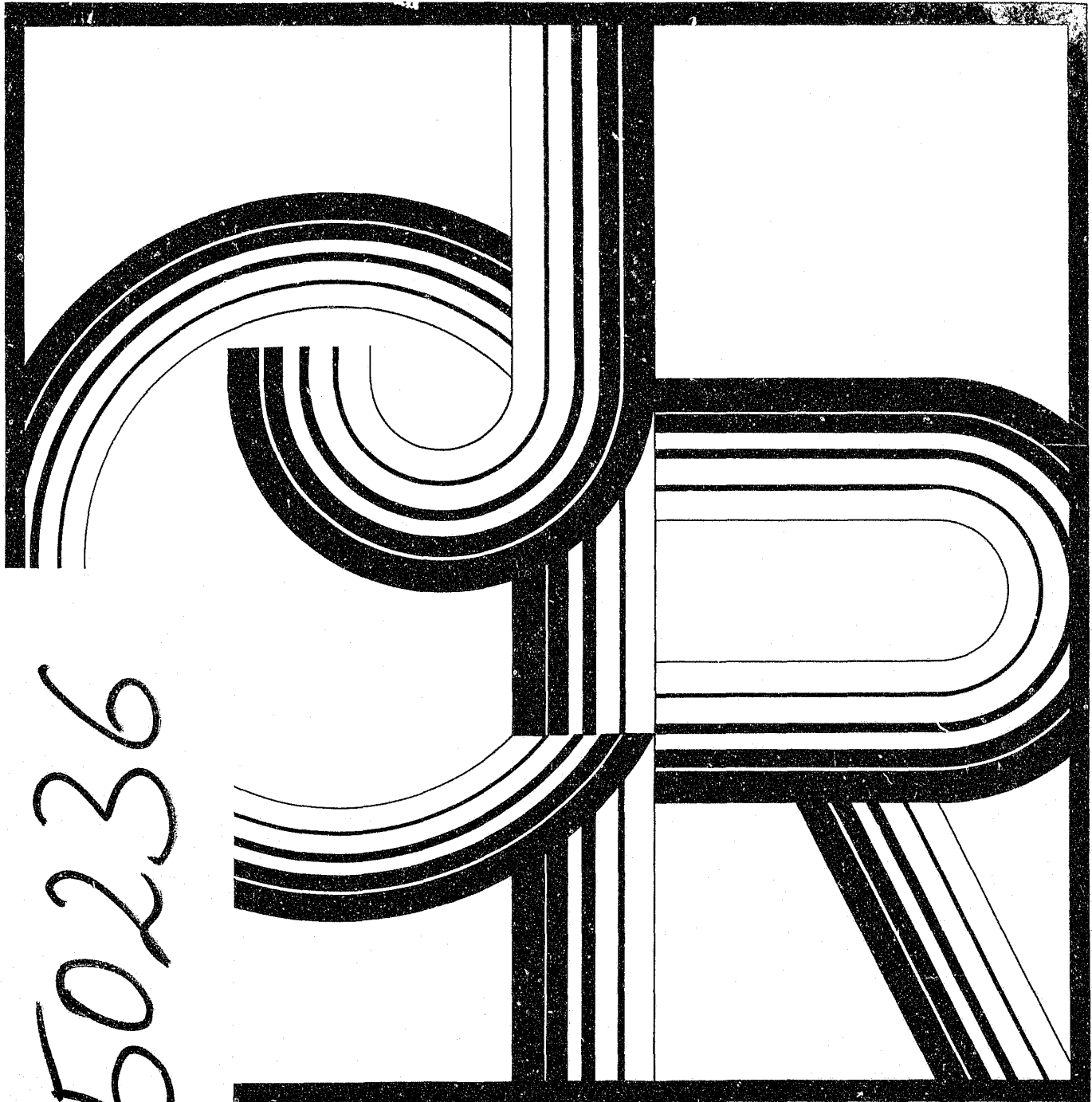


**Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice**

**Juvenile Offenses Processed by County Courts**

**JUVENILE COURT REPORT—1977**



50236



**Juvenile Offenses Processed by County Courts**

X **JUVENILE COURT REPORT—1977**

NCJRS

AUG 31 1978

ACQUISITIONS

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

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## Table of Contents

	Page number
Introduction .....	5
Reporting and Analysis .....	6
General Trends .....	12
Appendices .....	21

## List of Tables

Number	Title	Page Number
1	Major Offense Frequencies, 1977 .....	14
2	Minor Offense Frequencies, 1977 .....	14
3	Care Pending Disposition .....	17

## List of Figures

	Page Number
1 Total Juvenile Court Cases: With and Without Petition, 1974-1977 .....	7
2 Frequency of Juvenile Cases with Petition, 1974-1977 .....	8
3 Juvenile Court Statistical Form .....	10
4 Options in Handling of Juvenile Offenders .....	11
5 Reason for Referral: 1974-1977 .....	15
6 Juvenile Court Disposition Proportions: 1977 .....	17
7 Disposition Percentages for Minor Offenses .....	18
8 Major and Minor Cases with Petition: Male vs. Female .....	19
9 JCR Area Map of Nebraska .....	20

## Highlights

—A total of 5,140 juvenile court referrals were reported to the Commission for the 1977 calendar year.

—Of the 4,185 cases with petition, 45% were from the three Separate Juvenile Courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties.

—The “big three” juvenile offenses, in order from highest to lowest, were Larceny, Burglary, and Vandalism.

—Males were referred almost six times as often for delinquency offenses as females, the ratio was almost equal for status offenses. Overall, the ratio of males to females was about three to one.

—Though the total number of cases reported to the Commission rose between 1974 and 1975, they now seem to have stabilized.





# Introduction

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Responsibility for state and local planning for juvenile delinquency prevention and control currently lies with the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (hereafter referred to as the Commission). This responsibility is set forth in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Juvenile Delinquency and Control Act of 1968. Passage of L.B. 1352 by the 1969 Legislature gave the Commission authority and responsibility to conduct relevant surveys and studies for the purpose of obtaining criminal justice data. Thus, when the full Commission decided in November of 1970 to collect juvenile data to aid in planning, a Juvenile Court Reporting System was developed within the Commission staff. The system became operational in January of 1971, and has continued with minor revisions into the present.

Each of the 90 county courts having juvenile jurisdiction reports to the Commission, as do the three separate Juvenile Courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties. The reports were first submitted on a card developed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Beginning in 1975, the card was revised to gather additional information while still collecting the information reported in prior years. A computerized summary of the data reported to the Commission is made at the end of each calendar year, and this publication is written using the results of the summary plus the results of additional statistical tests performed upon the data.

All of the courts of Nebraska have complied with the reporting procedures for the past four years. Since the reports have been processed in a uniform manner over that time period, a data base large enough for long term comparisons is beginning to accrue. Nebraskans can pride themselves upon the development and maintenance of the Juvenile Court Reporting System, unique because of the diversity of data collected and total participation of the reporting agencies. This achievement is due largely to the efforts of the many associate county judges, court clerks, probation officers, and other court personnel who consistently take the time and effort to submit the monthly reports. Without their cooperation, this publication would not be possible.

# Reporting and Analysis

## Juvenile Court System

In Nebraska, as throughout the United States, separate legal provisions exist for the handling of youth. Though the exact ages of the youth involved and the wording of the statutes differ from state to state, all of the codes are based upon the idea that juvenile cases should be treated in a different manner than adult cases. A guiding philosophy has been the concept of *parens patriae*, the belief that the court should have broad protective powers over the youth, similar to those of a parent. The juvenile court has original jurisdiction not only of youths accused of a criminal offense, but also handles cases of habitual truancy, uncontrollable behavior, neglect or dependency, permission to marry, and adoption proceedings.

