

# 34539

LOUISVILLE / JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY.

METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## JUVENILE COURT

## INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

## JAN.-DEC., 1975

METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Louisville & Jefferson County, Ky.

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## I N T R O D U C T I O N

This report provides basic information to serve as a preliminary indicator of the 1975 Juvenile Court statistics.

A final annual report will be published in late summer which will be more detailed. While the overall totals are not expected to change significantly, a six month time lag is necessary to assure that all of the cases have had a final disposition and have been recorded on the computer.

Two very significant events occurred during 1975 which inevitably affect the Juvenile Court statistics. The first event was the initiation of a new criminal code for the State of Kentucky. The primary effect of the new criminal code was to alter and create new names and classifications for certain offenses. This presented some difficulty for those collecting the data for MSSD, as the old offense categories were still in use.

The second significant event of 1975 was the initiation of court ordered desegregation of the Jefferson County Schools which was followed by protest demonstrations and disorders. Many of those arrested during these demonstrations were juveniles and are therefore included in this report.

females held constant at 1.2 referrals per individual

average 1.2 in 1974 and blacks averaged 1.5 referrals in 1975 against 1.4 in 1974. The ratio for referrals per individual as compared to 1.4 in 1974, while whites increased to 1.4 referrals in 1975. However, in every category but females, there was a slight increase over 1974. Rates went up to 1.5 as in previous years, the mean number of referrals per individual remained at 1.4 referrals

not totally explain the corresponding change in black and female referrals would appear to account for the increase in white referrals and male referrals. However, the above that occurred throughout the community. The proportion of these might be a white male which in September, a larger number of youths was arrested during the demonstration and therefore

throughout the period of report years which had seen a narrowing of the ratio between males and females referrals increased by over 400 while the number of black referrals declined by over 400. The rate while the number of females declined by about the same amount. However, the number of white changed dramatically from 1974 and previous years. The number of males increased by nearly 300 while

the same as in 1974. (See table 1). The racial and ethnic make up of the court referrals, however, the overall number of referrals to the Jefferson County Juvenile Court for 1975 was virtually

GENERAL INFORMATION

As shown in table 2, the mean age of presently hospitalized youths dropped in 1974 from 1973. The increase continued. The pattern noted last year whereby almost all increases were the previous year, this month reflects increases in the number of 17 year olds which the most notable decline was in those under four years of age. The rest of the further declines in dependent years which were not noted last year. (table 2)

The majority of the hospitalized youths of the Juvenile Court were 11 to 16 years of age. The number and percentage of 11 to 16 year olds declined in 1974 from 1973 which had declined even more in 1973 compared to 1972. The mean number of total referrals for these ages were not the 16 children were 14 referred in 1974.

The majority of the referrals to Juvenile Court continue to come from the City of Cook and the Police Department. In 1974, there had been a decline from 1973 in City police and merchant police referrals. This was attributed to the cooperation with the South Branch Area Project. As table 3 indicates, the number of 11 to 16 police referrals increased somewhat in 1974 while referrals from the merchant police continued to drop.

Table 4 and 5 show the manner of handling for juveniles and adults referred to Juvenile Court. The number and percentage of juvenile referrals handled informally continued to decrease in 1974.

for adults, all but two of the cases were handled formally.

Several very noticeable changes occurred in the reasons for referral from 1974 to 1975. A good portion of these changes, however, can be accounted for by the implementation of the new criminal code. For instance, burglary jumped from only 59 in 1974 to over 1,000 in 1975. There was a corresponding drop in the number of juveniles referred for storehouse breaking, dwellinghouse breaking, school house breaking, outhouse breaking and grand larceny. If these offenses were grouped together, there was an increase of only 75 referrals from 1974 to 1975.

An encouraging trend is apparent with regard to crimes against person. Murder, aggravated assault, robbery, and purse snatching all declined in 1975 from the 1974 figures. However, the number of simple assaults nearly doubled. This, in part, can be attributed to the large number of juveniles charged with wanton endangerment during the anti-busing demonstrations. Those charged with wanton endangerment were counted as simple assault.

