11	7	12	13	15	19		6
State institution for delinquent children	6	2	3	4	6	13		3
Other institution for delinquent children	7	4	7	7	7	4		2
Type of institution for delinquent children not reported	1	(0)	1	1	1	1		1
Other institution	1	2	1	(0)	(0)	1		1
Restitution, fine, or costs	7	6	6	7	7	12		13
Fine imposed or payment of costs ordered	6	3	5	5	5	11		6
Restitution or reparation ordered	2	3	2	2	1	2		7
Other disposition	6	5	5	5	5	10		5
Child placed under supervision of individual other than probation officer	1	1	1	1	1	3		2
Child committed to board, department, or agency	3	4	3	3	3	3		2
Child returned home <sup>2</sup>	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	2		1
Child referred for criminal prosecution	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	2		2
Child otherwise cared for	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	1	2		2
Girls' cases	100	100	100	100	100	100	(0)	(0)
Dismissed or continued indefinitely	22	55	33	20	21	18		
Child placed on probation	41	29	40	44	44	35		
Child committed to institution	26	9	17	24	27	32		
State institution for delinquent children	10	2	5	9	10	15		
Other institution for delinquent children	13	6	9	13	14	15		
Type of institution for delinquent children not reported	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Other institution	1	1	1	1	1	2		
Restitution, fine, or costs	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Fine imposed or payment of costs ordered	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Restitution or reparation ordered	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)		
Other disposition	9	6	9	11	7	13		
Child placed under supervision of individual other than probation officer	2	2	3	3	1	3		
Child committed to board, department, or agency	5	3	5	7	4	6		
Child returned home <sup>2</sup>	1	2	1	1	1	2		
Child referred for criminal prosecution	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	1	2		
Child otherwise cared for	1	(0)	(0)	(0)	1	2		

<sup>1</sup> Only 61 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported official delinquency cases; of these 61 courts only 57 reported girls' official delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Not shown as number of cases is less than 50.

<sup>3</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

<sup>4</sup> Applies only to runaways or children living away from home at time referred to court.

TABLE 10C.—*Per cent distribution of disposition reported for each type of charge on which boys and girls were referred in official delinquency cases dealt with by 81 courts during 1928*<sup>1</sup>

Disposition	Official delinquency cases											
	Total	Charge on which referred to court										
		Stealing or attempted stealing	Truancy	Running away	Uncontrollable or beyond parental control	Sex offense	Injury or attempted injury to person	Act of carelessness or mischief	Violating liquor or drug law or intoxication	Other charge	Charge not reported	
Boys' cases	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Dismissed or continued indefinitely	30	20	27	28	23	22	45	55	33	55	55	
Child placed on probation	43	54	40	42	47	53	34	21	35	21	34	
Child committed to institution	14	17	15	19	22	16	10	2	9	8	4	
State institutions for delinquent children	8	8	3	6	9	—	5	1	4	3	1	
Other institution for delinquent children	7	7	10	10	11	7	4	1	5	3	3	
Type of institution for delinquent children not reported	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	(1)	1	1	2	
Other institution	1	1	1	1	1	1	(1)	(1)	1	1	—	
Restitution, fine, or costs	7	4	4	(1)	1	4	7	29	22	5	7	
Fine imposed or payment of costs ordered	8	2	4	(1)	1	4	4	17	21	5	7	
Restitution or reparation ordered	2	2	2	—	—	(1)	3	—	—	—	—	
Other disposition	8	5	14	11	7	5	4	2	1	11	—	
Child placed under supervision of individual other than probation officer	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	
Child committed to board, department, or agency	3	2	13	5	(1)	1	(1)	(1)	1	—	3	
Child returned home <sup>2</sup>	(1)	(1)	(1)	3	(1)	1	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	
Child referred for criminal prosecution	(1)	(1)	(1)	1	(1)	(1)	1	(1)	—	—	3	
Child otherwise cared for	(1)	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Girls' cases	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(1)	(1)	
Dismissed or continued indefinitely	22	20	41	13	18	11	58	59	—	—	—	
Child placed on probation	41	58	33	44	48	33	25	22	—	—	—	
Child committed to institution	26	15	9	26	26	48	6	8	—	—	—	
State institution for delinquent children	10	4	3	8	9	33	4	—	—	—	—	
Other institution for delinquent children	13	10	5	16	14	28	1	4	—	—	—	
Type of institution for delinquent children not reported	1	(1)	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Other institution	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Restitution, fine, or costs	1	3	3	—	(1)	(1)	7	7	—	—	—	
Fine imposed or payment of costs ordered	1	1	2	—	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	
Restitution or reparation ordered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other disposition	9	6	13	12	8	7	7	7	—	—	—	
Child placed under supervision of individual other than probation officer	2	2	1	5	2	3	3	1	—	—	—	
Child committed to board, department, or agency	5	3	11	6	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	
Child returned home <sup>2</sup>	(1)	1	4	—	(1)	(1)	2	1	2	—	1	
Child referred for criminal prosecution	(1)	1	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	
Child otherwise cared for	1	1	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	

<sup>1</sup> Only 81 of the 82 courts reporting delinquency cases reported official delinquency cases. Of these 81 courts only 57 courts reported girls' official delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> Applies only to runaways or children living away from home at time referred to court.

<sup>4</sup> Not shown as number of cases is less than 50.

Table 10c shows that with a few striking exceptions the treatment for different types of offenses was quite similar in boys' and girls' cases. Dismissal or indefinite continuance was the type of disposition most often used when the charge was injury or attempted injury to person, act of carelessness or mischief, and in a group of miscellaneous charges classed as "other." Probation was the most usual disposition for both boys and girls charged with stealing, running away, and being ungovernable or beyond parental control. In cases of children committing sex offenses the contrast between the methods of dealing with boys and girls is marked, probation being used most often for boys and commitment to an institution for girls. In truancy cases the most usual disposition for girls was dismissal or indefinite continuance, and for boys placement on probation.

#### Unofficial cases.

Thirty-nine of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases disposed of cases unofficially, one court having dealt with all its cases in this way. Table 11 shows that a large percentage of these cases were dealt with either by adjusting the difficulty or apparently by dropping the case without action of any sort. A small percentage of the children were placed on unofficial probation, and a still smaller group were referred to institutions and agencies. Runaways returned home also constituted a small percentage of the cases.

