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*Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
Eleventh Annual Report*

The Second Decade



Focus on the Future

Cover photo - Television producer at Austin's ACTV works with young probationer in a media skills project, part of the arts program at Travis County Juvenile Probation Department.

Photo by Ralph Barrera, *Austin American-Statesman*.

Eleventh Annual Report
of the
Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

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National Institute of Justice

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Our Partners in Progress

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission appreciates the insight and support of the Texas Legislature and specifically, Senator Jim Turner, for taking the initiative to create the Commission on Children and Youth. The legislature has demonstrated its belief that we best can meet the challenge of crime and violence through early intervention - - by investing resources in our juvenile courts, juvenile probation and other services to children and youth.

We acknowledge the invaluable support and leadership of local juvenile boards, judges and probation administrators who are working with us to build an effective, comprehensive and uniform juvenile justice system for Texas. The Health and Human Services Commission deserves special mention for its work in creating state and local interagency collaboration.

All Texans owe a great debt to the thousands of juvenile probation practitioners and citizen volunteers who fight the daily battle to save our children from futures of violence and crime. Because of their dedication and efforts, juvenile justice in Texas has won national recognition and respect. In recent years, our juvenile probation agencies have received more national awards for excellence and innovation than any other state in the nation.

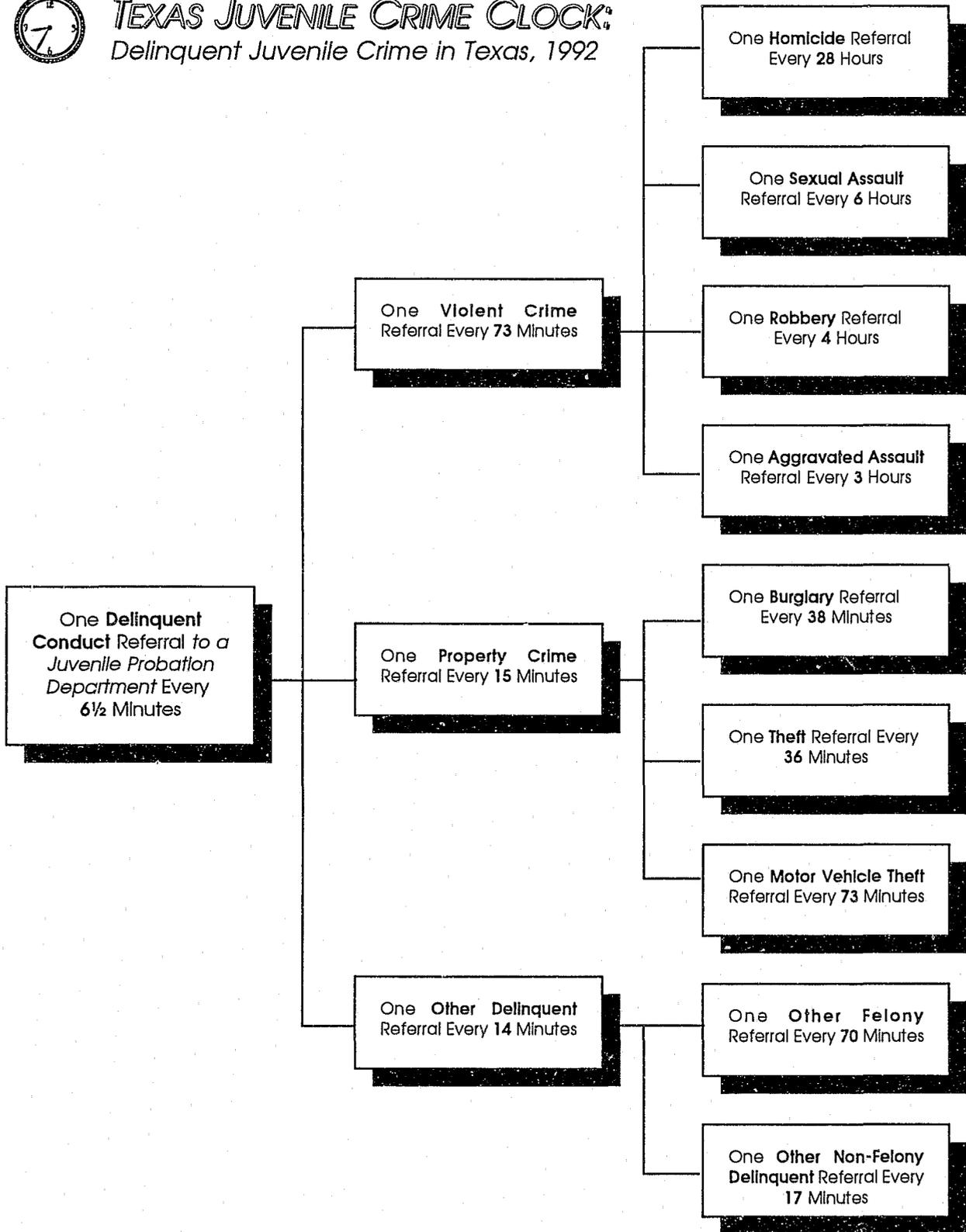
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TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION



TEXAS JUVENILE CRIME CLOCK:
Delinquent Juvenile Crime in Texas, 1992



A Message from the Executive Director

Last year marked the tenth anniversary of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. We reflected with pride upon a decade of achievement and progress through partnership.

Working with the 160 juvenile probation departments in Texas, TJPC built productive partnerships between state and local government, and public and private sectors. Texas developed nationally acclaimed programs in the fight against youth crime and violence. We applauded the awards and significant milestones which marked that incredible decade of progress.

In just 10 years, we had extended quality juvenile probation services to every county in Texas. The construction of 23 new juvenile detention centers meant children no longer were jailed alongside adult criminals.

There was good reason to celebrate, but little time for it, because the crime-breeding conditions in which many Texas children live continued to worsen. Youth gangs were spreading from cities to small towns, widening the disaster zone of juvenile drug abuse and violence.

American families and neighborhoods are changing but, unfortunately, few of those changes are good for children. The changing realities of children's lives bring new challenges to the juvenile justice system.

It is clear that the Juvenile Probation Commission's second decade will be as challenging as the first.