The statutes of Nebraska give the county courts concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts over juveniles. Counties with a population of 50,000 persons or more may establish a separate juvenile court by a majority vote of the county electors. At present, three counties maintain a separate juvenile court: Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy. These three counties reported 45% of the cases in which a petition was filed recorded by the Commission in 1977 (see table below). Most of the remaining juvenile cases are handled by the county courts and it is from these courts and the three separate juvenile courts that the data for this publication are obtained. District court cases involving juveniles are not reported to the Commission (these involve mainly youth over 15 years of age).

### JUVENILE COURT CASES WITH PETITION REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION (1977)

County	Frequency	Percent	
Douglas	1,056	25.2%	} 45.2%
Lancaster	466	11.1	
Sarpy	370	8.9	
All other counties	2,293	54.8	
Total	4,185	100.0%	

The juvenile system has developed a specialized terminology to describe its proceedings. Much of the vocabulary is defined and explained in Section 43 of the *Nebraska Revised Statutes*. For the sake of clarity in the interpretation of this report, some of the terms will now be defined in a condensed form.

A petition (similar to the "complaint" in an adult case) may be filed with the clerk of the court having jurisdiction in the matter, on any child falling into one of the below four categories. This procedure is most often performed by the county attorney. Juvenile hearings are conducted by a judge; no jury is present. The hearing proceeds in an informal manner, applying the rules of evidence used by the district courts in civil trials without a jury. The court considers the issue of whether the minor in question fits one of the four categories listed below:

Persons under age 18 and:

- (1) homeless, destitute, or without proper support through no fault of his parent or guardian . . . *dependent child*.
- (2) abandoned, lacking proper parental care, in a dangerous situation or occupation or one injurious to his health or morals . . . *neglected child*.
- (3) any child who has violated any law of the state or a city or village ordinance . . . *delinquent child*.
- (4) uncontrollable by parents or habitually truant from school or home or departs himself so as to endanger the morals or health of himself or others . . . *child in need of special supervision*.

(Adapted from *Neb. Rev. Stat.*, Sec. 43-201.)

The process of deciding whether or not the youth in question fits into one of these four categories is called the *adjudication*.

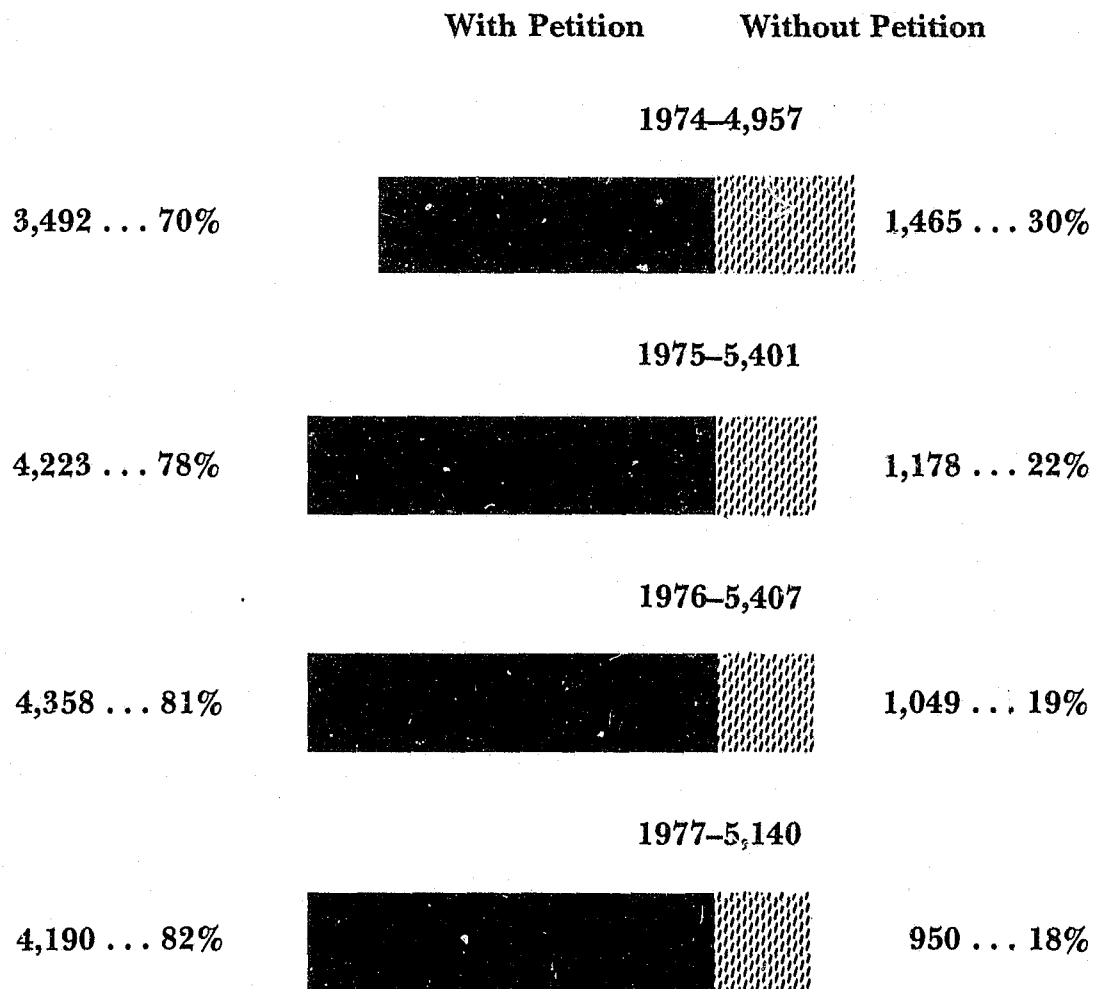
When a youth is adjudicated to be a delinquent or child in need of special supervision, the court has the following options for disposition:

- (1) Continuation of the dispositional portion of the hearing from time to time (i.e. review) while the youth resides in either his own home, a foster home, or an institution. The youth is under the supervision of a probation officer at this time, and may also be ordered to make restitution for any property destroyed or damaged.
- (2) Commitment of the youth to the care and custody of the Department of Correctional Services; provided, a child under 12 years shall not be committed to a Youth Development Center except under certain circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