The number of juveniles referred for liquor offenses and solvent sniffing showed an alarming increase in 1975. Solvent sniffing offenses more than doubled from 1974 to 1975. The number of juveniles referred for drunkenness nearly doubled, and the number charged with possession of liquor also increased substantially. On the other hand, the number of referrals for narcotic and non-narcotic drug law violation showed signs of leveling off.

It is also of interest to note that the number of truancies was up by only four per cent over 1974. The large expected increase in truancies due to protest over busing did not materialize. This was due to the fact that the bulk of these cases did not reach Juvenile Court until 1976. They will, therefore, be reflected in next year's report.

The number of referrals for dependency continued to decline, reflecting the work of the Protective Services Department. The increasing role of the Protective Services Department is also reflected in the adult referrals to Juvenile Court presented in Table B. There was an overall decline of six per cent in the number of adult cases handled by Juvenile Court. There was a decrease in every offense category except non-support.

Table 9 presents the information on Planning Service Community of residence for juvenile referrals. The largest change, both numerically and percentage-wise, was in the Middle Outer County (PSC-13) where the number of referrals jumped 29.0% from 1974 to 1975. In 1975, PSC-13 had, by far the most referrals. Substantial increases also occurred in the Shively-Lower Hunter Trace area (PSC-9) and in the South Central area (PSC-10). Substantial decreases