Bernard Licarione, Ph.D.

New Challenges, New Solutions

The changing realities of children's lives have placed new demands on juvenile justice practitioners. The institutions to which we traditionally have turned for support, such as the schools and family, are themselves in turmoil.

The National Commission on Children recently completed two years of intensive investigation into the basic life conditions of American children. In its final report to the President and Congress, it called for a dramatic, new course to save our children, their families and our nation's future.

By the year 2000, it is predicted that one in four children will live in poverty, one-sixth will drop out of school, one-fifth will become unwed teen parents, two-thirds will live in single-parent homes and half will come home from school to a house in which there is no supervising adult. Many children are virtually raising themselves. Consequently, while the adolescent population is declining, their numbers in the justice system are increasing.

Investing in children is not a luxury; it is an imperative. We must create new responses to families and children in need, at risk and in trouble.



*"Many things we
need can wait, the
child cannot. Now is
the time his bones
are being formed, his
blood is being made,
his mind is being
developed.*

*To him we cannot
say tomorrow, his
name is today."*

Gabriela Mistral
Chilean poet

*"The solution of
adult problems
tomorrow depends in
large measure upon
the way our children
grow up today."*

Margaret Mead
Anthropologist



Today's juvenile probation programs are more than corrective, they are preventive. To effectively address the problems of youth crime and violence, juvenile justice agencies provide a wide spectrum of services which address virtually every aspect of the lives of troubled children and families.

A comprehensive approach to juvenile crime involves early childhood prevention, timely and effective intervention with first-time law-breakers, and intensive programs for hard-core, serious offenders.

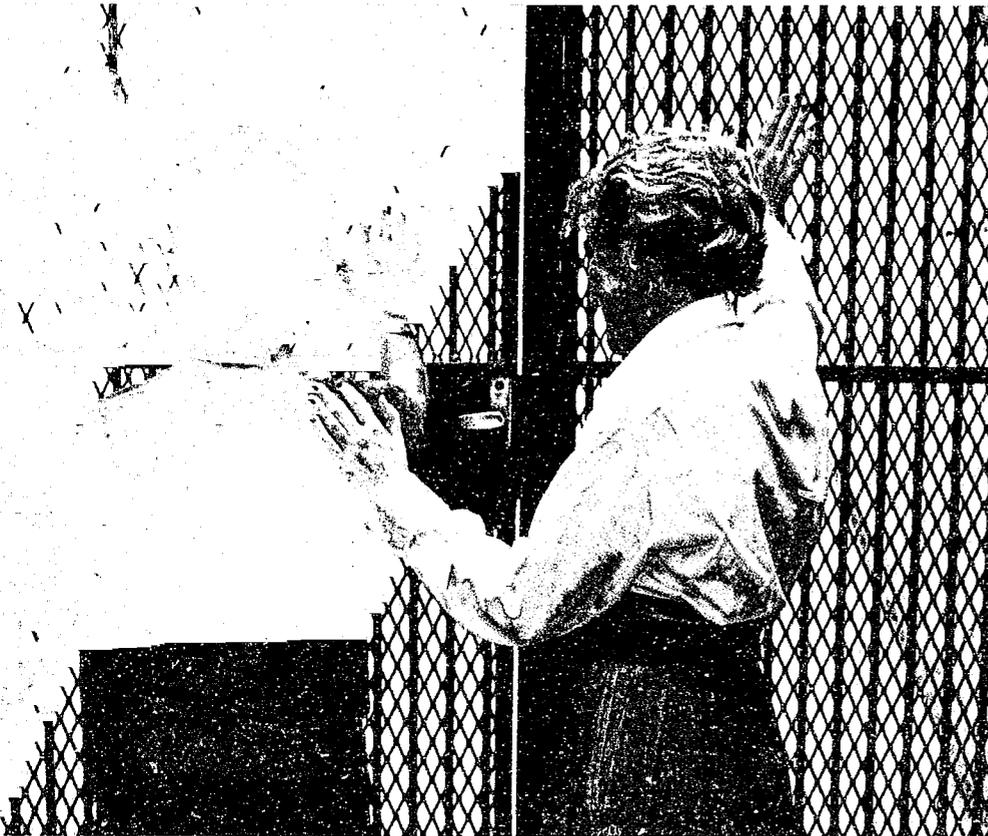
To encourage the creation of bold and inventive approaches to juvenile crime, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission instituted the Innovative and Creative Grant Program. In 1992, a total of one million dollars in grants was distributed to 12 local juvenile probation agencies whose innovative projects were selected for funding. Many of the programs featured in this report were initiated this year through TJPC's Innovative and Creative Grant Program.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Our criminal and juvenile justice systems invest most of their resources in the most dangerous, habitual offenders; yet, we know that primary prevention and intervention can divert many children from lives of violence and crime, sparing immeasurable human suffering and public resources.

Children at risk for crime exhibit identifiable behaviors and risk factors. Those who suffer abuse or neglect, who fall behind or cause trouble in school, or who first break the law, all are good candidates for early intervention.

We know the best crime prevention is not to be found in building more prisons, but in building healthier children and families. Today, juvenile probation departments are placing greater emphasis on preventing young children from entering the juvenile justice system, and in redirecting the lives of those who have just entered it.



"There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in."

Graham Greene
Author

*"A young branch takes
on all the bends that
one gives it."*

Chinese Proverb



Parker County's Project Turning Point aims to prevent juvenile crime through education in the elementary and secondary schools. Certified trainers and juvenile probation officers have trained more than 100 teachers to present the curriculum in their classrooms.

The elementary school curriculum focuses on self esteem and crime/drug awareness. Older students learn about juvenile law, the juvenile justice system, and how to make responsible decisions.

Other program elements of **Project Turning Point** are aimed at first offenders. They include placing the youth in community service projects while their parents learn better skills for meeting the challenges of raising teenagers today.

The Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation Department has trained more than 700 local citizens and Vista volunteers to work with young, first-offenders in **Juvenile Court Conference Committees** in McAllen, Weslaco and Edinburg.

