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CRIME TREND SERIE

Uniform Crime Reporting Program in Hawaii

Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention Division

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Juvenile Arrests 1980 and 1992

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he number of juveniles arrested in the State of Hawaii increased over 86 percent from 1980 to 1992. In addition to the large increase in the number of juveniles arrested, important differences exist in the juvenile arrest statistics between 1980 and 1992. Some of the major findings of this report include:

- In 1980, 10,125 juveniles were arrested in the State of Hawaii; in 1992, 18,856 juveniles were arrested, an increase of 86.2 percent. From 1980 to 1992, the number of juveniles residing in the state increased by less than two percent.
- Statewide arrests for violent crimes increased 112.9 percent from 1980 to 1992; the number of forcible rapes increased 138.5 percent; the number of aggravated assaults increased 140.0 percent; and simple assaults increased 160.1 percent.
- In 1980, 2,774 juvenile females were arrested statewide; in 1992, 6,872, an increase of 147.7 percent. From 1980 to 1992, females increased their share of arrests for violent crimes, from 13.3 percent to 21.0 percent, representing a 234.9 percent increase in the number of arrests of females for violent crimes.
- Juvenile females also increased their share of all drug arrests, from 17.8 percent in 1980 to 28.9 percent

in 1992. Juvenile females accounted for 45.5 percent of all arrests involving opium or cocaine and their derivatives in 1992.

- Overall, juvenile arrestees in 1992 were younger than those arrested in 1980. In 1980, 37.1 percent of juvenile arrestees were under 15 years old; in 1992, 46.1 percent were under 15 years old.
- The proportions of Hawaiians or Part-Hawaiians and those classified as "Other Asian or Pacific Islander" arrested for all crimes statewide decreased their share of arrests from 1980 to 1992, while the remaining ethnic groups increased their share of arrests.
- The City and County of Honolulu decreased its share of all juvenile arrests from 79.4 percent in 1980 to 75.1 percent in 1992. Hawaii County accounted for 8.2 percent of all juvenile arrests statewide in 1980 and 12 percent in 19^2. Maui County and Kauai County varied less than 1 percent from 1980 to 1992 in their relative shares of juvenile arrests.

Juvenile Arrests: 1980

Of the 10,125 arrests of juveniles in 1980, 47.4 percent were for the eight Index Offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. More juveniles were arrested for larceny-theft than any other offense in 1980 (3,479), ac-

counting for 65.1 percent of all arrests for Index Offenses and 34.4 percent of all juvenile arrests.

The number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, negligent manslaughter, and other assault) in 1980 totalled 817, or 8.1 percent of all juvenile arrests.

Less than 2 percent of all juveniles arrested for drug related offenses involved sales or manufacturing, while over 98 percent involved possession. Possession of marijuana accounted for 57.3 percent (254) of all drug related arrests of juveniles and possession of nonnarcotics (which include amphetamines, crystal methamphetamine, barbiturates, PCP, LSD, and sedatives) accounted for 40.2 percent (178). Overall, 443 juveniles were arrested for drug related offenses in 1980, 4.4 percent of the juvenile arrest total.

In 1980, 1,511 juveniles were arrested for curfew violation and runaway offenses, both status offenses, which accounted for 14.9 percent of all juveniles arrests in 1980. Most of the arrests were for runaway, 1,200; 311 arrests were for curfew violation.

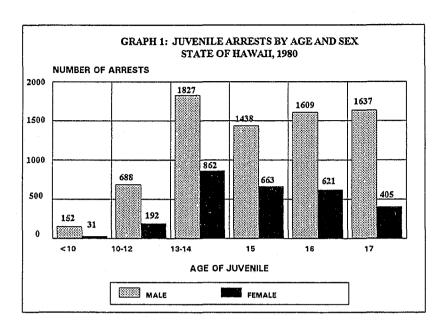
DEMOGRAPHICS

Overall, 72.6 percent of all juveniles arrested in 1980 were male, 27.4 percent female. Among juveniles arrested for Index Offenses, 77.1 percent were male and 22.9 percent female. Males also accounted for a

much larger share of the arrests for violent crimes: 86.7 percent. Moreover, 82.2 percent of all juveniles arrested for drug related offenses were male.