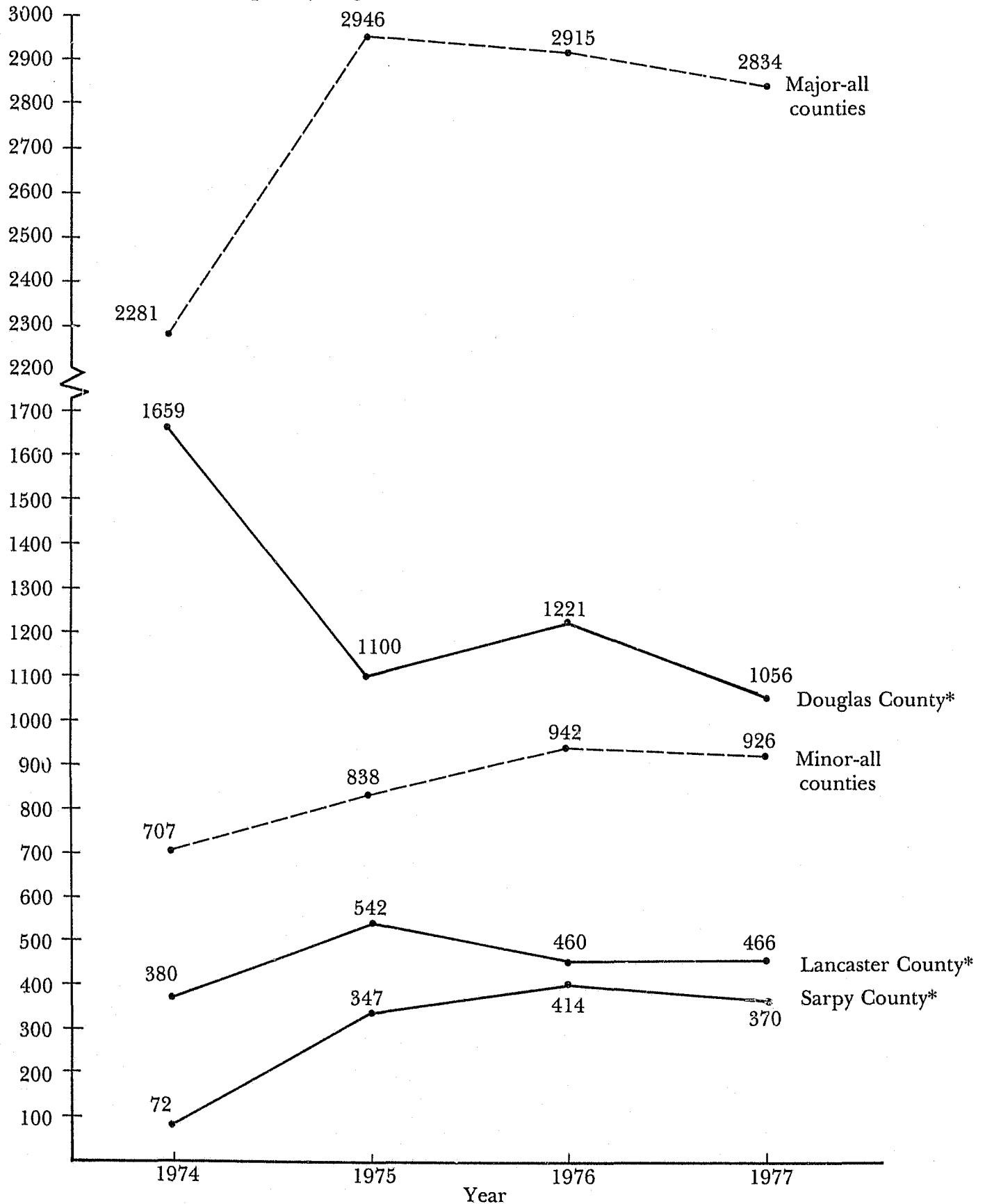
When the court finds there is not sufficient evidence to sustain an allegation that the youth is a delinquent, child in need of special supervision, or dependent child, the court finds the petition not sustained and the juvenile is dismissed.

<sup>1</sup>For more detail, see *Neb. Rev. Stats.* 43-210 and 43-210.01.

**Figure 1**  
**Total Juvenile Court Cases: With and Without Petition**  
**1974-1977**



**Figure 2**  
**Frequency of Juvenile Cases with Petition, 1974-1977**



\*Figures include neglect-dependent and special proceedings

## Reporting System

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Every county court or separate juvenile court remits a data card on each juvenile adjudicated that month. All counties report those cases handled on a petition (formal hearing) and many counties submit reports of juveniles handled without petition. To insure complete privacy the card makes no mention of the juvenile's name. If no juvenile cases appeared in court for a given month, that court submits a "no-report" card.

The reporting form is shown on the adjacent page. Items A through O are all required information, with the exception of C, D, and J. All other responses are optional, but encouraged. After the forms are checked for errors or omissions, they are submitted for keypunch and input into the computerized recording system. At the end of the year, a printout and tape are generated, summarizing the data for the entire year. Certain response items are selected for further correlational analysis using multivariate techniques (see Appendix A for details of statistical analysis).

## Interpretation of Data

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When interpreting the results of the data description and analysis, it is essential to remember that the raw frequencies refer to the number of cases referred to court rather than the number of individual juveniles moving through the system. In other words, an individual may be tabulated more than once if he commits multiple offenses with the given calendar year.

Every effort is made to keep the data reporting procedures uniform throughout the state. Though not all differences in reporting can be detected and remedied, the consistency in the data received over the past four years suggests that such differences are negligible. Nebraska's juvenile procedures must be flexible enough to deal with conditions ranging from a large metropolitan county on one end of the population spectrum to a sparsely populated rural county on the other end. Because of some variation in the handling and reporting of juveniles referred to the court but against whom no petition was filed, most of the reporting of raw frequencies in this publication for comparison purposes will be based upon number of cases *with petition*.

Since many juvenile crimes never reach the level of juvenile court, the offenses reported in this publication provide a very conservative indicator of the extent of juvenile crime. Its chief value lies in the record of certain characteristics of juveniles handled in the courts and the procedures followed in those courts. When making comparisons within an agency over a period of years or when comparing several agencies, the following factors should be considered when interpreting the data:

- 1) population size and density of the area served
- 2) rural vs. urban composition of the area
- 3) predominant community attitudes and standards
- 4) informal policies of law enforcement officers and administration
- 5) fluctuations in reporting standards accuracy

These factors have all been shown to have an effect upon the total volume of crime reported by a law enforcement agency, and hence would be expected to also influence the number of persons reported handled in court.