Volunteers work in housing projects and colonias, to divert children from the juvenile justice system back to their own neighborhoods where local Conference Committee volunteers help them and their families confront and solve problems. Committee volunteers strive to make children and parents accountable for lawless behavior and to impress upon them that they are part of a concerned community where neighbors help neighbors, and crime prevention is a priority.

Education and Employability

America's correctional institutions are filled with illiterate, unskilled unemployables. It is a simple fact that children who graduate with good grades and good occupational skills seldom grow into career criminals.

Most juvenile offenders are street smart, but they have long track records of academic and behavioral failure in the classroom. Those who have not dropped out of school in actuality, often have dropped out in spirit. They simply have given up. The streets have become their teachers.

Knowing that serious academic and vocational deficiencies put adolescents at high risk for trouble, juvenile probation agencies are developing new programs to motivate and stimulate young minds, to re-engage them in the learning process, to reintegrate them back into the classroom, and to provide the basic skills and knowledge necessary for independent living and stable employment.

Remedial education, intensive tutoring, vocational classes, apprenticeships, job placement and life skills training have become program centerpieces of juvenile probation programs, as they work to make kids school smart and job smart, not just street smart.



"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."

John Lubbock
Naturalist

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

Chinese Proverb



In Brazos County, a behavior modification/reward program provides motivation and reward for classroom improvement. In the *Positive Performance Incentive Program*, poverty stricken delinquent youths receive monetary credit for good attendance at tutorials, good grades, and good behavior ratings on school report cards.

At the end of the semester, students shop with their probation officer to purchase school supplies and school clothes. Students also have used the money they earned to buy linens, tools and a vacuum cleaner.

In Upshur County, the *PEER Program* uses a network of local agencies to address the special needs of poverty-stricken probationers. The program provides summer jobs and community service restitution. Youths earn money, part of which is used to repay victims. The rest of the income enables them to purchase school clothes and supplies.

In Harris County, the *Wings* project is directed at delinquent youths who are not in school either because they dropped out, were expelled, or repeatedly receive long-term suspensions. Rather than focus on deficiencies, *Wings* identifies and builds on a youth's strengths. The philosophy is to establish a "Path of Success" plan.

A *Wings* specialist works aggressively with the youth, family and school to achieve success in the classroom and to complete the *Wings* curriculum of life skills, basic economics, relationship and job skills.

Dallas County Juvenile Probation Department's *Comprehensive Summer School* enlists schools, mental and public health agencies, and parks and recreation to help probationers who have been expelled or are failing in school. A cadre of teachers, recreation leaders, counselors and probation officers work with parents who serve as teachers aides in this program of learning readiness and behavior control.

Community Service Restitution

Across Texas, young offenders are repaying their debt to society the old fashioned way - - they're working it off in public service. Community service restitution (CSR) programs are successful because they embody our basic notions about justice: accountability, reparation and atonement.

In these programs, youths develop good work habits, self discipline and self respect. Most often, CSR programs are operated jointly by the juvenile probation department and other government, charitable or civic organizations. Probationers are assigned to work in these organizations whose employees and volunteers provide them with training, supervision and supportive adult relationships.

Playing the role of good samaritan can be a new and enlightening experience. Youths often directly assist elderly, disabled or needy citizens. Whether mowing a lawn, painting a run-down house or serving food to the homeless, they enjoy the personal gratification that comes from helping others. It is not unusual for a young probationer to voluntarily continue the work after having completed the required number of service hours.

Community service restitution programs make sense. While they provide on-the-job experiences, they teach young offenders the value of hard work and charity. At the same time, they contribute worthwhile assistance to government, civic and non-profit service organizations. They are good for kids and tax-payers, alike.

*"The pleasure we
derive from doing
favours is partly in
the feeling it gives us
that we are not
altogether
worthless."*

Eric Hoffer
Author

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt



Last year, through the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, young offenders in the San Antonio area provided more than 30,000 hours of service to the community, an economic value of more than \$130,000. Youths work in parks, food banks, nursing homes, animal shelters, cemeteries and blighted neighborhoods. They must show up for work on time and maintain the same level of professionalism as paid workers.

Youths are assigned to provide assistance to government and non-profit organizations. They generally work in groups of four to ten, cleaning parks and recreation centers, removing graffiti, painting the homes of elderly or disabled citizens, and helping stock and distribute food for the needy. Project goals are to build a greater sense of responsibility for self and community, improved work habits and increased self esteem.

In Pecos, the Reeves County Juvenile Probation Department operates a community service program in which young offenders are made to feel they are important, contributing members of the community. The idea is to demonstrate to program participants that they can have fun working in constructive projects that benefit others.

Young probaticners hold free car washes for elderly and handicapped citizens. Under the supervision of detention center kitchen staff, they bake and decorate cakes which they later sell, with proceeds going to a charity. They help elderly and disabled residents by cleaning their yards, weeding gardens, painting, and repairing roofs and floors. They work in the state's Adopt A Highway program and even provide care for the mascot of a local museum, a pig named Slue Foot Sue.

Discipline and Intensive Supervision

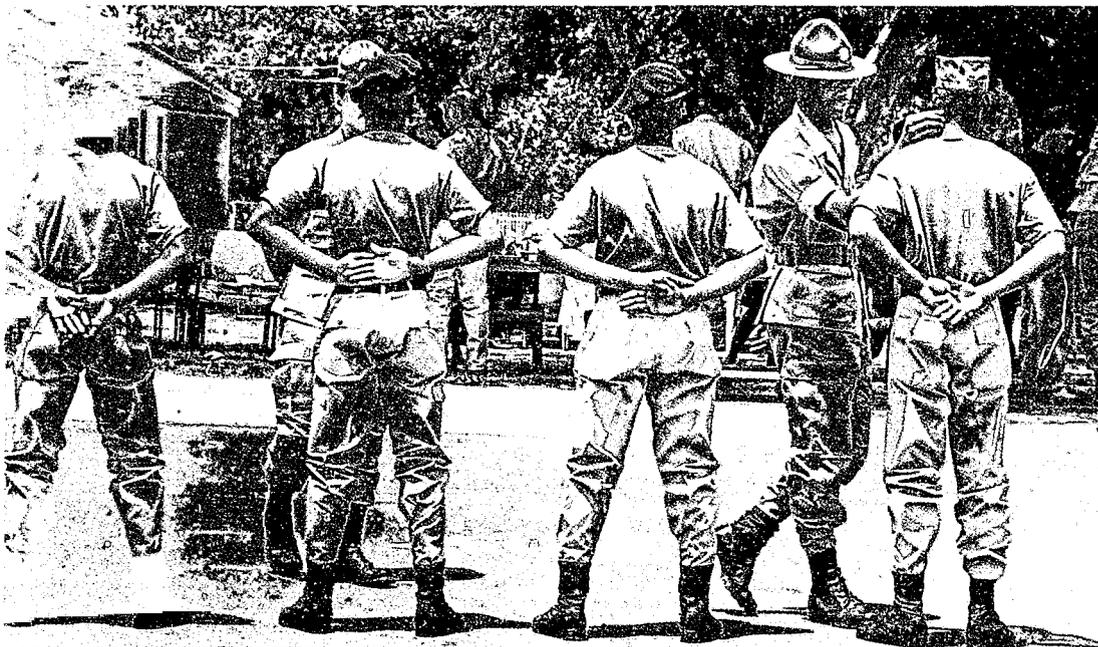
Just as children need love and affection to grow, adequate supervision and prudent discipline are essential to healthy development. They play a particularly important role in juvenile corrections.