TABLE 11.—Disposition in boys' and girls' unofficial delinquency cases dealt with by 39 courts during 1928.<sup>1</sup>

Disposition	Unofficial delinquency cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
Total	10,997		9,423		1,574	
Disposition reported	10,919	100	9,390	100	1,559	100
Difficulty adjusted	5,677	62	4,960	53	717	46
Child placed on unofficial probation	1,176	11	1,002	11	174	11
Child returned home <sup>2</sup>	522	5	395	4	137	9
Placement of child in institution recommended	209	3	253	3	46	3
Placement of child elsewhere recommended	59	1	60	1	9	1
Referred to agency or other court	213	2	165	2	74	5
Other disposition <sup>3</sup>	2,917	27	2,645	27	402	26
Disposition not reported	78		63		15	

<sup>1</sup> Only 39 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported unofficial delinquency cases; 37 of the 39 reported boys' cases and 34 reported girls' cases.

<sup>2</sup> Applies only to runaways or children living away from own home at time referred to court.

<sup>3</sup> The majority of these cases were dismissed, dropped, or closed with a warning.

## DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT CASES

Dependency and neglect cases constituted a smaller part of the work of the courts than delinquency cases except in 11<sup>14</sup> of the smaller courts. Ten courts dealing with delinquent children did not report dependency and neglect cases. The practice in some courts of filing the complaint against the adult responsible for dependency or neglect instead of instituting proceedings in the name of the child is one of the factors influencing this situation. In some localities only those cases of dependency and neglect requiring commitment or other legal adjudication of custody or of parental obligation were brought as a rule to the attention of the court, whereas in other communities the court was the principal or only local agency caring for such children.<sup>15</sup> As 45 per cent of the dependency and neglect cases were reported by the New York and Philadelphia courts, the methods used by these courts in dealing with such cases definitely affect the total figures.

## CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE CASES

The 16,289 dependency and neglect cases represented 15,825 children in 8,153 families. Tables 12, 13a, 13b, and 14 show the age, sex, race, nativity, parentage, and whereabouts of children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases. Nearly as many girls as boys were dealt with in these cases. The numbers of children of all age groups under 16 years coming before the courts showed little variation. The number who were 14 or over was slightly smaller than the number in the lower age groups, although all the courts had jurisdiction over dependency and neglect cases involving children under 16 years of age and some had jurisdiction over children to 18 years of age.

A comparison of Tables 13a and b with Tables 4a and b shows some interesting contrasts in the color, nativity, and parentage of children dealt with in dependency or neglect cases and in delinquency cases. As to color a slightly larger proportion of the dependent or neglected children than of the delinquent children were white, although the percentage of colored children referred to the court for these causes as well as for delinquency was about three times as high as the percentage of colored persons (5 per cent) in the total population served by the courts. The percentage of foreign-born children was even smaller in dependency and neglect cases than in delinquency cases. A significant difference shown in Tables 13b and 4b is that the proportion of the native-born children of native parentage referred to the courts because of dependency or neglect was much larger than the proportion of the same ancestry who were before the court because of delinquency.

Nearly three-fourths of the children dealt with by the courts in dependency or neglect cases came from families in which the home had been broken by death, divorce, desertion, or other cause. (Table 14.)

<sup>14</sup> Another court reported only dependency cases.

<sup>15</sup> Cases of mothers' allowances, which frequently are administered by courts, are not included in the tabulations.

TABLE 12.—Ages of children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases by 53 courts during 1928

Age of child	Children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	15,825	
Age reported.....	15,540	100
Under 2 years.....	1,000	12
2 years, under 4.....	2,031	13
4 years, under 6.....	2,000	13
6 years, under 8.....	2,250	15
8 years, under 10.....	2,075	13
10 years, under 12.....	1,837	12
12 years, under 14.....	1,763	11
14 years, under 16.....	1,375	9
16 years and over.....	225	1
Age not reported.....	285	

TABLE 13A.—Color and nativity of boys and girls dealt with in dependency and neglect cases by 53 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Color and nativity	Children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	15,825		8,120		7,694	
Color reported.....	15,810	100	8,125	100	7,694	100
White.....	13,605	86	7,018	86	6,587	86
Native.....	12,982	82	6,608	82	6,294	82
Foreign born.....	157	1	72	1	85	1
Nativity not reported.....	466	3	248	3	218	3
Colored <sup>2</sup> .....	2,214	14	1,107	14	1,107	14
Color not reported.....	6		4		2	

<sup>1</sup> Only 51 of the 53 courts reporting dependency and neglect cases reported both boys' and girls' cases; 1 court reported only boys' cases, and 1 court reported only girls' cases.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 1 boy and 2 girls colored other than negro.

TABLE 13B.—Nativity of parents of native white boys and girls<sup>1</sup> dealt with in dependency and neglect cases by 53 courts during 1928<sup>2</sup>

Nativity of parents	Children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	12,775	100	6,500	100	6,185	100
Native parentage.....	7,852	61	4,029	61	3,823	62
Foreign and mixed parentage.....	4,923	39	2,561	39	2,362	38

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of those for whom nativity of parents was not reported.

<sup>2</sup> Only 51 of the 53 courts reporting dependency and neglect cases reported both boys' and girls' cases; 1 court reported only boys' cases, and 1 court reported only girls' cases.

TABLE 14.—Whereabouts when referred to court in first case disposed of during the year for children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases by 53 courts during 1928

Whereabouts of child	Children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	15,825	
Whereabouts reported.....	13,300	100
With both own parents.....	3,800	28
With mother and stepfather.....	282	2
With father and stepmother.....	274	2
With mother only.....	4,107	30
With father only.....	2,378	17
Adoptive home.....	103	1
Other family home.....	2,209	17
Institution.....	450	3
Other.....	1,916	1
Whereabouts not reported.....		

#### SOURCES OF COMPLAINT AND CHARGES

Since several children in a family may be referred to court at the same time on the same charge and from the same source, the family rather than the child has been used as the base of comparison in Tables 15 and 16. Each family was counted only once for each time it was dealt with by the court on a new charge involving one or more of the children.

It is to be expected that social agencies would be one of the most important sources of reference in dependency and neglect cases. In some localities the court prefers to have such cases investigated first by a social agency so that only those actually needing court action are brought to court. In other localities the court undertakes the initial work and receives complaints from any interested persons, including parents and relatives. Table 15 shows that in the areas reporting, complaints were filed in about equal proportions by social agencies and by parents and relatives, these two groups being the source of complaint in three-fourths of the cases.