# Juvenile Court Statistical Form

<p><b>A. Court Code</b> _____</p> <p><b>B. Child's number</b> _____</p> <p><b>C. Address</b> _____ Census tract of residence _____</p> <p><b>D. Date of birth</b> _____ mo. day yr.</p>	<p><b>E. Age at time of referral</b> _____</p> <p><b>F. Sex:</b> 1 Male 2 Female</p> <p><b>G. Ethnic group:</b> 1 White 2 Black 3 Indian 4 Mexican-American 5 Other</p> <p><b>H. Date of referral</b> _____ mo. day yr.</p>
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<p><b>I. Referred by</b> _____</p> <p>1 Law enforcement agency 2 School 3 Social agency 4 Probation officer 5 Parents or relatives 6 Other court 7 Other source (specify) _____</p> <p><b>J. Prior delinquency referrals</b> _____ (excluding traffic) This calendar year 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more referrals In prior years 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more referrals</p> <p><b>K. Care pending disposition</b> _____ 0 No detention or shelter care overnight Detention or shelter care overnight or longer in: 1 Jail or police station 2 Detention home 3 Foster or group home 4 Other (specify) _____</p>	<p><b>L. Reason referred</b> _____</p> <p>Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults (excluding traffic) 01 Murder and non-negligent manslaughter 02 Manslaughter by negligence 03 Forcible rape 04 Robbery: Purse snatching by force 05 Robbery: All except purse snatching 06 Assault: Aggravated 07 Assault: All except aggravated 08 Burglary—breaking or entering 09 Auto theft: Unauthorized use 10 Auto theft: All except unauthorized use 11 Larceny: Shoplifting 12 Larceny: All except shoplifting Offenses applicable to juveniles only (excluding traffic) 31 Running away 32 Truancy 33 Violation of curfew Other than delinquency 51 Neglect 52 Dependent Special proceedings (adoption, consent to marry, etc.) 61 Specify _____</p>
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<p><b>M. Manner of handling</b> _____</p> <p>1 Without petition 2 With petition</p> <p><b>N. Date of disposition</b> _____ mo. day yr.</p>	<p><b>O. Disposition</b> _____</p> <p>00 Waived to criminal court • Complaint not substantiated 01 Dismissed: not proved or found not involved • Complaint substantiated No transfer of legal custody 11 Dismissed: warned, counselled 12 Hold open without further action 13 Formal probation 14 Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision 15 Runaway returned to _____ 16 Other (specify) _____ 17 Fine or restitution</p> <p>Transfer of legal custody to: 21 Youth Development Center Kearney or Geneva 22 Other public institution (specify) _____ 23 Public agency or department (including court and jail) (specify) _____ 24 Private agency or institution (specify) _____ 25 Individual (specify relationship) _____ 26 Other (specify) _____ 99 Inapplicable—special proceedings</p>
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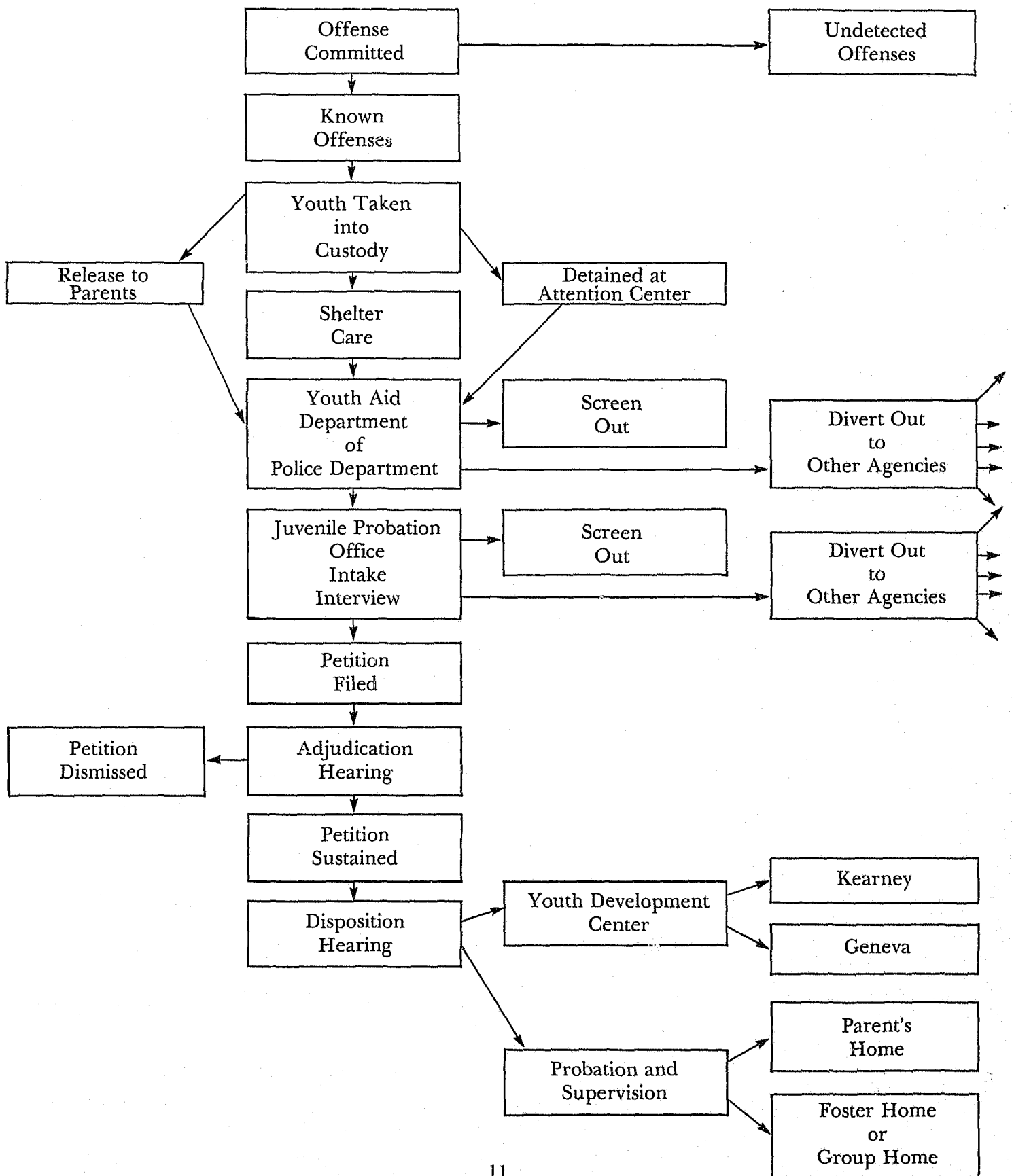
  

<p><b>Q. Diagnostic services</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="3">Need for diagnostic services</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Indicated and Provided</th> <th>Indicated but not available</th> <th>Not indicated</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Psychological</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Psychiatric</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>S. School attainment</b> _____ Grade completed (00-12)</p> <p><b>T. Employment and school status</b> _____</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Out of school</th> <th>In school</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not employed</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    full time</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>    part time</td> <td>3</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>U. Length of residence</b> _____ Of child in the county 0 Not currently a resident 1 Under one year 2 One year or more</p>		Need for diagnostic services				Indicated and Provided	Indicated but not available	Not indicated	Psychological	1	2	3	Psychiatric	1	2	3	Medical	1	2	3	Social	1	2	3		Out of school	In school	Not employed	1	5	Employed			full time	2	6	part time	3	7	Preschool	4		<p><b>W. Marital status of natural parents</b> _____</p> <p>01 Parents married and living together One or both parents dead: 02 Both dead 03 Father dead 04 Mother dead Parents separated: 05 Divorced or legally separated 06 Father deserted mother 07 Mother deserted father 08 Other reason (specify) _____ 09 Parents not married to each other 10 Other status (specify) _____</p> <p><b>X. Family annual income at referral</b> _____</p> <p>1 Receiving public assistance Not receiving public assistance 2 Under \$3000 3 \$3000 to \$4,999 4 \$5000 to \$9,999 5 \$10,000 and over 6 Unknown</p>
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full time	2	6																																									
part time	3	7																																									
Preschool	4																																										

<p><b>V. Living arrangement of child</b> _____</p> <p>In own home with: 01 both parents 02 mother and step father 03 father and step mother 04 mother only 05 father only Outside own home: 06 with relatives 07 foster or group home 08 in institution 09 independent arrangement 10 Other (specify) _____</p> <p><b>Z. Counsel</b> _____</p> <p>1 Court appointed 2 Retained 3 Public defender 4 Not represented 5 Other _____</p>	<p><b>ZZ. Occupation of parent or guardian</b> _____</p> <p>1 Professional or technical 2 Managerial or administrative 3 Sales workers 4 Craftsmen or other skilled laborer 5 Clerical 6 Service workers or other unskilled laborers</p>
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**Figure 4**  
**Options in Handling of Juvenile Offenders**



# General Trends

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The following general trends section of the report explains the classification of offense types and dispositions that will be used for the remainder of the report. It also summarizes the basic frequency data for referrals and dispositions over the past calendar year in tabular form. Reference averages for the preceeding three years (1974-1976) are provided in the tables for ease of comparison. In this section, as well as for the rest of the sections, most of the tables and graphs will be presented either within or immediately following the text of that section. Because of their length, several tables have been included in the back as appendices.

## Referrals

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A child may be referred to juvenile court if he appears to be neglected, dependent, delinquent, or in need of special supervision (see Reporting and Analysis section for further definition of these terms). The statistical reporting card allows more breakdown of these rather general categories into offense types to aid in analysis by describing in detail what kind of behavior was responsible for referral to the court. Therefore, responses 01 through 29 of item L on the statistical reporting card provide information on reasons a child adjudicated delinquent was referred to the court. These reasons may range from relatively serious offenses such as murder/manslaughter to a less serious one like vandalism. Responses 31 through 39 describe behaviors for which a child may be adjudicated to be in need of special supervision. Neglect, dependency, and special proceedings may also be coded (numbers 51, 52, and 61 respectively.)

Table 1 on the following page lists the referral frequencies and percentages in 1977 for each offense type on the statistical card. A three year average percent based upon the years of 1974 through 1976 is also presented in the table for comparison purposes. Throughout this report the terms "Major offenses" and "Minor offenses" will be used to refer to reasons a juvenile could be adjudicated as either a delinquent or child in need of special supervision. More referrals for Major offenses are reported than for Minor offenses. This probably reflects the fact that offenses not

involving damage to persons or property are often viewed as less serious. Those youth who show behaviors that are illegal only because of their juvenile status or offenses viewed as part of "growing up" (such as vandalism or joyriding) are often handled directly by the police or through some type of informal diversion as opposed to a formal juvenile court adjudication and disposition.