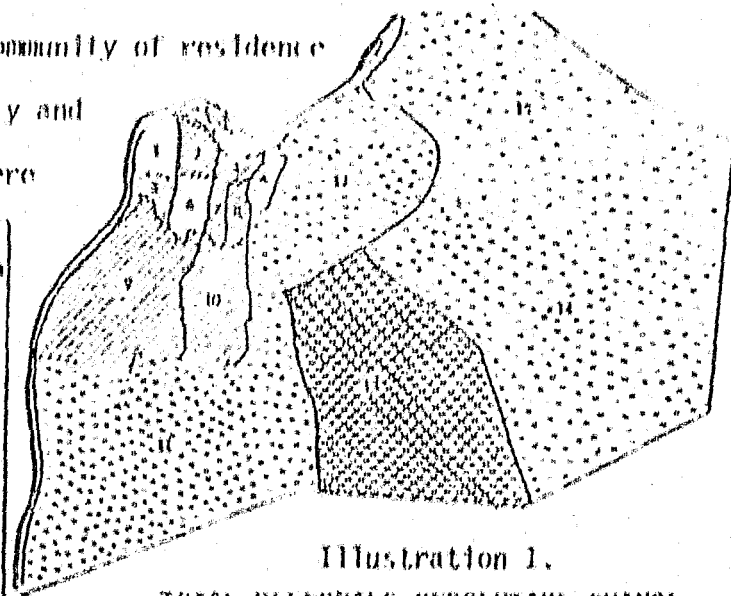
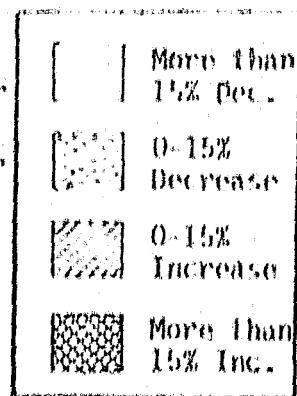
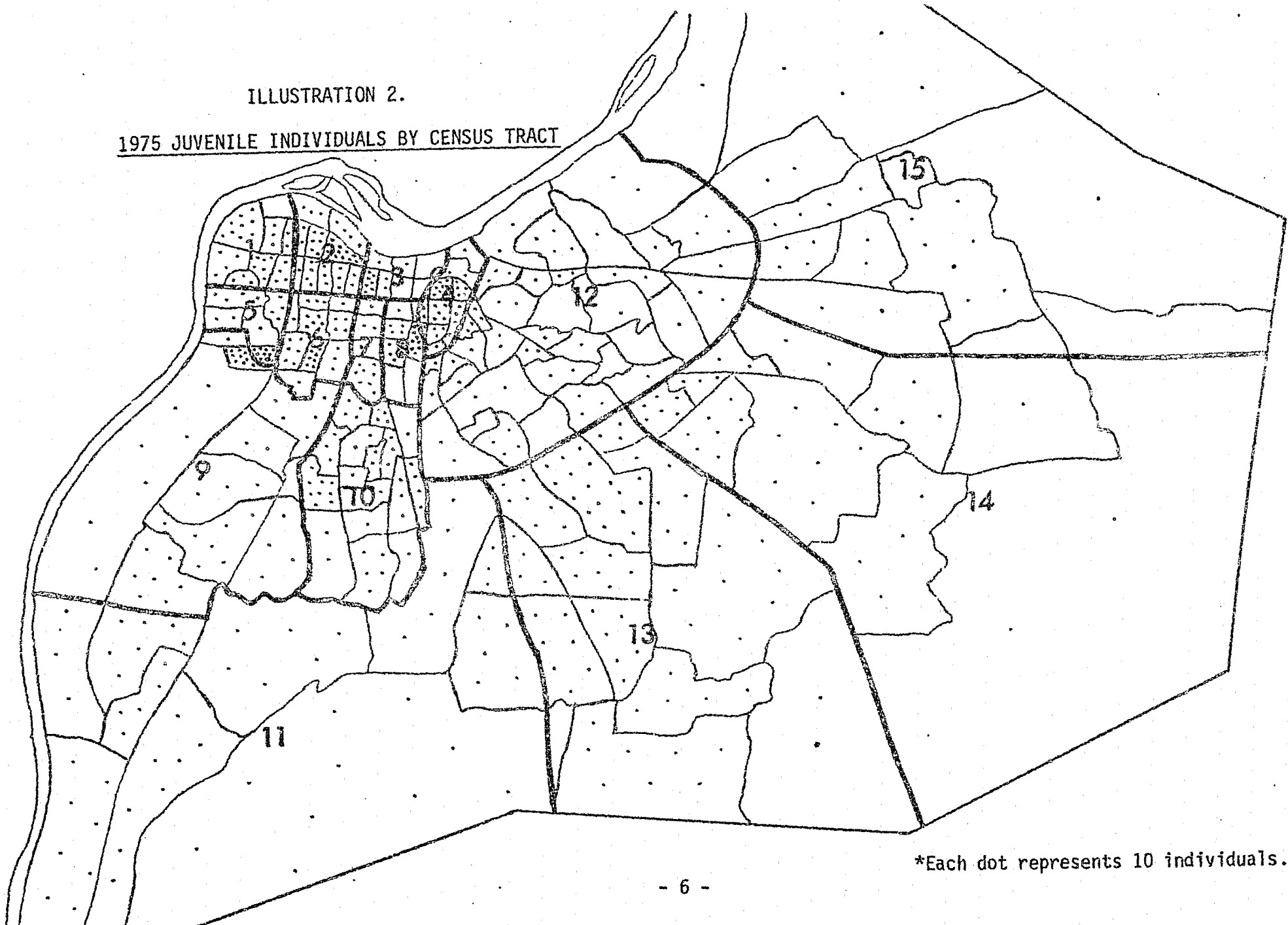


Illustration 1.  
TOTAL REFERRALS PERCENTAGE CHANGE  
1974-75



ILLUSTRATION 2.

1975 JUVENILE INDIVIDUALS BY CENSUS TRACT



\*Each dot represents 10 individuals.

in referrals took place in the West End (PSC-1), Park DuValle (PSC-5) and Algonquin (PSC-6) communities. Illustration 1 graphically demonstrates the changes in referrals that occurred from 1974 to 1975.

Illustration 2 gives a census tract picture of the residences of juvenile individuals in 1975. The light lines are census tract boundaries while the heavy lines and number correspond to the PSC boundaries. Each dot represents ten individuals.

Table 10 lists the employment status of the head of household for juvenile individuals. In 1975, nearly thirty per cent came from household where the head of the household was unemployed. This was up slightly from 1974 but about the same as 1973. The high unemployment in the county in 1975 did not appear to dramatically change this ratio. The same could be said about receipt of public assistance which is presented in Table 11. The percentage of those coming from families receiving public assistance increased only slightly in 1975 over what it was in 1974.