In more than a third of the cases the charge specified some form of neglect on the part of parents or guardians (abandonment or desertion, abuse or cruel treatment, improper conditions in the home). A still larger proportion of the families were referred for dependency primarily. The courts were asked to interpret the term "insufficient parental care," as well as "financial need," as inability rather than neglect to provide for children. Less than one-tenth of the families were referred to the court for consideration of problems related to the custody of children and a slightly smaller proportion were referred for "other" reasons.

TABLE 15.—*Source of complaint on which families were referred to court in dependency and neglect cases dealt with by 53 courts during 1928*

Source of complaint	Families referred in dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	8,153	100
Source of complaint reported		
Social agency	8,122	100
Parents or relatives	3,079	38
Other individual	2,975	37
Police	508	6
Probation officer	602	7
School department	587	7
Other	251	3
Source of complaint not reported	120	1
	31	—

TABLE 16.—*Charges on which families were referred in dependency and neglect cases dealt with by 53 courts during 1928*

Charge	Families referred in dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	8,153	100
Charge reported		
Abandonment or desertion	7,161	100
Abuse or cruel treatment	851	12
Improper conditions in home	248	3
Insufficient parental care	1,500	22
Financial need	2,573	36
Question of custody	850	12
Other	563	8
Charge not reported	468	7
	892	—

#### PLACES OF CARE PENDING HEARING OR DISPOSITION

The detention of dependent and neglected children presents problems different from those involved in the detention of delinquent children. All the courts reporting the use of detention homes used also boarding homes or institutions other than detention homes. Although a number of courts used "other institutions" for the detention of children, four-fifths of the cases of children so detained were in New York City and Philadelphia. (See Table X, p. 64.) As is shown by a comparison of Table 8 and Table 17, the percentage of children who were left in their own homes or whose cases were disposed of on the same day was only slightly larger in dependency and neglect cases than in delinquency cases.

TABLE 17.—*Place of care pending hearing or disposition of dependency and neglect cases dealt with by 53 courts during 1928*

Place of care	Dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	16,280	100
Place of care reported	15,974	100
Own home or case disposed of same day	9,682	61
Boarding home	736	5
Detention home or other institution <sup>1</sup>	5,913	31
Detention home <sup>1</sup>	1,539	10
Other institution	3,474	22
Jail or police station	18	(1)
Only place of care	14	(1)
One of the places of care	1	(1)
More than 1 place of care <sup>2</sup>	107	1
Other place of care	361	2
Place of care not reported	315	—

<sup>1</sup> 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 held in jails or police stations.

<sup>2</sup> Less than 1 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes cases of children held in jails, police stations, or detention homes.

#### DISPOSITIONS

Although the majority of the dependency and neglect cases were official, 28 courts reported some unofficial cases. The extent to which individual courts dealt unofficially with dependency and neglect cases varied considerably. (See Table I, p. 33.) Although the Philadelphia court had more official than unofficial cases, the unofficial cases reported by this court constituted one-half of the total unofficial cases.

As is shown by Tables 18 and 19, some definite action such as committing the child to an institution or agency or placing him under supervision of the court or some individual was taken in three-fourths of the official cases, whereas placement or supervision of the child was advised in only one-fifth of the unofficial cases. Two-thirds of the unofficial cases were disposed of by making some adjustment of the difficulties involved.

TABLE 18.—Disposition in official dependency and neglect cases dealt with by 53 courts during 1928

Disposition	Official dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	13,404	100
Disposition reported.....	13,403	100
Dismissed or continued indefinitely.....	2,715	20
Child placed under court supervision.....	3,111	23
Child placed under supervision of individual other than probation officer.....	1009	7
Child committed to board, department, or agency.....	3,551	26
State agency.....	676	5
Other agency.....	2,841	21
Type of agency not reported.....	34	(0)
Child committed to institution.....	2,917	22
State institution for dependents.....	170	1
Other institution for dependents.....	2,377	18
Type of institution for dependents not reported.....	179	1
Institution for delinquent children.....	52	(0)
Institution for feeble-minded or epileptic children.....	19	(0)
Institution for physically handicapped children.....	81	1
Other institution.....	69	1
Other disposition.....	137	1
Disposition not reported.....	1	1

<sup>1</sup> Less than 1 per cent.TABLE 19.—Disposition in unofficial dependency and neglect cases dealt with by 28 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Disposition	Unofficial dependency and neglect cases	
	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	2,825	100
Disposition reported.....	2,707	100
Difficulty adjusted.....	1,800	65
Referred to agency or other court.....	291	11
Placement of child in institution recommended.....	62	2
Placement of child elsewhere recommended.....	107	4
Child placed under supervision of probation officer.....	103	4
Other disposition <sup>2</sup> .....	401	15
Disposition not reported.....	58	—

<sup>1</sup> Only 28 of the 53 courts reporting cases of dependency and neglect reported unofficial dependency and neglect cases.<sup>2</sup> The majority of these cases were dismissed, dropped, or closed with a warning.

## CASES OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM PROBATION OR SUPERVISION

Cases of delinquent children discharged from probation were reported by 45 courts and cases of dependent or neglected children discharged from supervision by 20 courts, 2 reporting only cases discharged from probation or supervision and not reporting cases of children coming before the court during the year. The majority of the cases were official; only 621 of the 8,493 probation cases and 21 of the 1,936 supervision cases were unofficial.

No constant relation seems to exist between the number of children placed on probation or under supervision by the different courts and the number discharged from probation or supervision. (See Tables XIII, XVI, pp. 70, 74.) In three courts the number discharged from probation was larger than the number placed under the care of probation officers. In most courts, however, the number placed on probation exceeded the number discharged. Some courts apparently do not terminate probation at any definite time but allow cases gradually to become inactive. In these courts cases may remain on the list or index of active cases long after active supervision of the child has ceased and are reported "discharged" from care only at times of general review of the files. Unless this review is made at regular intervals the number of cases discharged may vary greatly from year to year. In a few courts, notably in New York City, the only cards filled out for cases discharged from care were for children who had come to the attention of the court during the time that the Children's Bureau cards had been in use. As contact with some of the cases may have extended beyond this period, the number reported as discharged is small.