There were 8 offenses for which females accounted for a percentage of the arrests greater than their overall share of juvenile arrests (27.4 percent): negligent manslaughter, 50 percent; larceny theft, 29.9 percent; forgery and counterfeiting, 37.5 percent; prostitution, 30.8 percent; offenses against family and children, 35.3 percent; curfew, 29.6 percent; all other non-traffic offenses, 30 percent. Females accounted for over half of the arrests for only one offense: runaways, 62.3 percent.

In 1980, 183 juveniles under the age of 10 years were arrested statewide, accounting for 1.8 percent of all juvenile arrests (see Graph 1). Among those under 10 years of age, 74.9 percent were arrested for larceny-theft. Juveniles 10-12 years old accounted for 8.7 percent of all juvenile arrests; 13-14 year olds, 26.6 percent; 15 year olds, 20.8 percent; 16 year olds, 22



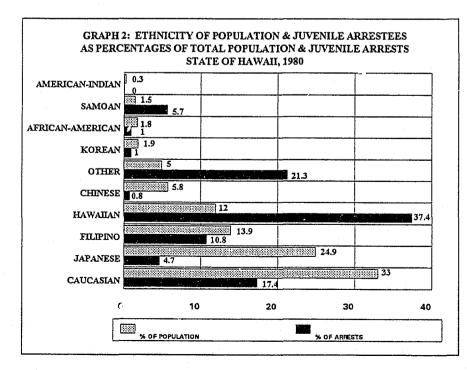
percent; and 17 year olds, 20.2 percent. Whereas 37.1 percent of all juveniles arrested in 1980 were under the age of 15, only 27.8 percent of those arrested for violent crimes were under age 15.

Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian juveniles accounted for 37.4 percent of all juvenile arrests statewide in 1980 (see Graph 2). The 1980 census revealed

that 12 percent of the State's population was Hawaiian1. However, that figure is generally regarded as low; non-census estimates suggest that approximately 20 percent of the State's population was Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian in 1980. For the remaining racial and ethnic groups, the percentage of all juvenile arrests (and the percent distribution based on the 1980 census, in parentheses) include: Caucasian, 17.4 percent (33 percent); African-American, 1.0 percent (1.8 percent); American Indian or Alaskan Native, no arrests in 1980 (0.3 percent); Chinese, 0.8 percent (5.8 percent); Japanese, 4.7 percent (24.9 percent); Filipino, 10.8 percent (13.9 percent); Korean, 1.0 percent (1.9 percent); Samoan, 5.7 percent (1.5 percent); and other, 21.3 percent (5 percent).

The distribution of juvenile arrestees by race/ethnicity for Index Offenses is similar to that for all offenses.

However, there are several deviations when violent offenses are considered. Caucasians, who accounted for 17.4 percent of all juvenile arrests and 15.2 percent of arrests for Index Offenses, comprised 10.4 percent of those arrested for violent crimes. Japanese accounted for only 2.7 percent of the



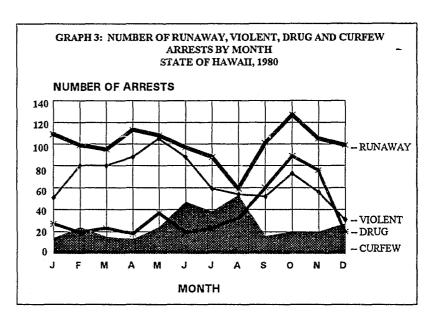
juveniles arrested for violent crimes, half of their 5.6 percent share of arrests for Index Offenses. On the other hand, Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians, who were involved in 37.2 percent of arrests for Index Offenses, accounted for 44.1 percent of arrests for violent crimes. In addition, Samoans made up 6.3 percent of the number of juveniles arrested for Index Offenses and 11.6 percent for violent crimes.