The living arrangement of juvenile individuals is presented in Table 12. In 1975, the majority of individuals continued to come from both parent families. The percentage of those living with mother only rose slightly in 1975. The number of youths living in institutions continued to decline. Otherwise, the living arrangement pattern has remained relatively stable over the last several years.

The school status information presented in Tables 13 and 14 seems to mirror the age information presented in Table 2. The number and percentage of pre-schoolers declined again in 1975 as it did in

1974. With this exception, the ratio of those attending to those withdrawn stayed about the same. Education claimed reflects the highest grade completed by the individual, not the grade in which a youth might be enrolled.

## S U M M A R Y

- ✓ Total referrals to Juvenile Court remained relatively stable in 1975 as compared to 1974.
- ✓ Male referrals increased by 4.6% but female referrals declined by 12.1%.
- ✓ White referrals increased by 7.7% while black referrals decreased by 15.7%.
- ✓ The number and percentage of first offenders continued to decline.
- ✓ City police referrals increased by 8.5% but merchant police referrals decreased by 38.5%.
- ✓ The percentage of cases handled formally continued to rise.
- ✓ Solvent abuse referrals more than doubled.
- ✓ Referrals for drunkenness jumped by 92.3% and referrals for possessing/drinking liquor increased by 35.9%.
- ✓ Referrals for dependency fell again in 1975.
- ✓ Adult cases for non-support increased but dropped in all other categories.
- ✓ The Middle Outer County (PSC-13) increased by 29.0% and had by far the most total referrals.
- ✓ Substantial decreases occurred in the West End (PSC-1), Park DuValle (PSC-5) and Algonquin (PSC-6) communities.

TABLE 1.  
JUVENILE INDIVIDUALS AND REFERRALS BY SEX, RACE AND YEAR

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		WHITE		BLACK		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>Individuals</u>												
1970	4,091	71.9	1,596	28.1	5,687	100.0	3,812	67.0	1,875	33.0	5,687	100.0
1971	3,955	70.7	1,638	29.3	5,593	100.0	3,876	69.3	1,717	30.7	5,593	100.0
1972	3,831	69.4	1,687	30.6	5,518	100.0	3,798	68.8	1,720	31.2	5,518	100.0
1973	4,429	68.1	2,070	31.9	6,499	100.0	4,483	69.0	2,016	31.0	6,499	100.0
1974	4,160	68.5	1,916	31.5	6,076	100.0	4,168	68.6	1,908	31.4	6,076	100.0
1975	4,208	71.4	1,685	28.6	5,893	100.0	4,305	73.1	1,588	26.9	5,893	100.0
<u>Percentage Change</u>												
1973-1974	-6.1		-7.4		-6.5		-7.0		-5.4		-6.5	
1974-1975	+1.2		-12.1		-3.0		+3.3		-16.8		-3.0	
<u>Referrals</u>												
1970	5,790	74.7	1,963	25.3	7,753	100.0	5,073	65.4	2,680	34.6	7,753	100.0
1971	5,505	72.7	2,065	27.3	7,570	100.0	5,167	68.3	2,403	31.7	7,570	100.0
1972	5,481	72.2	2,113	27.8	7,594	100.0	5,160	67.9	2,434	32.1	7,594	100.0
1973	6,289	71.1	2,552	28.9	8,841	100.0	5,909	66.8	2,932	33.2	8,841	100.0
1974	5,897	71.5	2,355	28.5	8,252	100.0	5,495	66.6	2,757	33.4	8,252	100.0
1975	6,169	74.9	2,071	25.1	8,240	100.0	5,916	71.8	2,324	28.2	8,240	100.0
<u>Percentage Change</u>												
1973-1974	-6.2		-7.7		-6.7		-7.0		-6.0		-6.7	
1974-1975	+4.6		-12.1		-.1		+7.7		-15.7		-.1	

TABLE 2.