Tables 20 and 21 show that a large proportion of the children under care of the probation departments were discharged because of improvement in conduct or because further supervision seemed unnecessary. About a tenth of the delinquent children, however, were discharged because of having reached the age limit of court jurisdiction rather than voluntarily discharged because of good behavior. Failure of probation as indicated by commitment to an institution for delinquent children is shown in about one-seventh of the cases. Some interesting differences are shown in Tables XIV and XVII (pp. 71, 75) as to the duration of the probation or supervision period in children's cases in different courts.

TABLE 20.—*Reason for discharge in cases of delinquent children discharged from probation by 45 courts during 1928*

Reason for discharge	Cases of delinquent children discharged from probation	Number	Percent distribution
Total.....	8,403		
Reason for discharge reported.....	8,493	100	
Further supervision not recommended, or discharged with improvement before reaching age limit.....	5,338	63	
Child committed to institution.....	1,177	14	
Institution for delinquent children.....	1,092	13	
Other institution.....	95	1	
Child committed to agency or individual.....	377	4	
Child reached age limit.....	866	10	
Other reason.....	725	9	
Transferred to other court.....	11	(0)	
Whereabouts unknown.....	218	3	
Moved from jurisdiction of court.....	293	3	
Other.....	203	2	
Reason for discharge not reported.....	10		

<sup>1</sup> Less than 1 per cent.TABLE 21.—*Reason for discharge in cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision by 20 courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>*

Reason for discharge	Cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision	Number	Per cent distribution
Total.....	1,036		
Reason for discharge reported.....	1,031	100	
Further supervision not recommended, or discharged with improvement before age limit.....	1,170	61	
Child committed to institution.....	214	13	
Child committed to agency.....	117	6	
Child committed to individual.....	183	9	
Child reached age limit.....	35	2	
Other reason.....	173	9	
Reason for discharge not reported.....	5		

<sup>1</sup> Only 20 of the 53 courts reporting cases of dependency and neglect reported cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision.

## APPENDIX A.—COURTS FURNISHING STATISTICAL MATERIAL FOR 1928

Cards were received from 64 courts in 16 States and the District of Columbia for the entire calendar year 1928, and tables were prepared by 1 court (Philadelphia). The names of these courts with the largest city or town in the area served by each court are as follows:

Largest city or town in area served
Bridgeport.
Hartford.
Washington.
Decatur.
Jeffersonville.
Brazil.
North Vernon.
Gary.
Indianapolis.
Bloomington.
Crawfordsville.
Angola.
Clinton.
Richmond.
Des Moines.
Shreveport.
Monroe.
Minneapolis.
St. Paul.
Duluth.
Kansas City.
Jersey City.
Trenton.
Buffalo.
Elmira.
Plattsburgh.
Hudson.
Walton.
Lackawanna.
Malone.
Rochester.
New York.
Geneva.
Newburgh.
Medina.
Yonkers.

## North Carolina:

Juvenile court of Buncombe County.....  
Winston-Salem juvenile court.....

Largest city or town in area served  
Asheville.  
Winston-Salem.

## Ohio:

Juvenile court of Auglaize County.....  
Juvenile court of Clark County.....  
Juvenile court, county of Cuyahoga.....  
Franklin County juvenile court.....  
Common-pleas court of Hamilton County, division of domestic relations, juvenile court, and marital relations.....

St. Marys.  
Springfield  
Cleveland.  
Columbus.

Juvenile court of Lake County.....  
Common-pleas court of Mahoning County, division of domestic relations.....  
Court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, Montgomery County.....

Cincinnati.  
Painesville.  
Youngstown.  
Dayton.  
Fremont.

## Pennsylvania:

Juvenile court of Allegheny County.....  
Juvenile court of Berks County.....  
Juvenile court of Lycoming County.....  
Juvenile court of Montgomery County.....  
Municipal court of Philadelphia, juvenile division.....

Pittsburgh.  
Reading.  
Williamsport.  
Norristown.  
Philadelphia.  
Greenville.  
Orange.

## South Carolina: Children's court of Greenville County.....

## Texas: Juvenile court of Orange County.....

## Utah:

Juvenile court, First district<sup>1</sup>.....  
Juvenile court, Second district<sup>2</sup>.....  
Juvenile court, Third district<sup>3</sup>.....  
Juvenile court, Fourth district<sup>4</sup>.....  
Juvenile court, Fifth district<sup>5</sup>.....  
Juvenile court, Carbon County.....  
Juvenile courts, other counties<sup>6</sup>.....

Logan.  
Ogden.  
Salt Lake City.  
Provo.  
Richfield.  
Price.  
Cedar City.

## Virginia:

Juvenile and domestic relations court of Lynchburg.....  
Juvenile and domestic relations court of Norfolk.....  
Juvenile and domestic relations court of Roanoke County.....

Lynchburg.  
Norfolk.  
Salem.

## Washington: Juvenile court of Pierce County.....

Tacoma.

<sup>1</sup> Cache, Boxelder, and Rich Counties.

<sup>2</sup> Weber, Morgan, and Davis Counties.

<sup>3</sup> Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties.

<sup>4</sup> Utah, Juab, and Wasatch Counties.

<sup>5</sup> Platte, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties.

<sup>6</sup> Beaver, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Kane, Millard, San Juan, Uintah, and Washington Counties.

APPENDIX B.—SOURCE TABLES  
TABLE I.—Number of boys' and girls' official delinquency cases and number and per cent of unofficial dependency and neglect cases dealt with by 65 specified courts during 1928