ARRESTS BY COUNTY

In 1980, approximately 79 percent of the State's population resided in the City and County of Honolulu. In that year, 79.4 percent of all juvenile arrests, 83.8 percent of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses, 80.8 percent of juvenile arrests for violent crimes, and 54.6 percent of arrests for drug related offenses occurred in the City and County of Honolulu. Hawaii County, with 9.5 percent of the State's population in 1980, accounted for 8.2 percent of all juveniles arrests, 7.1 percent of arrests for Index Offenses, 7.2 percent of violent offenses, and 17.2 percent of drug related offenses. Maui County, with 7.4 percent of the State's population, had 7.3 percent of all juvenile arrests, only 4.3 percent of Index Offenses and 2.8 percent of violent offenses, and 16.9 percent of the State total for drug related offenses. In 1980, 4.1 percent of the State's population resided in Kauai County. During that year, 5.1 percent of all juvenile arrests statewide, 4.8 percent of all arrests for Index Offenses, 9.2 percent of arrests for violent crimes, and 11.3 percent of arrests for drug related offenses occurred in Kauai County.

ARRESTS BY MONTH

An examination of arrests of juveniles by month reveals some interesting patterns. For most categories of juvenile arrests in 1980, there were



fewer arrests during the months when students were not in school (see Graph 3). Total juvenile arrests, arrests for Index Offenses, violent offenses, and the status offense of runaway all showed a decline during the summer months of June, July, and August. Moreover, total arrests and arrests for Index Offenses continued to decline in September, rose steeply in October and November, and fell again in December (when students were on vacation for half the month). Arrests for violent offenses rose the second month of school, fell in November and December, then climbed sharply through the spring, peaking in May. Arrests of runaways were lowest during the summer months, rising abruptly during the first two months of school.

Arrests for drug related offenses were relatively stable through July, with the exception of May when the number of arrests doubled over the previous month, only to decline by an equal amount in June. However, from September through November, the number of arrests was substantially higher than the annual average for drug related offenses.

The most significant deviation from the monthly pattern of arrests of

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juveniles involves the status offense of curfew violations. During the summer months, the number of arrests for curfew violations increased dramatically. In June and July, the number of arrests for this offense in Maui County exceeded those in the City and County of Honolulu.

JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS

A majority of the juveniles arrested in 1980 (55.2 percent) were referred to juvenile court, juvenile authorities or the probation department; 35.2 percent were handled within the respective county police departments and released, usually to parents or guardians; 0.9 percent were referred to a welfare agency; and 8.6 percent were still pending a final disposition at year's end. None of the juveniles arrested in 1980 were referred to criminal or adult court.

Juvenile Arrests: 1992

In 1992, 18,856 juveniles were arrested in the State of Hawaii, an 86.2 percent increase over the number of arrests in 1980. Arrests for Index Offenses accounted for 26.8 percent of all juvenile arrests in 1992, down from 52.8 percent in 1980. The actual

number of juveniles arrested for Index Offenses declined 5.4 percent from 1980 to 1992. As in 1980, arrests for larceny-theft accounted for the greatest percentage of arrests for Index Offenses (though a smaller share than in 1980): 60 percent, 16.1 percent of all arrests. However, there were 12.7 percent fewer arrests for larceny-theft in 1992 than in 1980 and, unlike 1980, there were two offenses for which juveniles were arrested more often than for larceny-theft: runaway (4,656 arrests) and all other non-traffic offenses (4,832 arrests).

Over two times as many juveniles were arrested for violent crimes in 1992 as 1980: 1,739 versus 817, respectively. Arrests for violent crimes accounted for 9.2 percent of all juveniles arrests in 1992, up from 8.1 percent in 1980.