## AGE OF JUVENILE INDIVIDUALS BY YEAR

AGE	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	227	3.5	156	2.6	116	2.0
2	112	1.7	79	1.3	49	.8
3	99	1.5	61	1.0	42	.7
4	73	1.1	54	.9	43	.7
5	72	1.1	41	.7	36	.6
6	60	.9	42	.7	38	.6
7	72	1.1	45	.7	57	1.0
8	76	1.2	56	.9	56	1.0
9	119	1.8	60	1.0	77	1.3
10	152	2.3	92	1.5	101	1.7
11	175	2.7	130	2.1	145	2.5
12	266	4.1	243	4.0	225	3.8
13	487	7.5	451	7.4	395	6.7
14	842	13.0	799	13.2	730	12.4
15	1,210	18.6	1,124	18.5	1,082	18.4
16	1,210	18.6	1,278	21.0	1,276	21.7
17	1,234	19.0	1,362	22.4	1,425	24.2
Unknown	13	.2	3	.*	0	-
TOTAL	6,499	99.9	6,076	99.9	5,893	100.1
$\bar{X}$	13.4		14.0		14.3	

\*Less than .1 per cent.

TABLE 3.

## JUVENILE INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL REFERRALS AND YEAR

REFERRALS	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	3,932	60.5	3,467	57.1	3,235	54.9
2-5	1,933	29.7	1,987	32.7	1,978	33.6
6-10	431	6.6	417	6.9	462	7.8
11+	203	3.1	204	3.4	218	3.7
TOTAL	6,499	99.9	6,075	100.1	5,893	100.0
Mean	2.4		2.5		2.7	
More than 1 Referral MEAN	4.6		4.6		4.7	

TABLE 4.

## JUVENILE REFERRALS BY SOURCE OF REFERRAL AND YEAR

	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
County Police	2,342	26.5	2,629	31.9	2,655	32.3
City Police	3,898	44.1	3,307	40.1	3,588	43.5
Merchant Police	291	3.3	213	2.6	131	1.6
Parents	362	4.1	342	4.1	279	3.4
Social Agency	840	9.5	778	9.4	754	9.2
Schools	320	3.6	294	3.6	332	4.0
Other*	788	8.9	689	8.3	501	6.1
TOTAL	8,841	100.0	8,252	100.0	8,240	100.0

\*Other includes spouse, other relatives, individuals and ex-spouse.

TABLE 5.

## JUVENILE REFERRALS BY MANNER OF HANDLING AND YEAR

	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Formal	5,185	58.6	5,024	60.9	5,167	62.7
Informal	3,656	41.4	3,228	39.1	3,073	37.3
TOTAL	8,841	100.0	8,252	100.0	8,240	100.0

TABLE 6.

## ADULT REFERRALS BY MANNER OF HANDLING AND YEAR

	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Formal	862	83.4	952	96.2	929	99.8
Informal	171	16.6	38	3.8	2	.2
TOTAL	1,033	100.0	990	100.0	931	100.0

TABLE 7.

## JUVENILE REFERRALS BY REASON REFERRED AND YEAR

REASON REFERRED		1973		1974		1975		PERCENTAGE CHANGE 74-75	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Increase	Decrease
MAJOR VS. PERSON	Murder & Manslaughter	8	.1	11	.1	5	.1	-	54.5
	Forcible Rape	21	.2	13	.2	21	.3	61.5	-
	Assault: Aggravated	130	1.5	142	1.7	127	1.5	-	10.6
	Assault	95	1.1	134	1.6	255	3.1	90.3	-
	Robbery	122	1.4	191	2.3	150	1.8	-	21.5
	Robbery: Purse Snatching	60	.7	71	.9	49	.6	-	31.0
	Sex Offenses	30	.3	72	.9	65	.8	-	9.7
SUB TOTAL		466	5.3	634	7.7	672	8.2	6.0	-
MAJOR VS. PROPERTY	Arson	53	.6	43	.5	58	.7	34.9	-
	Auto Tampering	82	.9	81	1.0	24	.3	-	70.4
	Auto Theft	15	.2	6	.1	18	.2	300.0	-
	Unauthorized Use of Auto	118	1.3	84	1.0	87	1.1	3.6	-
	Grand Larceny	434	4.9	544	6.6	266	3.2	-	51.1
	Burglary	74	.8	59	.7	1,048	12.7	1,676.3	-
	Storehouse Breaking	257	2.9	284	3.4	27	.3	-	90.5
	Dwellingshouse Breaking	321	3.6	394	4.8	89	1.1	-	77.4
	Outhouse Breaking	28	.3	22	.3	0	-	-	100.0
	School House Breaking	53	.6	58	.7	6	.1	-	89.7
	Possessing Burglary Tools	44	.5	13	.2	32	.4	161.5	-
	Banding To Commit a Felony	3	-*	3	-*	9	.1	300.0	-
	Weapons: Carrying/Possessing	104	1.2	86	1.0	59	.7	-	31.4
	Uttering a Forged Instrument	52	.6	50	.6	44	.5	-	12.0
SUB TOTAL		1,638	18.5	1,727	20.9	1,767	21.4	2.3	-
DRUG OFFENSES	Violation Drug Laws: Narcotic	149	1.7	214	2.6	197	2.4	-	7.9
	Violation Drug Laws	355	4.0	233	2.8	275	3.3	18.0	-
	Glue/Paint Sniffing	0	-	104	1.3	227	2.8	118.3	-
	Drunkenness	93	1.1	104	1.3	200	2.4	92.3	-
	Possessing/Drinking Liquor	260	2.9	251	3.0	341	4.1	35.9	-
SUB TOTAL		857	9.7	906	11.0	1,240	15.0	36.9	-