Court	Delinquency cases						Dependency and neglect cases					
	Boys			Girls			Official			Unofficial		
	Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.......	39,932	27,585	10,397	23	32,822	23,399	9,433	29	6,060	4,486	1,574	26
Connecticut:												
Bridgeport.....	431	319	112	26	354	265	99	25	77	34	23	30
Hartford.....	552	410	112	30	491	390	101	21	61	50	11	60
District of Columbia.....	2,064	1,285	739	37	1,692	1,043	639	37	312	206	110	35
Indiana:												
Clark County.....	9	9	—	5	5	—	4	—	4	—	—	—
Clay County.....	26	25	—	18	18	—	8	—	8	—	—	—
Jennings County.....	33	102	224	81	28	148	127	—	—	—	—	—
Lake County.....	603	217	386	92	88	283	113	—	—	—	—	—
Marion County.....	238	13	225	16	6	19	12	—	—	—	—	—
Morgan County.....	41	—	—	9	5	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
Montgomery County.....	17	8	9	25	8	17	5	—	—	—	—	—
Montgomery County.....	30	8	22	77	53	9	44	—	—	—	—	—
Plumstead County.....	89	12	75	61	59	220	70	—	—	—	—	—
Vermillion County.....	723	293	13	17	20	7	13	—	—	—	—	—
Wayne County.....	723	293	160	61	370	63	163	73	90	30	33	37
Wyoming County.....	111	121	52	194	88	106	55	38	23	15	27	37
Other:												
Louisiana:												
Calcasieu Parish.....	232	71	186	72	221	62	72	36	9	23	253	253
Chicot Parish.....	237	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	77	77
Franklin Parish.....	140	140	140	140	904	894	904	253	253	253	336	336
Morehouse Parish.....	375	375	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	135	135
Mississippi:												
Hancock County.....	140	140	140	140	904	894	904	253	253	253	336	336
Jefferson Davis County.....	375	375	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	135	135
Madison County.....	291	182	123	44	242	142	100	41	49	20	29	47
Mississippi:												
Hudson County.....	1,850	1,850	1,294	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	262	262
Mercer County.....	294	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	22

<sup>1</sup> Not shown where number of cases is less than 50.



## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

TABLE IIa.—Age of boys and girls dealt with in delinquency cases by 62 specified courts during 1928 and age limit of original jurisdiction of court—Continued

Age limit of original jurisdiction, sex of child, and court	Total	Children dealt with in delinquency cases												Age not reported	
		Age of child reported													
		Under 10 years		10 years, under 12		12 years, under 14		14 years, under 16		16 years, under 18		18 years and over			
		Number	Per cent	Number	Percent	Number	Per cent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
COURTS WITH ORIGINAL JURISDICTION UNDER 18 YEARS—Continued															
Marion County.....	112	142	27	6	54	12	108	24	252	57	4	1	2		
Monroe County.....	19	19	1	1	3	1	4	11	2	9	1	1	1		
Montgomery County.....	9	9	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1		
Steuben County.....	23	23	3	3	7	4	4	9	1	1	1	1	1		
Vermillion County.....	50	50	2	4	6	12	9	18	32	64	2	2	2		
Wayne County.....	18	18	2	2	5	5	11	11	11	11	11	11	11		
New Jersey:															
Hudson County.....	1,300	1,298	114	9	242	19	418	32	516	40	8	1	1		
Mercer County.....	19	239	27	12	46	20	63	28	92	40	1	1	1		
New York:															
Buffalo.....	781	755	46	6	102	13	241	32	360	47	9	1	1		
Chemung County.....	56	73	12	16	12	16	23	30	28	38	1	1	1		
Clinton County.....	14	14	2	2	2	5	5	7	7	7	1	1	1		
Columbia County.....	47	47	9	4	4	13	2	22	4	4	1	1	1		
Delaware County.....	8	8	1	1	2	2	12	12	81	48	1	1	1		
Erie County.....	176	176	14	8	32	18	48	27	16	48	1	1	1		
Franklin County.....	37	36	1	1	7	12	12	12	37	43	1	1	1		
Moore County.....	37	36	1	1	32	18	48	27	16	48	1	1	1		
New York City.....	171	171	3	2	11	6	51	30	108	62	4	(1)	1		
Ontario County.....	92	92	10	12	543	14	1,742	30	2,938	50	4	(1)	1		
Orange County.....	31	31	1	1	10	12	27	33	35	43	1	1	1		
Orleans County.....	12	12	9	2	3	6	6	13	13	13	13	13	13		
Westchester County.....	713	712	52	7	100	14	208	29	301	42	53	7	3		
North Carolina:															
Buncombe County.....	92	87	9	10	15	17	25	29	37	43	1	1	1		
Winston-Salem.....	235	233	30	13	51	22	76	33	76	33	1	1	1		
Pennsylvania:															
Allegheny County.....	592	591	69	8	131	15	289	32	381	43	19	2	2		
Berks County.....	76	76	6	8	19	25	19	25	32	42	19	2	(1)		
Lycoming County.....	6	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1		
Montgomery County.....	50	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Philadelphia.....	4,371	4,317	389	2	10	20	19	38	3	20	40	10	10		
South Carolina: Greenville County.....	79	75	10	13	739	18	1,238	29	1,353	43	70	2	3	(1)	
COURTS WITH ORIGINAL JURISDICTION UNDER 17 YEARS															
Boys.....	1,851	1,837	162	9	230	13	432	24	622	34	379	21	3	(1)	
District of Columbia.....	1,157	1,456	108	7	194	13	359	25	502	34	293	20	20	1	
Louisiana:															
Caddo Parish.....	187	174	14	8	17	10	30	17	65	37	18	28	13		
Osage Parish.....	198	198	39	20	24	12	39	20	55	29	38	19	3		
Texas: Orange County.....	9	9	1	1	4	4	4	4	15	15	8	1	1		
Girls.....	341	338	25	7	43	13	86	25	117	35	66	20	1	(1)	
District of Columbia.....	267	267	22	8	37	14	71	27	89	33	48	18	18	3	
Louisiana:															
Caddo Parish.....	38	35	2	4	10	5	13	13	10	8	1	1	1		
Osage Parish.....	36	36	3	4	4	4	4	4	15	15	1	1	1		

\* Less than 1 per cent.