There were 11 fewer arrests for drug related offenses in 1992 than in 1980. The 432 arrests in 1992 represented 2.3 percent of all juvenile arrests. down from 4.4 percent in 1980. In contrast to 1980, when 1.8 percent of the drug related arrests involved sales/ manufacturing and 98.2 involved possession, 9.7 percent of all arrests related to drugs in 1992 involved sales/manufacturing and 90.3 percent involved possession. Possession of marijuana accounted for 75.7 percent of all drug related offenses in 1992 compared to 57.3 percent in 1980. The number of arrests for possession of nonnarcotics, second only to possession of marijuana in 1980, declined 88.2 percent from 1980 to 1992 and accounted for only 4.9 percent of the total number of arrests for drug related offenses in 1992. A large increase occurred in the number of arrests for the possession of opium or cocaine and their derivatives from 1980 to 1992: from 1 to 42, respectively.

Some of largest numeric and percentage increases in the number of juve-

niles arrested from 1980 to 1992 occurred in the status offenses of curfew and runaways, and in the category which includes all other nontraffic offenses. The number of arrests for curfew violations increased 227 percent from 1980 to 1992, arrests of runaways increased 288 percent, and arrests for all other non-traffic offenses increased 229.2 percent. Thus, while arrests for Index Offenses decreased 5.4 percent from 1980 to 1992, arrests for these three offenses largely account for the overall increase of 86.2 percent in the number of juveniles arrested from 1980 to 1992.

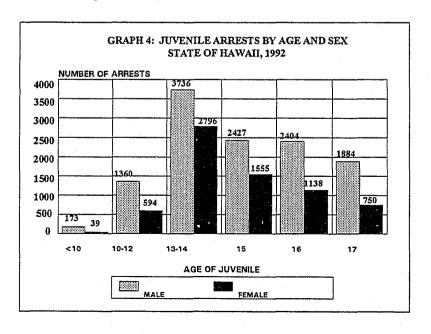
DEMOGRAPHICS

Females substantially increased their share of all juvenile arrests in 1992 over 1980: 36.4 percent versus 27.4 percent, respectively. Among juveniles arrested for Index Offenses, females increased their share from 22.9 percent in 1980 to 25.5 percent in 1992; for violent crimes, the percentage of female arrestees increased from 13.3 to 21.0; and for drug related offenses, females accounted for 28.9 percent of the arrests in 1992, up from 17.8 percent in 1980. In 1992, 45.5 percent of all arrests related to opium or cocaine and

their derivatives (sales/manufacturing or possession) involved females.

There were seven offenses for which females accounted for a percentage of arrests greater than or equal to their overall share of juvenile arrests (36.4 percent): murder 66.7 percent; forgery and counterfeiting, 68.0 percent; fraud, 36.6 percent; sales/manufacturing of opium or cocaine and their derivatives, 46.2 percent; possession of opium or cocaine and their derivatives, 45.2 percent; sales/manufacturing of nonnarcotics, 50.0 percent; and runaways, 61.3 percent.

In 1992, 212 juveniles under the age of 10 were arrested statewide (1.1 percent of the 1992 total), a 15.8 percent increase from 1980. Arrests for larceny-theft accounted for a much smaller percentage of those arrests in 1992 than in 1980: 35.8 percent versus 74.9 percent, respectively. From 1980 to 1992 among juveniles under the age of 10, there was a 180.0 percent increase in the number of arrests for burglary, an 85.7 percent increase in the number of arrests for vandalism, and a 257.1 percent increase in the number of arrests of runaways.



Juveniles aged 10-12 years accounted for 10.4 percent of all juvenile arrests in 1992; 13-14 year olds, 34.6 percent; 15 year olds, 21.1 percent; 16 year olds, 18.8 percent; and 17 year olds, 14 percent (see Graph 4). In 1980, 37.1 percent of all juveniles arrested were under the age of 15; in 1992, 46.1 percent were under 15 years of age. In 1980, only 27.8 percent of all juveniles arrested for violent crimes were under age 15. In 1992, 47.4 percent of all juveniles arrested for violent crimes were under the age of 15. From 1980 to 1992, the number of juveniles under the age of 1 arrested for robbery increased 23.6 percent, while arrests for simple assault increased 376.9 percent.

Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian juveniles accounted for 35 percent of all juvenile arrests statewide in 1992 (see Graph 5), a decrease from the percentage in 1980. From 1980 to 1992, 8 of the 10 racial/ethnic groups for which data were collected increased their share of juvenile arrests: Caucasians, from 17.4 percent to 20.1 percent; African-Americans, from 1.0 percent to 2.5 percent; American Indian or Alaskan Native, from 0 percent to 0.1 percent; Chinese, from 0.8 percent to 0.9 percent; Japanese, from 4.7 percent to 5.8 percent; Filipino, from 10.8 percent to 14.4 percent; Korean from, 1.0 percent to 1.2 percent; and Samoan, 5.7 percent to 6.5 percent. In addition to Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians, the category which includes all others decreased from 21.3 percent of all juveniles arrests in 1980 to 13.4 percent in 1992. According to the 1990 census², the only groups to vary more than 1 percent in their share of the State's population from 1980 to 1992 were Filipinos (an increase from 13.9 percent to 15.2 percent) and Japanese (a decrease from 24.9 percent to 22.3 percent).

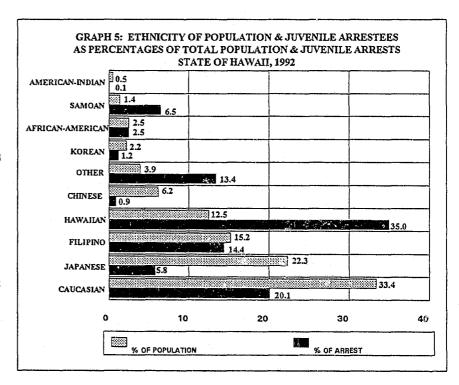
The distribution of juvenile arrests by race/ethnicity for Index Offenses is similar to that for all offenses.

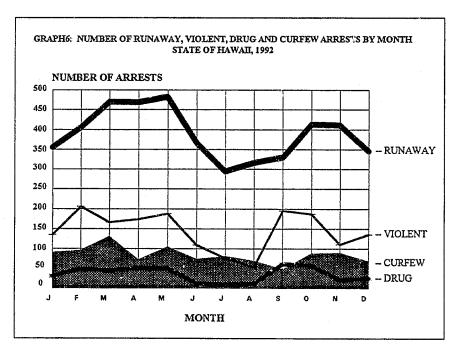
However, there are several variations if specific types of offenses are considered. Caucasians, who accounted for 20.1 percent of all juvenile arrests and 21.0 percent of all Index Offense arrests, made up 15.0 percent of the total number of arrests for violent crimes. African-Americans comprised 1.8 percent of those arrested for Index Offenses and 5.6 percent of those arrested for violent crimes. Samoans accounted for 6.5 percent of all arrests, 7.6 percent of arrests for Index Offenses, and 11.5 percent of arrests for violent crimes Caucasians were involved in 30.3 percent of juvenile arrests for drug related offenses. Filipinos, who accounted for 14.4 percent of all arrests, comprised 7.4 percent of drug related arrests. Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian juveniles made up 46.3 percent of all juveniles arrested for drug related offenses.

ARRESTS BY COUNTY

From 1980 to 1992, the City and County of Honolulu decreased its share of the State's total number of juvenile arrests: from 79.4 percent to 75.1 percent, respectively. Hawaii County, which accounted for 8.2 percent of all juvenile arrests statewide in 1980, contributed 12.0 percent of all arrests in 1992. Maui County slightly decreased their share of all juvenile arrests, from 7.3 percent in 1980 to 7.1 percent in 1992, while Kauai County increased from 5.1 percent to 5.8 percent.