The most frequent Major offenses for which a youth was referred were burglary, larceny, non-narcotic drug violations, and vandalism. The frequency of these offenses in relation to total offenses reported has stayed fairly stable over the four years of standardized data collection. Vandalism showed the most change, from a percentage frequency of .08 in 1974 to .11 in 1976. The percentage for 1977 dropped slightly to 10%. This relative stability of offense type proportions held true for other Major offenses, too.

For statistical analysis of the offense data, the Major offenses were collapsed down into three broadly descriptive categories: Victimless offenses, Offenses against property, and Offenses against persons. These three categories, plus the Minor offense category, will be referred to throughout this publication. A list of the response item numbers in each category is in Appendix B. Briefly explained, Victimless offenses, sometimes referred to in the criminal justice literature as non-predatory offenses, include drunkenness, disorderly conduct, violation of drug



laws, forgery, and weapons carrying. These offenses are characterized by the lack of an easily identified victim, all parties involved in the offense participate willingly.

The predatory offenses are those where a party can be characterized as the victim. To further discriminate in analysis, the predatory offenses were broken down into Offenses against property and Offenses against persons. Offenses against property include robbery,<sup>1</sup> burglary, motor vehicle theft, shoplifting and other types of larceny, vandalism, receiving stolen property, and arson. As can be seen, the monetary loss and relative seriousness of the crimes in this category vary considerably. The common factor of all of these offenses is that they involved a damage or loss of the victim's property (see footnote). Violent crimes such as murder/manslaughter, rape and other sex offenses, purse snatching by force, and assault are categorized as Offenses against persons.

Strictly speaking, a child may be adjudicated to be in need of special supervision if he is uncontrollable by his parent or guardian, habitually truant from school or home, or deporting himself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals of himself or others. The statistical reporting card breaks these categories down somewhat to provide a clearer picture of the behavior responsible for the child's appearance in court. Truancy from home or school is separated into the two categories of running away (31) and truancy from school (32). Violation of curfew and possessing or drinking liquor are the other specific categories included in addition to ungovernable behavior.

Possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages (MIP) was the most frequent reason given for Minor offense referral. Not only have liquor related referrals been the highest proportion of Minor offenses over the past few years, but the percentage of youth referred for these offenses has increased in proportion to the total number of Minor offense referrals. Running away, ungovernable behavior, and MIP compose approximately 80% of the total Minor offense referrals.

Property offenses were again the most frequently reported major offense type. Larceny led the list of offenses most often referred to the juvenile court, accounting for 24.6% (Shoplifting—10.0%, Other—14.6%) of the total Major offense cases. Next in frequency were Burglary (19.2%) and Vandalism (10.1%). Non-Narcotic Drug Violation (7.1%) was the only discrete non-property offense to approach in frequency the above-mentioned three.

Minor offenses constituted about 25% of the total, slightly more than Victimless offenses (23%). Offenses Against Persons were the least frequent (4%), although it should be pointed out that these offenses, because of their seriousness, are often handled in a court other than Juvenile Court. By far the largest proportion of the offenses were Offenses Against Property (48%). As pointed out earlier, the seriousness of the offenses in this category range from Vandalism to Robbery.

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<sup>1</sup>Inclusion of "robbery, with the exception of purse snatching by force" as an Offense against property is open to debate. The Uniform Crime Statistics published by the FBI treat robbery as a crime of violence as it involves a real or threatened injury to the party being robbed. The author has kept robbery in the Offenses against property category for the sake of uniformity in comparing the current years statistics with those of previous years. The same argument is advanced in explanation of the inclusion of sex offenses other than rape in the category of Offenses against persons. Because of the heterogeneous nature of this offense type, some of the incidents subsumed under it are probably more accurately described as Victimless offenses.

**Table 1**  
**Major Offense Frequencies, 1977**

Offense Type	Frequency	Percent	Average % 1974-1976
Murder	0	0	<.1
Negligent Manslaughter	4	.1	<.1
Forcible Rape	3	.1	.1
Purse Snatching	5	.1	.2
Robbery	83	2.4	2.7
Aggravated Assault	41	1.2	1.5
Other Assault	120	3.4	3.9
Burglary	671	19.2	21.8
Auto Theft: Joyriding	186	5.3	6.1
Auto Theft: Other	88	2.5	1.7
Larceny: Shoplifting	351	10.0	9.5
Larceny: Other	512	14.6	13.4
Carrying, Possessing Weapons	29	.8	.6
Sex Offenses, Except Forcible Rape	26	.7	.7
Drug Violation: Narcotic	77	2.2	1.9
Drug Violation: Non-Narcotic	247	7.1	8.4
Drunkenness	44	1.3	1.3
Disorderly Conduct	48	1.4	1.4
Vandalism	352	10.1	8.6
Forgery	71	2.0	1.6
Buying, Receiving, Possession Stolen Property	118	3.4	2.2
Arson	21	.6	.5
Other*	405	11.6	11.9
Total	3502		

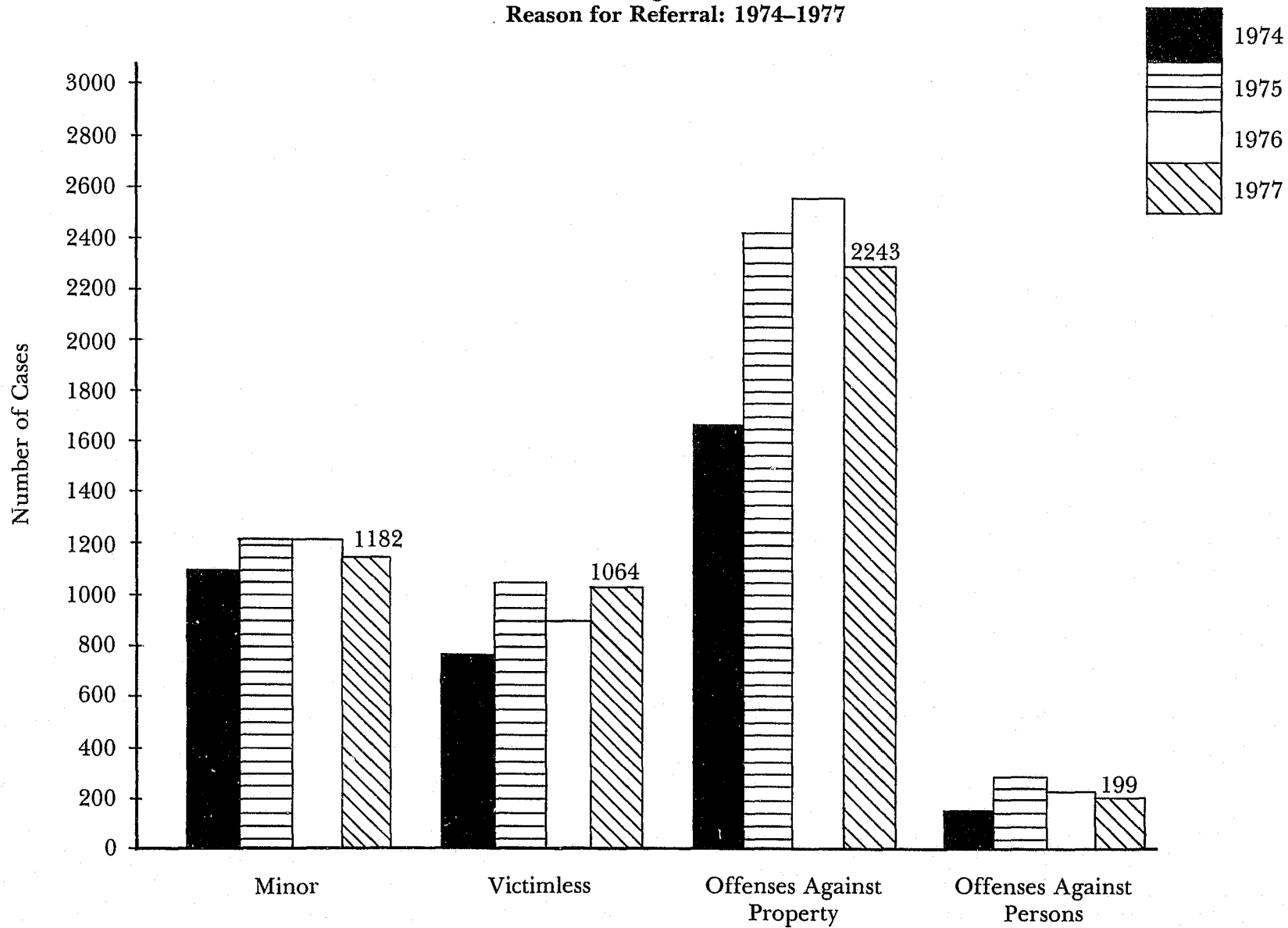
\*The "Other" category for 1974 included forgery, possession of stolen property, and arson.