TABLE IIb.—Method of dealing with first case disposed of during the year for delinquent boys and girls under 10 years of age dealt with by 62 specified courts during 1928.<sup>1</sup>

Court	Children dealt with in delinquency cases for whom age was reported								
	Total	Under 10 years of age						Total	
		Method of dealing with case			Official				
		Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls		
Total	34,350	2,330	7	1,382	1,273	100	948	835	113
Connecticut:									
Bridgeport	409	40	10	32	29	3	8	5	3
Hartford	517	78	14	62	62	—	14	14	—
District of Columbia	1,723	130	8	44	39	5	86	60	17
Indiana:									
Clark County	9								
Clay County	26								
Lake County	429	25	6	14	13	1	11	11	—
Marion County	716	32	4	24	21	1	8	4	4
Monroe County	37	1		1	1				
Montgomery County	17	3		1	1		2	2	—
Steuben County	27	4		1	1		3	2	1
Vermillion County	85	2					2	2	—
Wayne County	28								
Iowa: Polk County	671	80	12	11	10	1	60	54	15
Louisiana:									
Caddo Parish	209	14	7	6	6		8	8	—
Ouachita Parish	234	42	18	4	4		38	35	3
Minnesota:									
Hennepin County	1,014	40	4	40	38	2			
Ramsey County	357	7	2	7	7				
St. Louis County (southern part)	271	24	9	11	11		13	12	1
New Jersey:									
Hudson County	1,523	130	9	130	114	10			
Mercer County	248	27	11	27	27				
New York:									
Buffalo	821	48	6	48	46	2			
Chemung County	90	13	14	13	12	1			
Clinton County	25								
Columbia County	61	8	13	8	8				
Delaware County	10	1		1	1				
Erie County	192	15	8	15	14	1			
Franklin County	42	1		1	1				
Monroe County	221	3	1	3	3				
New York City	6,818	359	6	359	333	20			
Ontario County	90	10	10	10	10				
Orange County	23	1		1	1				
Orleans County	10	2		2	2				
Westchester County	853	59	7	13	12	1	40	40	0
North Carolina:									
Buncombe County	101	10	10	—	—		10	9	1
Winston-Salem	295	41	14	41	30	11			
Ohio:									
Auglaize County	28	2		2	2				
Clark County	349	17	5	4	3	1	13	10	3
Cuyahoga County	2,385	149	6	40	37	3	109	99	10
Franklin County	682	14	2	14	14				
Hamilton County	970	64	6	3	3		51	51	—
Lake County	64	10	19	6	3	2	5	5	—
Mahoning County	1,503	102	7	2	2		100	99	10
Montgomery County	480	25	6	8	4	4	17	12	5
Sandusky County	49	2					2	2	—
Pennsylvania:									
Allegheny County	1,073	71	7	71	69	2			
Bucks County	99	6	6	6	6				
Lycoming County	12	1		1	1				
Montgomery County	61	1	2	1	1				
Philadelphia	4,086	429	9	108	103	15	201	203	25
South Carolina: Greenville County	94	13	14	12	10	2	1	1	—
Texas: Orange County	9	1					1		

<sup>1</sup> Only 59 of the 62 courts reporting delinquency cases reported girls' delinquency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Not shown where number of children is less than 50.

TABLE IIb.—Method of dealing with first case disposed of during the year for delinquent boys and girls under 10 years of age dealt with by 62 specified courts during 1928.—Continued

Court	Children dealt with in delinquency cases for whom age was reported									
	Total	Under 10 years of age						Total		
		Method of dealing with case			Official					
		Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls			
Utah:										
First district	302	19	6		3	3	2	16	14	2
Second district	278	23	10		11	9	2	17	16	1
Third district	702	20	3		3	2	1	24	22	2
Fourth district	294	26	9		2	2		24	21	3
Fifth district	340	43	11		19	19				
Carbon County	90	7	8		7	7				
Other counties	213	3	1		2	1	1	1	1	1
Virginia:										
Lynchburg	249	8	3		8	7	1			
Norfolk	610	20	4		20	23	3			
Rosemont County	11	4	3		4	4				
Washington: Pierce County	146	4	3		4	4				



















TABLE VIII.—Color and nativity of children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases by 53 specified courts during 1928—Continued

Court	Total	Children dealt with in dependency and neglect cases												Color not re- ported	
		Color reported													
		White													
		Total	Native, native parentage	Native, foreign or mixed parentage	Native, parentage not reported	Foreign born	Nativity not reported	Total	Native, native parentage	Native, foreign or mixed parentage	Native, parentage not reported	Foreign born	Nativity not reported		
			Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
New York—Continued.															
New York City	3,543	3,542	1,348	38	1,807	51	2	(1)	93	3	2	292	8	1	
Ontario County	84	84	80	71	17	20	2	2	2	5	6	5	6	2	
Orange County	81	81	49	90	11	18	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	
Oreans County	37	37	14	38	22	22	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Westchester County	368	368	119	32	185	50	6	2	7	2	1	(1)	50	14	
North Carolina:															
Rancombe County	84	84	80	95	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	—	
Winston-Salem	26	26	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	
Ohio:												2	—	—	
Aklaize County	44	44	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Clark County	97	97	84	87	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	13	—	
Cuyahoga County	1,133	1,133	284	25	571	50	83	6	—	52	5	183	14	—	
Franklin County	589	589	525	89	38	8	8	1	2	7	1	11	2	—	
Hamilton County	361	361	308	85	8	2	—	—	2	—	1	47	13	—	
Lake County	39	39	25	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	
Mahoning County	183	183	179	43	57	31	4	2	—	28	4	17	9	—	
Montgomery County	479	479	360	75	34	7	1	(1)	1	(1)	4	1	79	18	—
Sandusky County	60	60	48	50	11	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
Pennsylvania:															
Allegheny County	970	970	514	53	354	36	7	1	1	(1)	5	1	50	9	
Berks County	31	31	23	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	
Lycoming County	23	23	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Montgomery County	31	31	18	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Philadelphia	3,504	3,589	1,411	39	1,130	31	40	1	27	1	139	4	942	23	5
South Carolina: Greenville County	120	120	103	86	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	13	—	
Texas: Orange County	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Utah:															
First district	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Third district	135	135	76	56	43	32	9	6	7	5	—	1	1	1	
Fourth district	27	27	24	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Fifth district	14	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	
Other counties	5	5	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	8	—	
Virginia:															
Lynchburg	30	30	20	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	
Norfolk	230	230	209	91	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Roanoke County	8	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Washington: Pierce County	66	66	58	88	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

<sup>a</sup> Less than 1 per cent.









## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

TABLE XIII.—Number of cases of delinquent children placed on probation and number discharged from probation by 45 specified courts during 1928<sup>1</sup>

Court	Cases of delinquent children			
	Official		Unofficial	
	Placed on probation	Discharged from probation	Placed on probation	Discharged from probation
Total	10,301	7,872	1,055	621
Connecticut:				
Bridgeport	150	130		
Hartford	218	217		
District of Columbia	546	630	4	2
Indiana:				
Adams County		8		
Jennings County		5		
Lake County		37		
Marion County		211	19	19
Monroe County		7	8	72
Montgomery County		2	0	2
Steuben County		6	22	22
Vermillion County		7	6	49
Louisiana:				
Caddo Parish	11	2	22	10
Ouachita Parish	31	18	19	8
Minnesota:				
Hennepin County	503	500		
Ramsey County	279	229		
St. Louis County (southern part)	24	10	7	
Missouri: Jackson County				34
New Jersey:				
Hudson County	285	229		
Mercer County	233	94		5
New York:				
Buffalo				
Clinton County	170	158		
Columbia County	4	7		
Erie County	10	11		
Monroe County	111	81		
New York City	170	17		
Orleans County	11	4		
Westchester County	241	451	113	86
Ohio:				
Clark County	49	21	18	
Cuyahoga County	603	242	13	
Franklin County	460	374		
Hamilton County	13	7		
Lake County	14	0	280	250
Mahoning County	212	125	12	
Sandusky County	7	12	4	
Pennsylvania:				
Bucks County	45	10		
Philadelphia	1,842	1,600	105	
South Carolina: Greenville County	41	25	2	2
Texas: Orange County				
Utah:				
Second district	51	28	56	19
Third district			62	
Fifth district	47	12	12	14
Carbon County	73	38	2	1
Other counties	31	6	10	2
Virginia:				
Lynchburg	84	60		
Norfolk	251	210		6

<sup>1</sup> Includes only courts reporting cases of children discharged from probation; Adams and Jennings Counties, Ind., and Jackson County, Mo., reported cases of children discharged from probation, but did not report delinquency cases.

## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

TABLE XIV.—Duration of probation in cases of delinquent children discharged from probation by 45 specified courts during 1928

Court	Cases of delinquent children discharged from probation					
	Total	Duration of probation reported				
		Less than 3 months	3 months to less than 6 months	6 months to less than 9 months	9 months to less than 1 year	1 year or more
Total	8,493	8,481	1,918	984	1,191	500
Connecticut:						
Bridgeport	136	12	23	31	48	2
Hartford	213	18	41	70	40	14
District of Columbia	532	55	76	127	64	43
Indiana:						
Adams County	8	8	2	2	2	2
Jennings County	5	5	2	1	1	1
Lake County	47	33	14	7	1	1
Marion County	283	33	137	53	24	16
Monroe County	9	3	3	2	1	1
Montgomery County	4	3	2	1	1	1
Ohio:						
Clark County	23	23	5	19	2	2
Cuyahoga County	33	33	13	15	8	2
Franklin County	4	4	1	1	1	1
Hamilton County	12	12	8	11	8	1
Lake County	27	27	8	11	8	1
Monroe County	12	12	6	6	5	7
Montgomery County	234	29	51	57	38	50
Ohio County	94	94	6	6	5	7
Sandusky County	23	23	5	19	17	19
Pennsylvania:						
Bucks County	500	498	96	109	119	31
Philadelphia	229	229	61	42	41	16
South Carolina: Greenville County	10	10	2	2	1	4
Texas: Orange County	317	317	30	89	15	7
Utah:						
Second district	51	51	1	1	1	1
Third district	47	47	12	11	11	1
Fifth district	73	73	2	2	1	2
Carbon County	31	31	6	6	5	1
Other counties	31	31	10	10	5	17
Virginia:						
Lynchburg	84	84	60	60	54	8
Norfolk	251	251	210	210	146	33
Minnesota:						
Hennepin County	1,758	1,758	238	776	514	337
Ramsey County (southern part)	11	11	6	1	3	1
St. Louis County	317	317	30	81	56	10
Missouri: Jackson County	234	234	29	51	3	1
New Jersey:						
Hudson County	94	94	6	6	5	4
Jersey City	17	17	17	17	1	1
Union County	138	138	37	40	11	1
Columbia County	11	11	6	1	3	1
Erie County	81	81	2	6	1	1
Monroe County	17	17	8	5	2	1
New York City	1,758	1,758	238	776	514	337
Orleans County	4	4	4	2	2	1
Westchester County	317	317	30	81	56	10

TABLE XIV.—Duration of probation in cases of delinquent children discharged from probation by 45 specified courts during 1928—Continued

Court	Cases of delinquent children discharged from probation						Duration of probation not reported
	Total	Total	Less than 3 months	3 months less than 6 months	6 months less than 1 year	9 months less than 1 year	
Ohio:							
Clark County	21	21	1	74	3	7	4
Cuyahoga County	242	241	32	60	22	2	5
Franklin County	374	374	65	186	52	4	1
Hamilton County	257	257	12	36	34	2	4
Lake County	9	136	1	44	30	14	9
Mahoning County	12	12	38	44	1	1	1
Sandusky County							
Bucks County	10	10	2	4	2	2	1
Philadelphia: Greeneville County	1,600	1,583	112	96	245	312	287
Texas: Orange County	1	1	13	4	3	1	1
Utah:							
Second district	47	47	41	6			
Third district	1	1	1				
Fifth district	26	26	28	8	18	1	1
Carbon County	69	69	62	7	6	1	1
Other counties	7	7	6				
Virginia:							
Lynchburg	69	69	7	7	15	19	9
Norfolk	236	236	20	20	43	14	16

## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

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TABLE XV.—Reason for discharge in cases of delinquent children discharged from probation by 45 specified courts during 1928