Young probationers in Texas receive a wide range of supervision and interventions. Some require only minimal supervision; others need the extra structure of intensive supervision programs and boot camps. These programs often serve as alternatives to commitment to the Texas Youth Commission.

Intensive supervision programs (ISPs) were first piloted in Texas during the 1980's by 12 juvenile probation agencies. Their success prompted the Juvenile Probation Commission to make ISPs a major item in its legislative budget request. Juvenile boot camps are even more recent developments.

Most ISPs and boot camps target the serious, chronic offender. Along with intensive efforts to educate and rehabilitate young offenders, public protection is a focus of these programs. Close surveillance, demanding daily regimens, home detention and electronic monitoring are common features.

Boot camps and ISPs are some of our most concentrated efforts to modify chronic and severe delinquent behavior. They are often a last-ditch attempt to salvage the habitual, young offender headed for a future of crime.



"If men live decently, it is because discipline saves their very lives for them."

Sophocles

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

James Baldwin
Author



The El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department was first in Texas to operate a juvenile boot camp. Named *Challenge*, it is the first program of its kind in the nation. Its goals are to provide public safety while redirecting the lives of the most serious juvenile offenders.

In the first of three phases, youths undergo a highly regimented program of strict discipline, drills, and physical training. Education, respect for the law, counseling and physical and spiritual development are all components of the training. Upon completion of phase one, youths enter "Project Crossroads," a residential program where they complete their training.

Following the Challenge model, the McLennan County Juvenile Services Department initiated its own boot camp, named *CORPS*. In this military-style program, repeat offenders are offered one final opportunity to change their behavior.

Like its El Paso counterpart, *CORPS* is a three-phase program with a strong focus on building self-discipline, self-esteem and good study habits.

The Tarrant County Juvenile Services Department has initiated an intensive supervision/intervention project for the most serious juvenile offenders who reside in a target area known for its high incidence of gangs, drugs, prostitution, property crime and violence.

Called *TCAP (Tarrant County Advocate Program)*, it works to decrease the occurrence of juvenile crime, increase neighborhood safety, and increase the chances for successful rehabilitation of young offenders. Each youth is assigned a paid advocate who works intensively with the youth and his family. The advocate provides close supervision and assists the youth and family in resolving conflicts, tapping needed community resources and support systems, and making more positive choices.

Creativity and Life Enrichment

Children quit school, take drugs, join gangs and commit crimes for many reasons. When asked why, they often cite boredom, peer pressure, loneliness, intense frustration or anger. When asked to visualize themselves living lives free of unlawful and risk-taking behavior, they frequently draw a blank. They simply can't picture themselves living any other way.

Those who work with at-risk and delinquent children know that removing harmful behaviors and activities is only half the job. When we ask a child to abandon a destructive lifestyle, we must be prepared to offer constructive and rewarding alternatives.

Young people need visions and hope for the future. They need to imagine and explore, to express their feelings and articulate their thoughts. They must have a voice. One way or another, they will be heard.

Some of Texas' most innovative juvenile justice programs are those which strive to introduce children to exciting, motivational and constructive experiences. In classrooms, theaters, museums and galleries, many troubled youths are discovering their own unique visions and potential. Through lessons in ethnic dance, creative writing, painting, drama, music, photography and video, many are learning the joys of artistic self-expression, cultural awareness, and pride in their heritage, their community and themselves.



"In art there are tears that do often lie too deep for thoughts."

Louis Kronenberger

"The hearts of small children are delicate organs. A cruel beginning in the world can twist them into curious shapes."

Carson McCullers
Author

Knife

by John L.
Fifth Floor, Harris County
Juvenile Detention Center

*Deadly sharp, forever cutting
Severing friendships
A tongue as sharp as a razor's edge
Cutting words that never seem to heal
Slicing into the very soul
Causing wounds that may heal over
But remain under the surface
Festering deep
In the recesses of the brain
Sharper than a surgeon's scalpel
That cuts away at infected tissue
It sometimes can cut away pain
To relieve hurts caused by others.*

The number of juvenile probation departments which offer arts and cultural education is growing rapidly.

At the **Harris County Juvenile Probation Department**, more than 30 Houston-area artists provide youths with classes in visual arts, creative writing, dance, drama, still and video photography. Students' works are publically exhibited, performed or published in a yearly anthology. The funding is from foundations and other private sector sources. The Harris County program, called "Street smART," was recently named the nation's most unique and innovative program by a national judicial organization.

In the Beaumont area, youths in detention and on probation are offered classes in ceramics, sculpture, drawing, theater and dance through the **Jefferson County Juvenile Probation Department**. Artists are provided by The Art Studio, Inc. The program, called "Changes of the heART," helps youths discover new

avenues of artistic expression that may give them new directions and channel their energies into productive and socially acceptable forms of self expression. Performance and exhibition opportunities are important elements of the program.

The **Nueces County Juvenile Probation Department** provides an art therapy program for youths in its detention center. Here, the emphasis is on providing a creative and therapeutic experience by which children can vent emotions and re-evaluate their circumstances and behavior.