**Table 2**  
**Minor Offense Frequencies, 1977**

Offense Type	Frequency	Percent	Average % 1974-1976
Running Away	161	13.6	20.9
Truancy	161	13.6	9.5
Curfew Violation	38	3.2	2.5
Ungovernable Behavior	225	19.0	20.1
Possess/Drink Liquor	561	47.5	43.4
Other	36	3.0	3.7
Total	1182		



**Figure 5**  
Reason for Referral: 1974-1977



## Care Pending Disposition

Under the Nebraska legal code, a child below eighteen years of age may be taken into temporary custody without a warrant for any one of the four following reasons:

1. He has violated a state or municipal law in the presence of a law enforcement officer.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe the child has committed a felony.
3. The child is seriously endangered in his surroundings.
4. There are reasonable grounds to believe the child is a runaway.

(Paraphrased from Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-205.01)

In the spirit of *parens patriae* and the reluctance to label a child as "criminal," certain safeguards are built into the system which deals with juveniles. Thus, taking a child into custody is not deemed an arrest, nor should the evidence given in a court adjudicatory hearing operate to disqualify the child from future civil or military service. The consent of a district, district county, associate county, or juvenile court judge must be obtained before fingerprints are taken of a child under fourteen years of age. If fingerprints are taken, they must be filed separately from those of adults.

When a child is taken into temporary custody, his release is required within 48 hours unless a complaint or petition is filed, or unless the child has escaped from confinement or was taken into custody for his own protection. Usually the child is released quickly, with a written release to appear before juvenile court or a probation officer if considered necessary. When a child under 16 years is kept in custody, it must be away from "verbal, visual, or physical contact with adult inmates at any time." If the child is under 14 years, the prohibition further states that confinement must be "outside of the enclosure of any jail or police station." (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-212).

The majority of the juvenile cases reported to the Commission indicated no overnight detention or shelter care (see table below). Minor offenders were more likely to be sent to a foster or group home than major offenders. Detention homes were the most frequently used form of detention, followed by foster homes, jail or police station, and other facilities such as hospitals, private homes, etc.

## Disposition

The sixteen categories provided on the statistical form for coding Juvenile Court dispositions were summarized into five categories: Dismissed or no Further Action, Probation, Transfer of Custody to a Public Agency, Transfer of Custody to a Private Agency, and Other. Probation was the disposition given for 43% of the cases reported to the

Commission (see Figure 6). Almost a third of the cases were either dismissed or held open. Juvenile offenders were rarely put into the custody of either a public or a private agency (11%). Thirty-one (31) cases were reported where a female was sent to the Youth Development Center — Geneva, 149 cases reported sending a male to the Youth Development Center — Kearney. In other words, slightly less than 4% of the youth referred for a major or minor offense and tallied through the Juvenile Court reporting system were sent to a YDC. (The figures given above don't reflect total commitments to the respective institutions as probation violations and commitments from other courts aren't reported to the Commission.)

## Area

For planning purposes the Commission generally uses an 18 region breakdown of the state of Nebraska. This scheme is too unwieldy for statistical analysis, so the counties have been grouped into six large areas (see map in Figure 9). Most of the major dependent variables are broken down by area for analysis. If information regarding an individual county is desired, it can be obtained from the Commission by request.

As can be seen from the map, the six areas are not uniform in size, population, or degree of urbanization, so care must be taken in interpreting comparisons between the areas. Most of Nebraska's population is concentrated into the eastern third of the state. Consequently, the majority of Juvenile Court reports received by the Commission originated in Regions 1, 2 and 3. These three regions contain the one city of metropolitan class (Omaha), the one primary city (Lincoln), and 16 of the 28 first class cities<sup>1</sup>.

Referral rates for cases handled with petition were figured by dividing the frequencies of major and minor cases in each county of juvenile population over 5,000 by the estimated juvenile population of that county. For major cases, the rate per 1,000 juveniles ranged from 11.4 in Scotts Bluff to 1.7 in Gage County. The average number of major cases per 1,000 juveniles was 5.91 (standard deviation = 2.82).

The average number of minor cases with petition was 2.22 per 1,000 juveniles (standard deviation = 1.26). Douglas County had the lowest rate (.5), the highest was Lincoln County (4.7).

To attempt similar calculations for counties with smaller juvenile populations could easily lead to misrepresentative figures. Therefore, these calculations were performed by area rather than by single county.

<sup>1</sup>Beatrice, Blair, Bellevue, Columbus, Fairbury, Falls City, Fremont, LaVista, Nebraska City, Norfolk, Papillion, Plattsmouth, Seward, South Sioux City, Wayne, and York.

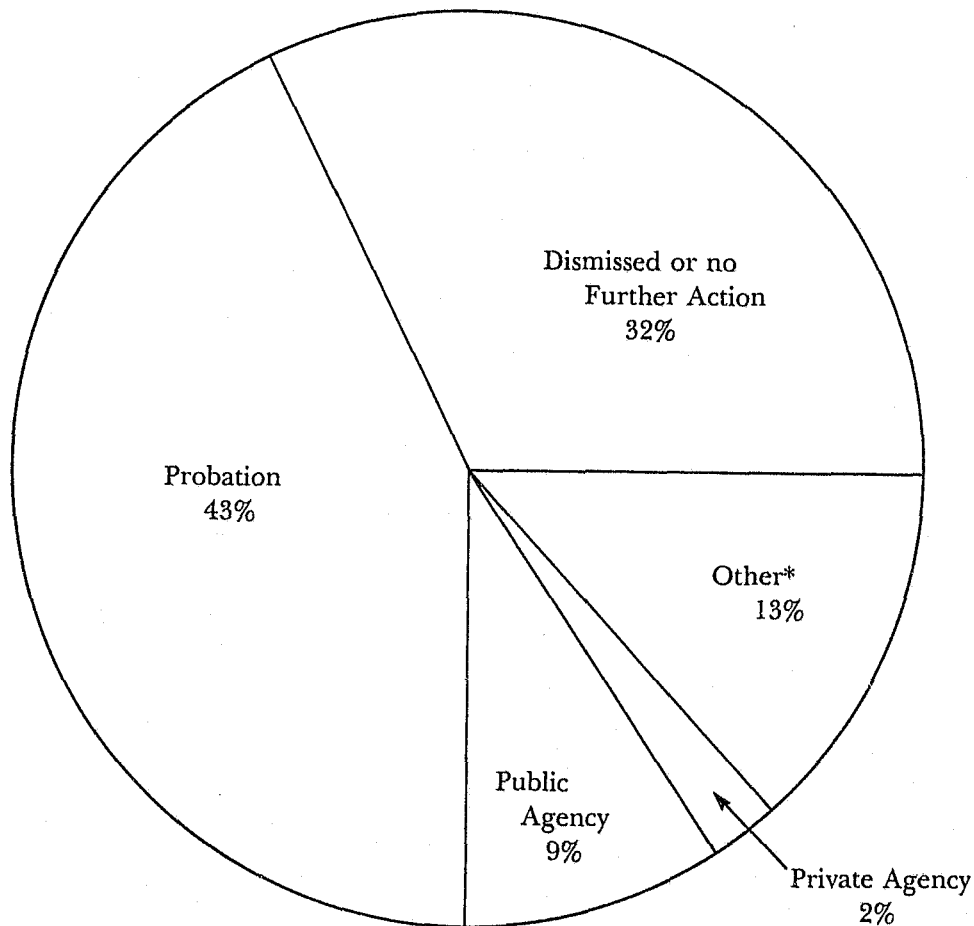
**Table 3**  
**Care Pending Disposition**