The most dramatic differences from 1980 to 1992 occurred in the share of juvenile arrests for Index Offenses for each county. In 1980, 83.8 percent of all arrests for Index Offenses took place in the City and County of Honolulu; by 1992, that percentage decreased to 71.4. Hawaii County more than doubled its share of juvenile arrests, from 7.1 percent in 1980 to 15.9 percent in 1992. Maui County also saw a large increase in its share of arrests, from 4.3 percent to 7.6 percent. The increase in Kauai County was smaller: from 4.8 percent of the State's juvenile arrests for Index Offenses to 5.1 percent. More importantly for Kauai County, there





was only one more arrest for an Index Offense in 1992 than in 1980 (260 versus 259, respectively).

The number of arrests and statewide share for drug related offenses decreased in the City and County of Honolulu, Kauai County, and Maui County from 1980 to 1992. In 1980, 54.6 percent of all drug related arrests statewide occurred in the City and County of Honolulu; in 1992, 44.7 percent. From 1980 to 1992, Maui County reduced its share from 16.9 to 14.1 percent, and Kauai County decreased from 11.3 percent to 4.6 percent. Hawaii County more than doubled the number of juveniles arrested for drug related offenses, from 76 in 1980 to 158 in 1992, as well as their share of the State's total: from 17.2 percent to 36.6 percent. A 97.1 percent increase in the number of arrests for possession of marijuana from 1980 to 1992 accounted for most of the increase in the total number of drug arrests in Hawaii County in 1992.

ARRESTS BY MONTH

An analysis of juvenile arrests by month for 1992 reveals similar patterns as in 1980 (see Graph 6). Total juvenile arrests, and arrests for violent and drug related offenses dropped substantially during the summer months of June through August. Arrests for Index Offenses and runaway offenses also fell during summer, though somewhat less dramatically. In contrast to 1980, arrests statewide for curfew violations in 1992 did not rise during summer, but peaked in March. The City and County of Honolulu provided the only exception: arrests for curfew violations were highest in June and July.

JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS

As in 1980, a majority of the juveniles arrested in 1992 (58.3 percent) were referred to juvenile court, juvenile authorities or the probation department. A smaller percentage (21.2 percent) than in 1980 were handled within the county police departments and released while 3.3 percent were

referred to a welfare agency. The percentage of juvenile dispositions pending by the end of 1992 was nearly twice the percentage in 1980: 17 percent versus 8.6 percent, respectively. In 1992, seven juveniles were referred to criminal or adult court.

DISCUSSION

As the data in this report suggest, even a cursory examination of the changing nature of juvenile arrest statistics raises a number of warning flags. There is growing concern in our society about the health and welfare of our youth, including homelessness, education, substance abuse, violence, and involvement in gangs. At a time when the State of Hawaii is debating the extent to which juveniles should be adjudicated and incarcerated, it is important to analyze changes over time in the complexion of the involvement of juveniles in criminal activities.

Between the census years 1980 and 1990, the number of juveniles residing in the State of Hawaii increased 1.6 percent. From 1980 to 1992, the number of juveniles arrested statewide increased 86.2 percent, from 10,125 to 18,856. While arrests for Index Offenses decreased 5.4 percent during this period, the number of all other arrests increased 188.8 percent.

The increase in the number of arrests for violent crimes is one area of concern. Statewide arrests for violent crimes increased 112.9 percent from 1980 to 1992; the number of forcible rapes increased 138.5 percent; aggravated assault, 140.0 percent; and other assaults, 160.1 percent.

Another area of concern is the growing number of females arrested in the State of Hawaii. In 1980, 2,774 juvenile females were arrested statewide; in 1992, 6,872, an increase of 147.7 percent. From 1980 to 1992, females

increased their share of all juvenile arrests from 27.4 percent to 36.4 percent. Females have also increased their share of arrests for violent crimes, from 13.3 percent to 21.0 percent, representing a 234.9 percent increase in the number of arrests of females for violent crimes. The large increase in the number of females arrested for running away from home is alarming, especially in light of growing evidence that running away is often precipitated by abuse and may lead to further exploitation on the streets. In 1980, 747 females were arrested as runaways; in 1992, 2,855, an increase of 282.2 percent. Girls 14 years old and younger account for 45.7 percent of all females arrested for runaway.