A **Travis County Juvenile Probation Department** arts program offers youths unique apprenticeships with paychecks. Through the visual arts project, youths have painted an AIDS awareness mural. Others worked with professional writers and video photographers to produce their own videos which are aired on public access television. (See cover photo.)

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

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Kountze

Financial Information

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, FY 1992

Source of Funds:

General Revenue	\$23,976,880
Juvenile Probation	
Diversion Fund	<u>50,000</u>
Total	\$24,026,880

Appropriations

Administration	\$ 1,005,547
State Aid	14,884,461
Challenge Grants	1,372,563
Community Corrections	7,627,437
Less Budgetary Reduction	<u>863,128</u>
Total	\$24,026,880

Of \$24,026,880 in total revenues, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission retained only four and one-half percent for agency operations and administration. Each year the Commission allocates more than 95 percent of its budget to local communities.

Texas Juvenile Probation System Funding, All Counties, FY 1992

State Aid	\$14,749,238
Border Projects	105,000
Challenge Grants	1,288,561
Discretionary Grants	38,846
Intensive Supervision Programs	3,180,480
Diversionary Programs	3,530,285
Local Funds	<u>82,925,301</u>
Total	\$112,817,711

Programs and Services

Setting Standards

Only a decade ago in Texas, the scope and quality of juvenile probation services were spotty at best. In some rural communities they were virtually non-existent.

To meet its primary mandate to improve and standardize Texas juvenile justice services, the Juvenile Probation Commission established 75 program standards and 50 fiscal standards which apply to every local juvenile probation agency in the state. These standards serve to assure uniform, quality probation services across Texas and to further the local pursuit of excellence in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

Monitoring

To insure and facilitate local compliance with its standards, TJPC staff made 136 on-site visits across Texas in 1992. They reviewed fiscal and program operations and provided technical assistance and consultation in areas such as legal issues, case record management, personnel development, budget preparation, fiscal planning, community education and project development.

Allocation of State Funds to Local Communities

TJPC works closely with its partners in local communities to help them achieve the highest standards. To do this, TJPC allocates funds to juvenile probation departments. The Commission is the primary agency through which state funding for juvenile justice is channeled to the counties.

In 1992, TJPC sent \$23,021,333 (more than 95 percent of its budget) to county juvenile probation departments for services to troubled youths and their families. By retaining less than five percent of its revenues for staff salaries and operating costs, TJPC is proud to be one of Texas state government's most cost-efficient agencies.

Education, Training and Certification

The Commission plays a vital role in the professional development of Texas juvenile justice practitioners by requiring continuing education for all probation officers and providing training for all levels of juvenile probation personnel.

TJPC requires that all Texas juvenile probation officers be certified as having earned necessary academic degrees and having completed 40 hours annually of approved continuing education. Detention and institutional child care personnel are also TJPC certified.

Access to quality training for all juvenile probation personnel is provided through TJPC's statewide, regional and local training workshops. Regional and site-based trainings are not only more accessible to probation personnel, they are more cost effective, too.

To assure the curriculum is effective and relevant to the unique needs of each local community, all trainings are evaluated by participants.

Through the agency's 1992 certification and training programs, more than 2,500 Texas probation personnel received a total of 98,873 hours of training. The curriculum was expanded to more than 50 topics offered in 42 statewide, regional and local workshops. By the end of 1992, TJPC had certified 2,664 juvenile probation officers and 926 detention officers.

Caseload Management and Data Collection

In 1985, TJPC initiated the Juvenile Tracking and Caseload Management System, or "CASEWORKER," to facilitate and standardize the collecting, storing and retrieving of caseload information. By the end of 1992, the system had been installed in 117 Texas juvenile probation departments and three out-of-state departments which purchased rights to the system.

CASEWORKER is an excellent tool for local departments to manage and track caseloads. It also is building a valuable data base on juvenile crime and juvenile justice operations in Texas. Much of the CASEWORKER data is available in the annual *TJPC Statistical Report*.

*Community Corrections, Alternative Placements
and Diversion from the Texas Youth Commission.*

A philosophical cornerstone of the Commission is that the best opportunities for successful delinquency prevention and rehabilitation are to be found in local communities. Removing youths from their homes, schools and neighborhoods always must be our last resort.

To this end, and to reduce commitments to the crowded institutions and caseloads of the Texas Youth Commission, TJPC has developed community-based programs as alternatives for juvenile offenders.

TYC Diversion Project

In 1992, TJPC worked with local juvenile boards, judges and probation administrators to reach a statewide consensus on a rationale for commitment to TYC, laying the groundwork for a major statewide project to divert delinquent youths from the Texas Youth Commission.

Understanding that rationale was a centerpiece of the Commission's training curriculum for juvenile court judges and juvenile probation officers in 1992.

In accordance with the rationale, the primary commitment decision must be based on protecting the public safety as well as the court's ability to impose an appropriate sanction for the offense.

Only the most serious and persistent juvenile offenders are defined as appropriate for TYC commitment. When possible, other youths will be diverted from the state's custody into alternative placements and programs, preferably in their own communities.

Intensive Supervision Programs

In 1988, the Commission funded 12 pilot projects for intensive supervision programs (ISPs) to expand local disposition and supervision options in juvenile probation departments across the state.

The pilots demonstrated substantial economic savings. The state average cost per day for housing a youth in an institution is \$115.72, as compared to \$10.58 per day for intensive supervision and \$5.01 per day for standard probation supervision.

Diverting youths from costly incarceration to intensive supervision makes sense, especially with the excellent success rates of these programs. With the successful completion of these pilot programs, the Commission expanded its ISP programs, and by the end of 1992, there were 114 probation agencies operating TJPC-funded ISPs. It is estimated these programs diverted nearly 3,000 youths from the Texas Youth Commission in 1992.