	No Overnight Detention	Jail or Police Station	Detention Home	Foster or Group Home	Other
Major	86%	4%	8%	1%	1%
Minor	76	3	10	7	3

$$X^2 = 168.15$$

$$V = .19$$

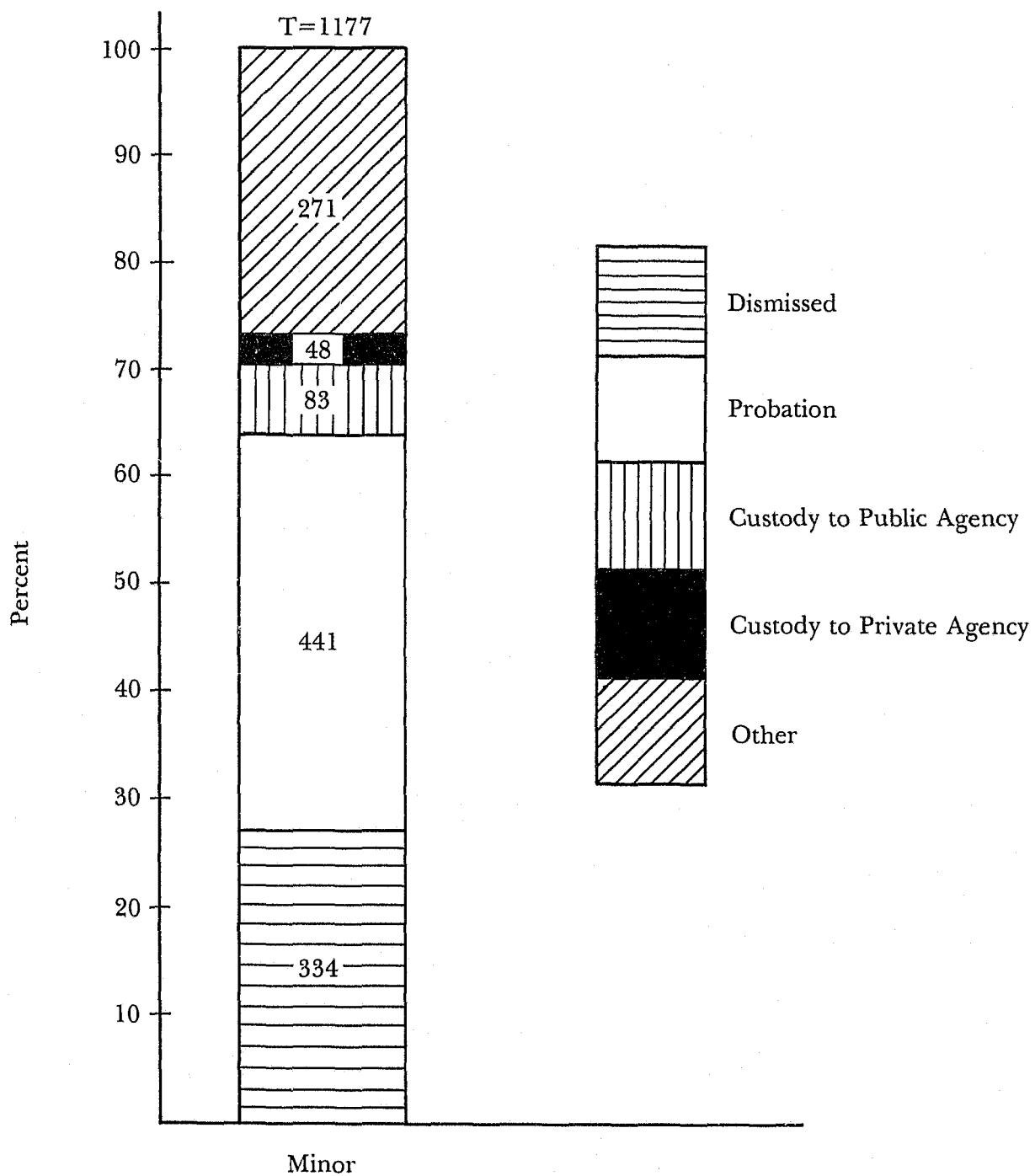
**Figure 6**  
**Juvenile Court Disposition Proportions: 1977**



	1975	1976
Dismissed or no Further Action	33%	29%
Probation	41	41
Transfer of Custody to Public Agency	8	7
Transfer of Custody to Private Agency	3	3
Other	16	20

\*Includes restitution, return of runaway, special proceedings, etc.