Juvenile females were more often arrested for drug related offenses in 1992 than in 1980. The number of females arrested for all drug offenses increased 58.2 percent from 1980 to 1992. Juvenile females also increased their share of all drug arrests, from 17.8 percent in 1980 to 28.9 percent. Juvenile females accounted for 45.5 percent of all arrests involving opium or cocaine and their derivatives in 1992.

Another disturbing trend in the arrest of juveniles from 1980 to 1992 concerns the age of the arrestees. Arrests of juveniles under 10 years of age increased 15.8 percent; 10-12 year olds, 122.0 percent; 13-14 year olds, 142.9 percent; 15 year olds, 89.5 percent; 16 year olds, 58.8 percent; and 17 year olds, 29.0 percent. In 1980, 37.1 percent of all juveniles arrested were under the age of 15; in 1992, 46.1 percent. In 1980, only

27.8 percent of all juveniles arrested for violent crimes were under the age of 15; in 1992, 47.4 percent were under 15 years of age.

Juvenile arrest statistics reinforce the concern that Hawaii's "at risk" population is disproportionately comprised of Native Hawaiians. Native Hawaiians have higher rates of incarceration, social problems, alcohol and narcotic use, poverty, and suicide than the general population, and, as the data in this report suggest, many of those problems begin at an early age. While Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians accounted for a smaller percentage of all juvenile arrests in 1992 than in 1980 (35 percent versus 37.4 percent, respectively), their share far exceeds their percentage of the State's population. Moreover, in 1992, Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians accounted for 34.1 percent of arrests for Index Offenses, 33.8 percent of arrests for violent crimes, 35.4 percent of arrests of runaways, and a staggering 46.3 percent of arrests for drug related offenses.

There appears to be a relationship between the months of the year and iuvenile arrests. Both in 1980 and 1992, the number of arrests for most types of offenses tended to decrease in June, July, and August. That the number of arrests tend to increase after the summer months may or may not be related to the school year. Juveniles definitely have contact with more individuals and influences, good and bad, during school than during the summer months. This increased contact also includes the number of adults who observe and monitor the behavior of juveniles. Unfortunately,

these data do not help answer the question of whether the school environment directly contributes to the increase in the number of juvenile arrests.

Fortunately, not all of the news is bad. From 1980 to 1992, the number of juveniles arrested for four Index Offenses declined: murder (25 percent), robbery (12.2 percent), burglary (12.9 percent), and larcenytheft (12.7 percent). There were 11 fewer arrests for drug related offenses in 1992 than in 1980, a 2.5 percent decrease.

In recent years, the drug category of greatest concern to law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies has been nonnarcotics, which includes crystal methamphetamine ("ice"). Since 1980, when 178 juveniles were arrested for the possession of nonnarcotics, the number of juveniles arrested for this offense declined 88.2 percent to 21 in 1992. The large number of arrests in 1980 cannot be attributed to crystal methamphetamine (ice use did not receive much attention prior to 1986). However, had efforts to curtail ice smoking and sales not been successful, such a decrease in the number of arrests would not have occurred (Note: In 1988, there were 20 juveniles arrested for possession of nonnarcotics; 1989, 10; 1990, 13; and 1991, 8).

Society has always assumed a special responsibility for its youth. Given some of the disturbing trends in juvenile arrest statistics, it is important that attention be given to understanding the causes of juvenile criminality, its prevention, and treatment.

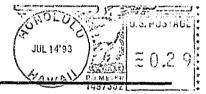
¹ Population figures based on the 1980 census were obtained from the State of Hawaii Data Book 1992, page 44.

² Population figures based on the 1990 census were obtained from the State of Hawaii Data Book 1992, page 44.

The data for the Crime Trend Series comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program in Hawaii gathers offense and arrest data from each of the four county law enforcement agencies. Honolulu, Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

The Research and Statistics Branch of the Crime Prevention Division, Department of the Attorney General, operates as a clearinghouse for the UCR Program, reporting the county offense and arrest data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and publishing the results annually in Crime in Hawaii.

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