Community Corrections Diversionary Placements

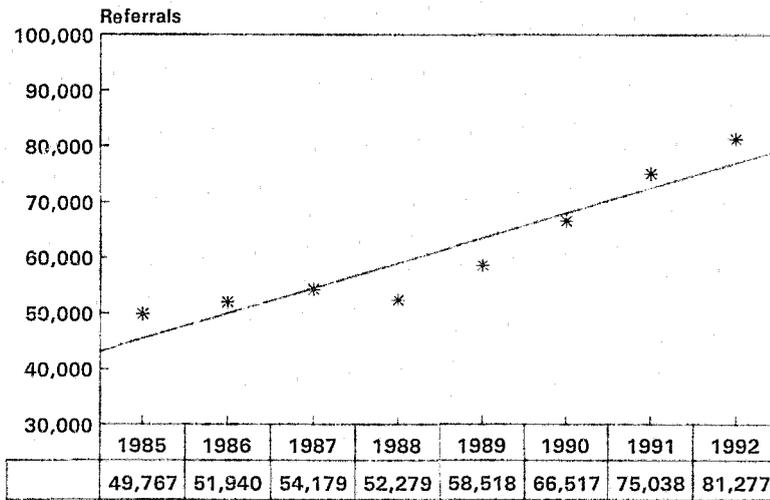
Through this program, initiated in 1989, the Juvenile Probation Commission reimburses local juvenile probation departments for up to six months' placement for a youth where the placement is an alternative to TYC commitment. These alternative placements may be private treatment centers, group facilities or foster homes.

Title IV-E Placements

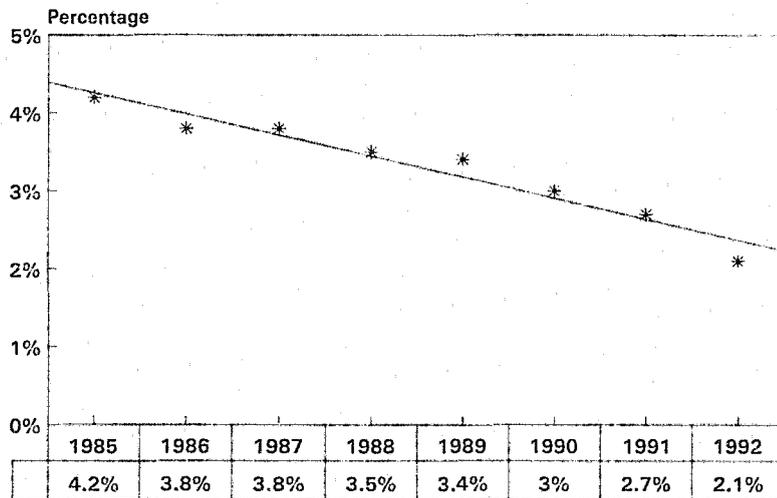
In late 1992, TJPC contracted with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to make federal funds from the Title IV-E Federal Foster Care Program available to juvenile probation departments across the state. Participating departments will receive a reimbursement of approximately 64.4 percent of the daily rate for care for each child placed in a IV-E approved facility. Administrative costs are reimbursed at 50 percent. Travis County has been selected as a test site for this new pilot project.

While more youths are referred into the juvenile justice system, locally administered diversion programs are supervising more troubled youths in their own communities, reducing the state's burden of custody and cost.

DELINQUENT REFERRALS 1985-1992



TYC COMMITMENTS as a percentage of delinquent referrals



Border Children Justice Projects

Border Children Justice Projects were implemented in 1985 to address crime problems unique to the Texas/Mexico border and to provide a more humane response to Mexican children who violate U.S. laws. The programs also serve children from the U.S. who violate Mexican laws.

TJPC provides discretionary grant funds to these programs which not only improve the rehabilitative efforts of Texas and Mexican authorities, but also effect a substantial economic savings by combining the resources of Texas and Mexico.

Border Children Justice Projects operate in four Texas counties, but receive referrals from across the state. In 1992, they provided probation services, institutional placement and social work services to 302 juveniles and their families.

In 1987, the Ford Foundation recognized this as one of the nation's most innovative programs for children. Since then, it has become a model for replication in other border states.

Innovative and Creative Program Grants

Because the changing face of juvenile crime will demand new and imaginative juvenile justice strategies, in 1992, TJPC initiated a program to encourage local juvenile probation departments to innovate and develop new and inventive approaches to prevention, supervision and rehabilitation.

Agencies from around the state competed for these grants and in the fall of 1992, 12 projects were funded. A total of one million dollars was dispersed to local juvenile probation departments through this project. The grants ranged from \$16,000 to \$350,000.

A sample of the new programs and services made available through TJPC Innovative and Creative Program Grants can be seen in the first 13 pages of this report.

Challenge Grants

In 1987, the legislature created the Challenge Grant program to provide services to multi-problem juveniles who were under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts and who were also identified as being abused, neglected, mentally ill or retarded. Previously, these types of multi-problem children often were committed to TYC because the lack of funding and local resources left no locally based alternatives.

In 1992, the Challenge Grant program provided residential and community-based services for nearly 300 children.

Information and Referral

The Commission is Texas' central clearing house for juvenile justice. It offers information and consultation to probation departments, judges, lawmakers, reporters, students, researchers, or to anyone with a legitimate request for assistance. TJPC staff includes professionals widely experienced in juvenile law, program development and application, research and data management, personnel development and fiscal planning.

In addition to its law library, TJPC maintains a resource library including textbooks, reports, research papers, news clippings and videos. A partial list of these resources is provided at the end of this report.

Juvenile Justice Statistical Information

During 1992, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission collected statistical data regarding the referral of juveniles to each of the 160 juvenile probation departments in Texas. The statistical report is available on request.

Arrests and Referrals of Juveniles in Texas

Nine out of ten youths who enter the juvenile justice system do so via law enforcement referrals. In 1992, police agencies in Texas arrested 136,415 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17. Of this number, 37,196 were warned and released, handled in magistrate courts or otherwise diverted from the juvenile justice system. The remaining 99,219 were referred to local juvenile probation agencies.

An additional 9,939 juveniles were referred by social agencies, schools, parents and the Texas Youth Commission, bringing the statewide total of juvenile referrals to 109,158.

The increase in 1992 referrals can be attributed entirely to an increase in felony and other delinquent referrals. Delinquent conduct and felony offenses, in general, rose almost eight percent.