Court	Cases of delinquent children discharged from probation					
	Total cases	Reason for discharge				
		Further supervision not recommended or discharged with improvement before reaching age limit	Child committed to institution	Child committed to agency or individual	Child reached age limit	Other reason
Total	8,493	5,338	1,177	377	866	735
Connecticut:						
Bridgeport	136	95	16		17	8
Hartford	243	208	28		78	23
District of Columbia	632	212	39	181		1
Indiana:						
Adams County	8	5				
Jennings County	6					
Lake County	47	37	3			
Marion County	243	180	28	2	28	45
Monroe County	9	4	6			2
Montgomery County	4	2	1			6
Steuben County	28	17	8	5		5
Vermillion County	55	30			17	
Louisiana:						
Caddo Parish	12	11				
Ouachita Parish	27	17	5	2	3	6
Minnesota:						
Hennepin County	500	361	114	1	28	8
Ramsey County	229	174	43			1
St. Louis County (southern part)	10	8	3		2	38
Missouri: Jackson County	317	249	28			
New Jersey:						
Hudson County	234	91	60	10	27	46
Mercer County	94	14	34			40
New York:						
Buffalo	188	118	37			
Clinton County	11	10	1			
Columbia County	11	9	1			3
Erie County	81	60	9	3		1
Monroe County	17	3	10	3		44
New York City	1,760	1,294	273	12	133	2
Orleans County	4	2				21
Westchester County	637	389	28	6	93	
Ohio:						
Clark County	21	17	77			
Cuyahoga County	242	73	40	3	21	48
Franklin County	374	323				6
Hamilton County	257	112	27	10	33	176
Lake County	9	2	1		4	20
Mahoning County	137	95	14	1	7	2
Sandusky County	12	3	1		6	3
Pennsylvania:						
Berks County	10	2			8	217
Philadelphia	1,600	766	212	78	337	8
South Carolina: Greenville County	27	9	9	1		1
Texas: Orange County	1					
Utah:						
Second district	47	39	8	1		2
Third district	1					1
Fifth district	26	20	3			3
Carbon County	69	63	3	3		
Other counties	7	4				
Virginia:						
Lynchburg	69	47	19	4		15
Norfolk	236	176	17	7	7	18

\* Includes 2 "reason for discharge not reported."

† Includes 8 "reason for discharge not reported."

## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

TABLE XVI.—Number of cases of dependent and neglected children placed under supervision and number discharged from supervision by 20 specified courts during 1928.<sup>1</sup>

Court	Cases of dependent and neglected children			
	Official		Unofficial	
	Placed under supervision	Discharged from supervision	Placed under supervision	Discharged from supervision
Total.....	2,428	1,915	47	21
Connecticut:				
Bridgeport.....	2	3		
Hartford.....	1	1		
District of Columbia.....	18	21		
Indiana:				
Adams County.....		2		
Lake County.....	8	3	3	2
Montgomery County.....		5	7	1
Louisiana: Ouachita Parish.....	9	6	13	7
Minnesota: Ramsey County.....	81	50		
New York:				
Buffalo.....	1	1		
Columbia County.....	20	30	2	
Monroe County.....	93	34		
New York City.....	1,486	941		
Ohio:				
Cuyahoga County.....	191	50	5	
Lake County.....	6	1	2	1
Sandusky County.....	17	2	2	
Pennsylvania:				
Berks County.....	4	4		
Philadelphia.....	423	733		
South Carolina: Greenville County.....	27	19	11	9
Utah: Other counties <sup>2</sup> .....			1	1
Virginia: Norfolk.....	33	3		

<sup>1</sup> Only 20 of the 63 courts reporting dependency and neglect cases reported cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision; Adams County, Ind., reported cases of children discharged from supervision, but did not report dependency cases.

<sup>2</sup> Counties other than Carbon and those included in the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth districts.

## JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS, 1928

TABLE XVII.—Duration of supervision in cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision by 20 specified courts during 1928.<sup>1</sup>

Court	Cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision											
	Duration of supervision reported											
	Total cases	Total	Less than 3 months	3 months, less than 6	6 months, less than 9	9 months, less than 1 year	1 year, less than 18 months	18 months, less than 2 years	2 years, less than 3	3 years, less than 4	4 years, less than 5	5 years and more
Total.....	1,936	1,935	304	405	346	218	241	113	117	32	25	12
Connecticut:												
Bridgeport.....	3	3	1									
Hartford.....	1	1										
District of Columbia.....	21	21	2	7	4	1	1	3	4			
Indiana:												
Adams County.....	2	2										
Lake County.....	5	5										
Montgomery County.....	6	5										
Louisiana: Ouachita Parish.....	13	13	8	6								
Minnesota: Ramsey County.....	56	56	16	10	9	4	10	5	2			
New York:												
Buffalo.....	1	1	1									
Columbia County.....	30	30	1	9	7							
Monroe County.....	34	34	25	9								
New York City.....	941	941	206	343	223	110	55	4				
Ohio:												
Cuyahoga County.....	60	50	35	8	6	2						
Lake County.....	2	2		1	1							
Sandusky County.....	2	2		2								
Pennsylvania:												
Berks County.....	4	4	4									
Philadelphia.....	733	733	57	68	88	97	157	98	110	27	25	8
South Carolina: Greenville County.....	28	28	9	2	7							
Utah: Other counties <sup>2</sup> .....	1	1	1									
Virginia: Norfolk.....	3	3										

<sup>1</sup> Only 20 of the 63 courts reporting cases of dependency and neglect reported cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision.

<sup>2</sup> Counties other than Carbon and those included in the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth districts.

TABLE XVIII.—Reason for discharge in cases of dependent and neglected children, discharged from supervision by 20 specified courts during 1928.<sup>1</sup>

Court	Cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision								
	Total cases	Total	Reason for discharge reported						Reason for discharge not reported
			Further supervision not recommended or discharged with improvement before reaching age limit	Child committed to institution	Child committed to agency	Child committed to individual	Child reached age limit	Other reason	
Total.....	1,936	1,931	1,179	244	117	183	35	173	5
Connecticut:									
Bridgeport.....	3	3	3						
Hartford.....	1	1	1						
District of Columbia.....	21	21	7	1	6	1	2	4	
Indiana:									
Adams County.....	2	2							2
Lake County.....	5	5	1	1		3			
Montgomery County.....	6	6	1			4			1
Louisiana: Ouachita Parish.....	13	13	4			4			5
Minnesota: Ramsey County.....	56	56	37	2	12	2			3
New York:									
Buffalo.....	1	1		1					
Columbia County.....	30	30	6		7	9	3	6	
Monroe County.....	34	34			34				
New York City.....	941	941	662	222	13	4	14	20	
Ohio:									
Cuyahoga County.....	60	60	7	2	35	2		4	
Lake County.....	2	2	1		1				
Sandusky County.....	2	2			2				
Pennsylvania:									
Bucks County.....	4	4		4					
Philadelphia.....	733	728	447	5	2	140	14	114	5
South Carolina: Greenville County.....	28	28		6	5	8	2	7	
Utah: Other counties <sup>2</sup> .....	1	1						1	
Virginia: Norfolk.....	3	3	3						

<sup>1</sup> Only 20 of the 63 courts reporting dependency and neglect cases reported cases of dependent and neglected children discharged from supervision.

<sup>2</sup> Counties other than Carbon and those included in the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth districts.