TABLE 7. (Continued)

REASON REFERRED		1973		1974		1975		Percentage Change 74-75	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Increase	Decrease
MINOR OFFENSES	Disorderly Conduct	1,449	16.4	908	11.0	627	7.6	-	30.9
	Petit Larceny	148	1.7	188	2.3	221	2.7	17.6	-
	Shoplifting	662	7.5	892	10.8	857	10.4	-	3.9
	Destruction of Property	130	1.5	170	2.1	165	2.0	-	2.9
	False Alarms	42	.5	15	.2	35	.4	133.3	-
	Neighborhood Complaint	3	-*	3	-*	7	.1	133.3	-
	Loitering	141	1.6	90	1.1	54	.7	-	40.0
	AWOL From Institution	278	3.1	245	3.0	193	2.3	-	21.2
	Traffic Offenses	185	2.1	169	2.0	159	1.9	-	5.9
	Other	141	1.6	129	1.6	331	4.0	156.6	-
SUB TOTAL		3,179	36.0	2,809	34.0	2,649	32.1	-	5.7
STATUS OFFENSES	Attempted Suicide	9	.1	9	.1	5	.1	-	44.4
	Runaway: In County	229	2.6	298	3.6	265	3.2	-	11.1
	Runaway: Out of County	35	.4	47	.6	38	.5	-	19.1
	Runaway: Out of State	120	1.4	138	1.7	138	1.7	-	-
	Ungovernable Behavior	395	4.5	346	4.2	364	4.4	5.2	-
	Truancy	424	4.8	262	3.2	273	3.3	4.2	-
SUB TOTAL		1,212	13.7	1,100	13.3	1,083	13.1	-	1.5
OTHER	Dependency	1,354	15.3	993	12.0	809	9.8	-	18.5
	Paternity	6	.1	10	.1	2	-	-	80.0
	Marriage Request	129	1.5	73	.9	18	.2	-	75.3
SUB TOTAL		1,489	16.8	1,076	13.0	829	10.1	-	23.0
TOTAL		8,841	100.0	8,252	100.1	8,240	99.9	-	.1

\*Less than .1 per cent.

TABLE 8.

## ADULT REFERRALS BY REASON REFERRED AND YEAR

REASON REFERRED	1973		1974		1975		Percentage Change 74-75	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Increase	Decrease
Contributing to Dependency	230	22.3	84	8.5	22	2.4	-	73.8
Contributing to Delinquency	194	18.8	183	18.5	155	16.6	-	15.3
Non-Support	469	45.4	467	47.2	532	57.1	13.9	-
Child Abuse	4	.4	2	.2	0	-	-	100.0
Paternity	136	13.2	254	25.7	222	23.8	-	12.6
TOTAL	1,033	100.1	990	100.1	931	99.9	-	6.0

TABLE 9.