Supervision, Detention and Court Activity

There are 160 juvenile probation departments in Texas. They employ 1,424 juvenile probation officers to cover all 254 counties in the state. Another 480 certified detention center personnel, backed up by 689 part-time or on-call detention workers, provide supervision for juveniles in the state's 52 secure juvenile detention facilities.

In 1992, there were 75,796 youths brought to juvenile probation agencies who immediately were released to their parents or other responsible adults.

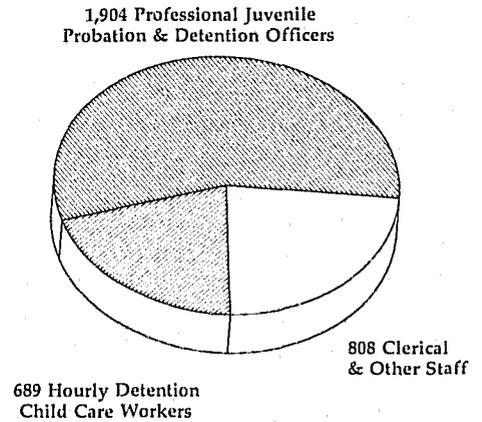
Another 33,362 youths were detained prior to adjudication hearings in court. Of these, 32,696 were held in secure custody detention centers while 666 were in non-secure alternative placements such as foster homes and emergency shelters.

Through a variety of services and procedures, juvenile probation agencies disposed of 47,972 cases, diverting them from already burdened juvenile court dockets. Such cases are often closed at intake after counseling with the youth and family. Others may be referred to more appropriate social agencies for guidance or treatment. Another 15,909 youths agreed to voluntary supervision programs under guidelines set by local juvenile boards.

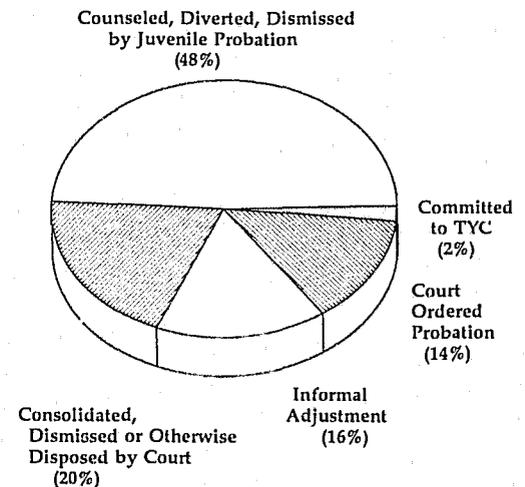
Of all youths who went to court accused of delinquency, the juvenile courts placed 13,259 on probation. This brought the total number of Texas youths under some form of probation supervision to 71,720, including informal and court-ordered supervision.

Juvenile courts committed 1,944 juveniles to the Texas Youth Commission, certified 279 to stand trial as adults in the criminal justice system, and disposed of another 19,457 cases through refusal to prosecute, dismissal or consolidation of referrals.

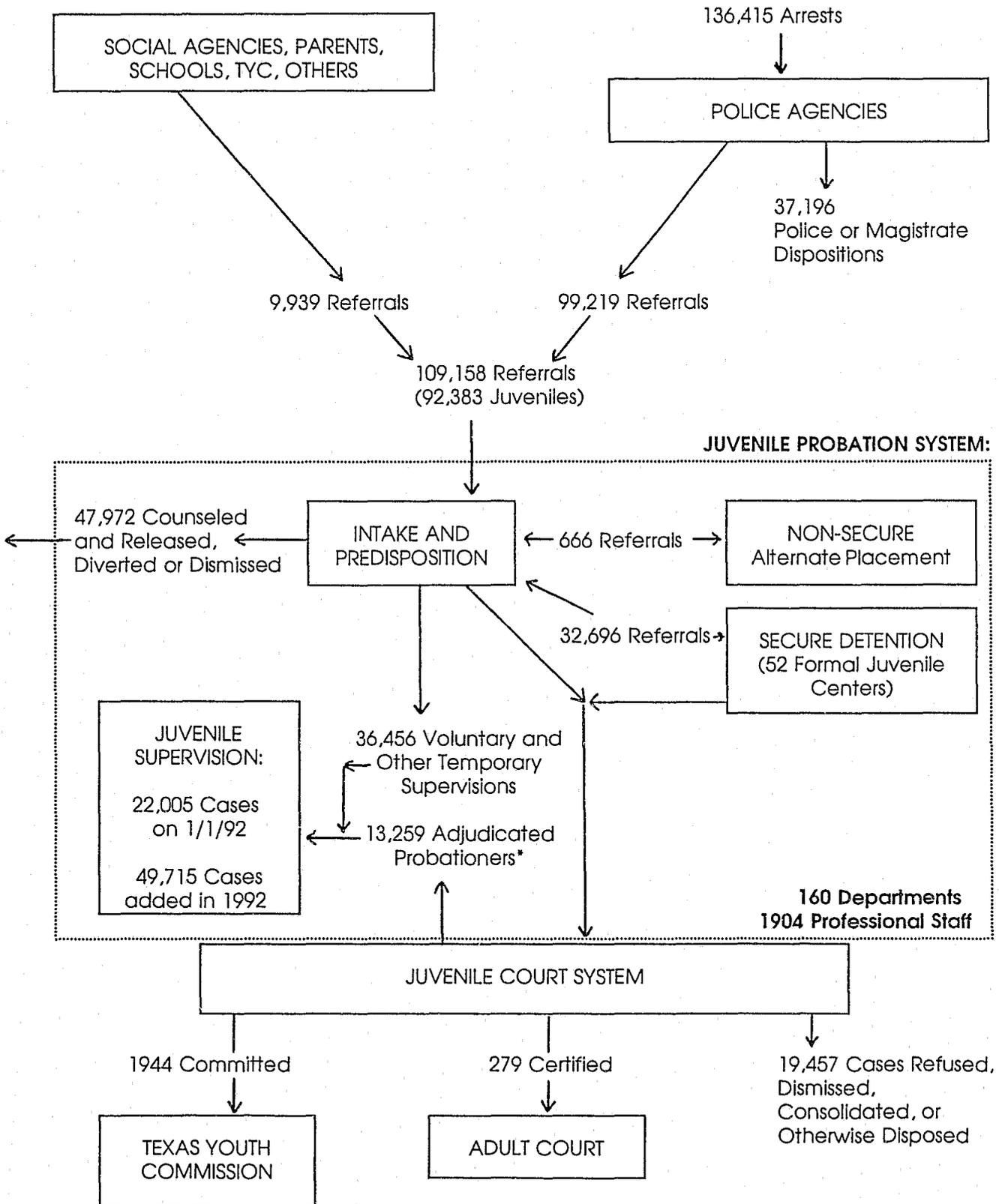
Juvenile Justice Personnel



Juvenile Dispositions



MOVEMENT OF JUVENILES 1992



* An additional 132 cases were not assigned to regular supervision in 1992.

Drugs and Gangs

Certainly no two phenomena have impacted youth crime and our juvenile justice system as have illicit drugs and gang activity. In recent years, they have begun to impact even the most rural counties in Texas.

In 1992, 55 percent of the juvenile probation departments had officially identified 1,328 juvenile gangs in Texas. Gang activity represents 11 percent of all referrals and 10 percent of all probationers; however, it represents 34 percent of all commitments to the Texas Youth Commission.

At the same time, local probation departments handled more juveniles involved in substance abuse than ever. In 1992, it was determined that 24,820 referrals (nearly one in four) were youths whose involvement in substance abuse was directly responsible for their criminal behavior.

Of 2,611 juveniles in substance abuse facilities, 1,634 youths from 42 counties were placed in 58 different non-residential programs, and 977 youths from 113 counties were placed in 127 different residential facilities.

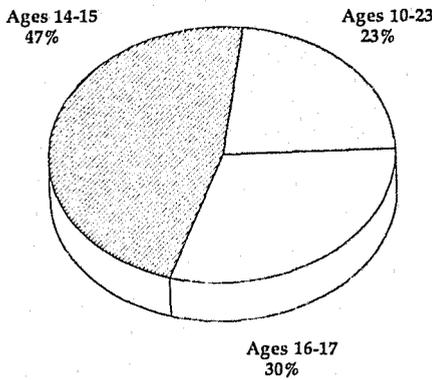
Across the state, we spent \$3,601,568 treating juvenile alcohol and drug abuse and yet, there are waiting lists for such programs everywhere.

Even with the staggering increases in juvenile felony crime and substance abuse, it should be noted that Texas' juvenile probation departments continue to report average probation success rates above 88 percent while continuing to divert increasing numbers of youths from the burden of the state's custody.

As delinquent referrals rose by 63 percent from 1985 to 1992, local probation departments began implementing diversion programs which reduced the rate of commitments to the Texas Youth Commission by 50 percent.

Profile of Juvenile Offenders

Referral Age

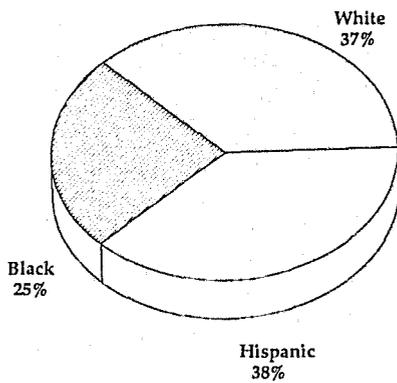


Perhaps no question is more often asked, nor more relevant than "who are these kids who commit crimes and end up in our juvenile justice system?"

Statistically, they are between the ages of 10 and 17, with the majority being over 14. About three-fourths are males; about one-fourth are black, with the remaining 75 percent divided almost equally between Hispanic and white youths.

But these numbers fail to capture the most important features of this population.

Referral Race

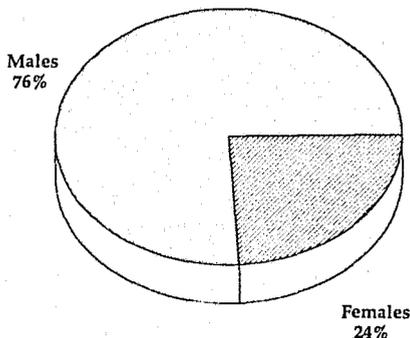


Although many youths in the juvenile justice system do not match the typical profile, as a population, delinquent youths tend to come from categories which we define as "at risk."

The term "child at risk" has become a national buzzword for the growing number of our children whose life conditions place them at high risk for educational, economic and social failure.

They are more likely to come from homes where poverty and despair are ingrained. In their neighborhoods, drugs, crime and violence are part of the everyday landscape.

Referral Sex



As a population, delinquent youths tend to have long histories of behavioral and academic failure in school. They lack self esteem and self discipline. They often live in homes plagued by family violence and substance abuse.

The good news is that because we can identify these and other risk factors which predispose many children to futures of crime and violence, we have the opportunity to intervene in the downward spiral of trouble and despair which leads to a life of crime.

The following documents are available on request from the
Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
P. O. Box 13547
Austin, TX 78711-3547

Annual Reports

Some back issues available, please specify calendar year

Blueprint for Prevention: The future of Juvenile Justice in Texas

Report, Senate Select Committee on the Juvenile Justice System, 1989

Child Sexual Abuse Perpetrated by Juveniles

Fiscal Year 1990

Crime and Justice in Texas

Criminal Justice Center, Sam Houston State University, 1988

Dispositions of Juvenile Offenders

1989

InfoNet

Periodic newsletter relating to prevention issues

Intensive Supervision Probation: A Study of Juvenile Offender Programs

Professional Development Program Series

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention in Texas

A Compendium of Programs and Services Provided by Juvenile
Probation Departments, 1993

Partnership: Strategic Plan

1992-1998

Services to Runaway Youth and Their Families

Annual Report to the Legislature, 1991

Standards for Juvenile Detention Facilities

Texas Juvenile Probation Standards

Revised August, 1989

Texas Juvenile Probation Statistical Report

Some back issues available, please specify calendar year

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photo on page 12

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photos on pages 2, 5, 6

Bryan Kuntz Photography, Houston
photo on page 3

San Antonio Express-News
photo on page 19

John L. and Luis O., juveniles formerly in detention
Harris County *Street smART* program
poetry and art on pages 11 and 12

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