## TOTAL REFERRALS BY PLANNING SERVICE COMMUNITY AND YEAR

PSC	1973		1974		1975		Percentage Change 74-75	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Increase	Decrease
1	521	5.9	505	6.1	407	4.9	-	19.4
2	836	9.5	653	7.9	667	8.1	2.1	-
3	133	1.5	155	1.9	170	2.1	9.7	-
4	648	7.3	539	6.5	486	5.9	-	9.8
5	490	5.5	534	6.5	473	5.7	-	11.4
6	729	8.2	574	7.0	449	5.4	-	21.8
7	219	2.5	208	2.5	190	2.3	-	8.7
8	371	4.2	286	3.5	295	3.6	3.1	-
9	444	5.0	419	5.1	464	5.6	10.7	-
10	767	8.7	578	7.0	652	7.9	12.8	-
11	848	9.6	834	10.1	787	9.6	-	5.6
12	849	9.6	797	9.7	788	9.6	-	1.4
13	777	8.8	860	10.4	1,109	13.5	29.0	-
14	410	4.6	501	6.1	472	5.7	-	5.8
15	280	3.2	306	3.7	334	4.1	-	9.2
Out of County	519	5.9	503	6.1	497	6.0	-	1.2
TOTAL	8,841	100.0	8,252	100.1	8,240	100.0	-	.1

TABLE 10.

## INDIVIDUALS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD &amp; YEAR

			1974		1974	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed	4,287	70.8	4,065	72.1	3,813	70.4
Unemployed	1,767	29.2	1,575	27.9	1,605	29.6
Unknown	445	.*	436	.*	475	.*
TOTAL	6,499	100.0	6,076	100.0	5,893	100.0

\*Percentages exclude unknowns.

TABLE 11.

## INDIVIDUALS BY RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE &amp; YEAR

	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	1,457	24.1	1,270	22.7	1,225	23.3
No	4,591	75.9	4,333	77.3	4,025	76.7
Unknown	451	.*	473	.*	643	.*
TOTAL	6,499	100.0	6,076	100.0	5,893	100.0

\*Percentages exclude unknowns.

TABLE 12.

## INDIVIDUALS BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT AND YEAR

LIVING ARRANGEMENT	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mother & Stepfather	446	6.9	445	7.4	424	7.2
Mother Only	2,121	32.9	1,946	32.6	2,006	34.2
Relative	495	7.7	474	7.9	429	7.3
Institution	251	3.9	199	3.3	153	2.6
Both Parents	2,532	39.3	2,410	40.3	2,382	40.6
Father & Stepmother	85	1.3	76	1.3	86	1.5
Father Only	256	4.0	209	3.5	193	3.3
Foster Home	137	2.1	111	1.9	117	2.0
Independent	127	2.0	106	1.8	76	1.3
Unknown	49	.*	100	.*	27	.*
TOTAL	6,499	100.1	6,076	100.0	5,893	100.0

\*Percentages exclude unknowns.

TABLE 13.  
INDIVIDUALS BY SCHOOL STATUS AND YEAR

	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pre-School	599	9.2	388	6.4	290	5.0
Attending	4,862	74.9	4,637	76.9	4,514	77.3
Completed	77	1.2	62	1.0	83	1.4
Withdrawn	951	14.7	942	15.6	949	16.3
Unknown	10	.*	47	.*	57	.*
TOTAL	6,499	100.0	6,076	99.9	5,893	100.0

\*Percentages exclude unknowns.

TABLE 14.

## INDIVIDUALS EDUCATION CLAIMED AND YEAR

	1973		1974		1975	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pre-School	717	11.1	464	7.8	381	6.8
2-5 years	537	8.3	342	5.8	366	6.6
6	325	5.0	261	4.4	223	4.0
7	681	10.5	518	8.7	497	8.9
8	1,090	16.9	977	16.5	949	17.0
9	1,194	18.5	1,237	20.9	1,136	20.4
10	1,142	17.7	1,221	20.6	1,184	21.2
11	686	10.6	835	14.1	746	13.4
12	84	1.3	74	1.2	89	1.6
Special Education	2	**	2	**	2	**
Unknown	41	.*	145	.*	320	.*
TOTAL	6,499	99.9	6,076	100.0	5,893	99.9
$\bar{X}$		8.9		8.9		9.1

\*Percentages exclude unknowns.

\*\*Less than .1 per cent.

**END**