**Figure 7**  
**Disposition Percentages For Minor Offenses**



**Figure 8**  
**Major and Minor Cases with Petition: Male vs. Female**

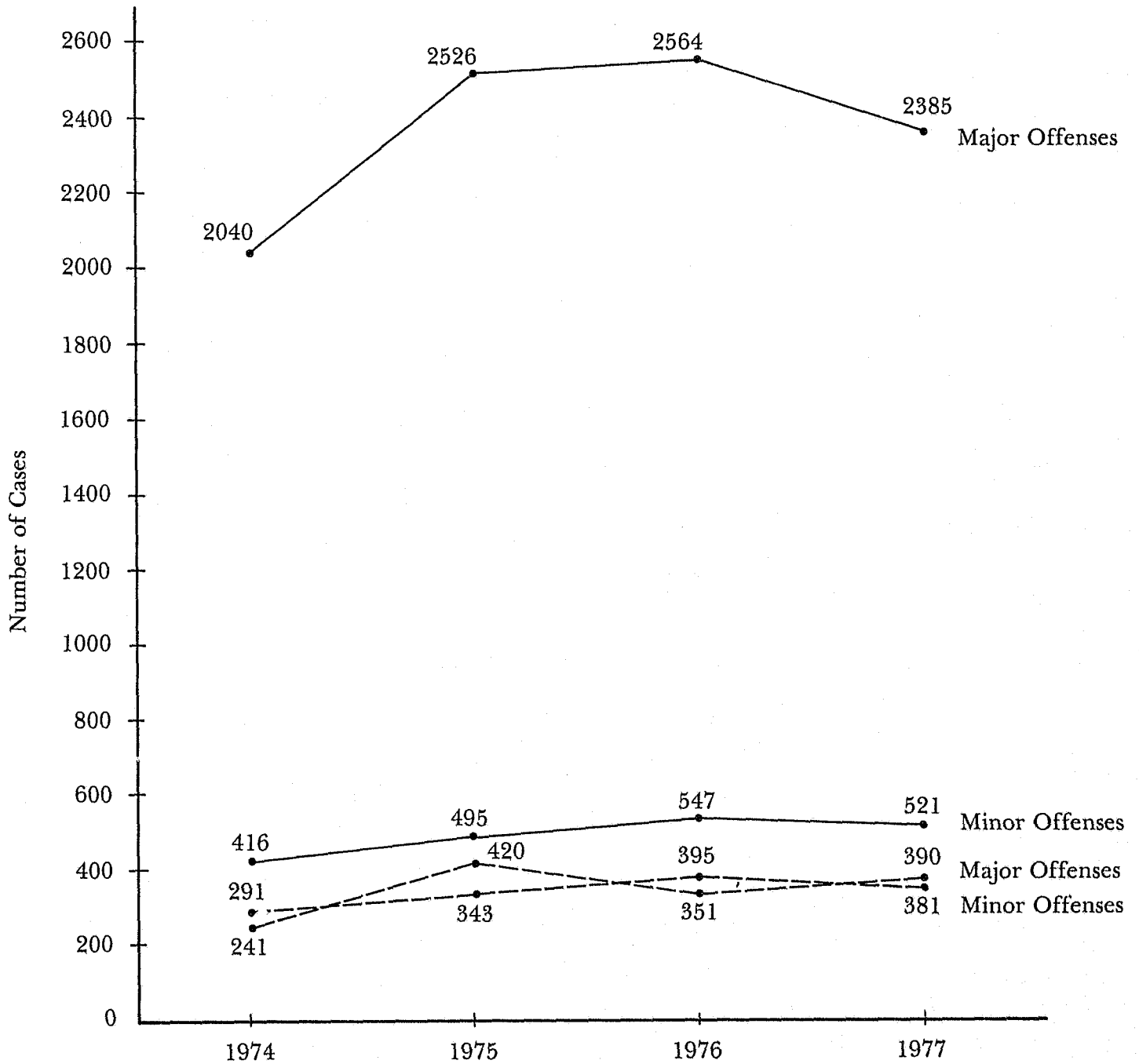
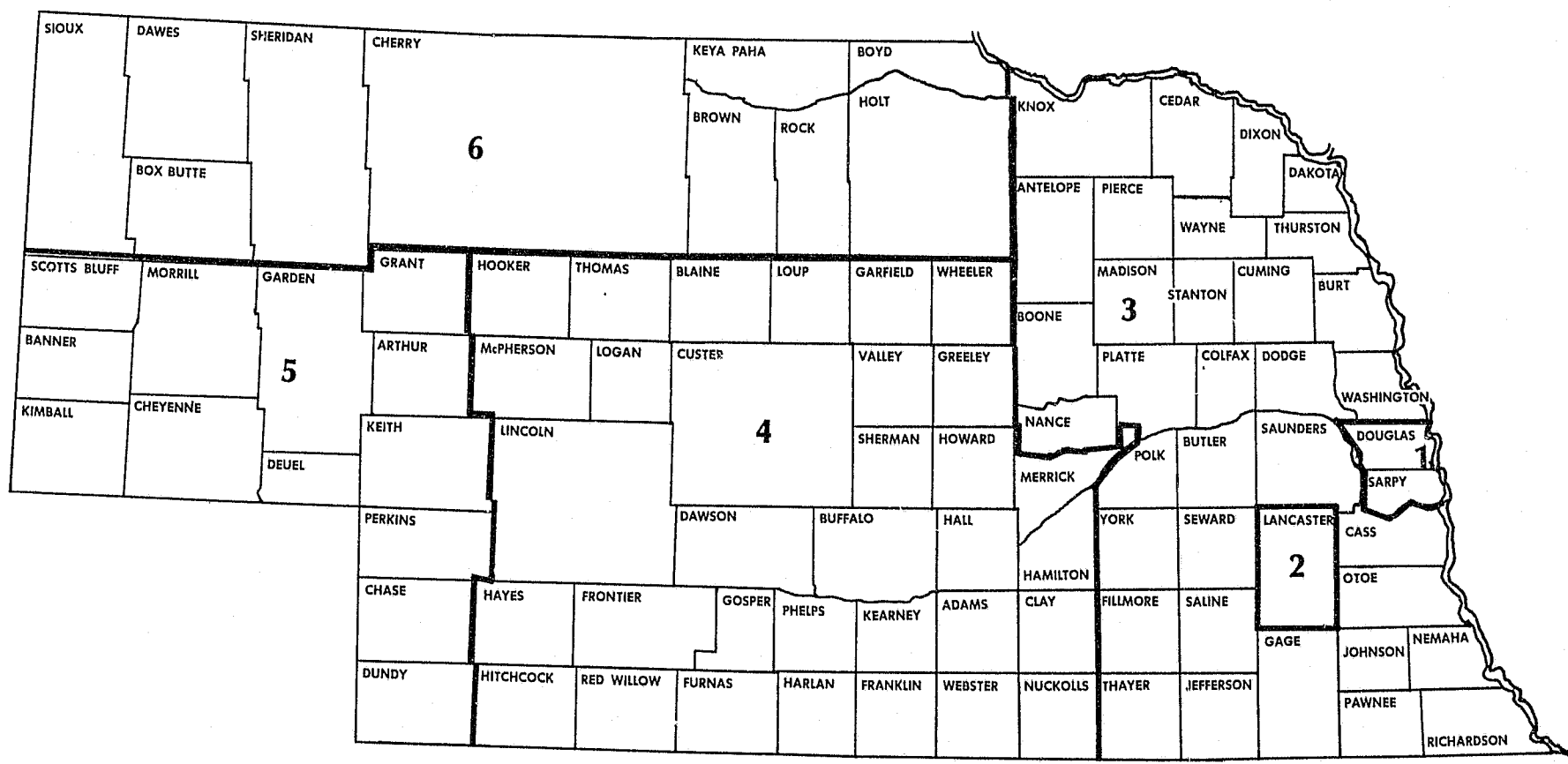




Figure 9  
JCR Area Map of Nebraska





## Appendix A

### Variable Categories and Corresponding Sections on the Juvenile Court Statistical Form

1. Reason for Referral - Section L
  1. Minor Offenses - 31-36
  2. Victimless Offenses - 13, 15-18, and 20
  3. Offenses Against Property - 05, 08, 09-12, and 19
  4. Offenses Against Persons - 01-04, 06, 07, and 14
2. Disposition - Section O
  1. Dismissed or No Further Action - 01, 11, and 12
  2. Probation - 13 and 14
  3. Transfer of Custody to a Public Agency - 21-23
  4. Transfer of Custody to a Private Agency - 24 and 25
  5. Other - 00, 15, 16, 26, and 99
3. Prior Referrals - Section J
  1. One or more this year - a
  2. One or more prior years - b
4. Sex - Section F
  1. Male - 1
  2. Female - 2
5. Area (County Groupings) - Section A
  1. Area One - Douglas, Sarpy
  2. Area Two - Lancaster
  3. Area Three - Antelope, Boone, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, McPherson, Nance, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Washington, Wayne, York
  4. Area Four - Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Clay, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Howard, Kearney, Lincoln, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Nuckolls, Phelps, Red Willow, Sherman, Thomas, Valley, Webster, Wheeler
  5. Area Five - Arthur, Banner, Chase, Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Perkins, Scotts Bluff
  6. Area Six - Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Dawes, Holt, Keya Paha, Rock, Sheridan, Sioux
6. Family Income - Section X
  1. Public Assistance - 1
  2. Under \$3,000 - 2
  3. \$3,000 - \$4,999 - 3
  4. \$5,000 - \$9,999 - 4
  5. \$10,000 and over - 5
7. Ethnic Group
  1. White - 1
  2. Black - 2
  3. American-Indian - 3
  4. Mexican-American - 4
  5. Other - 5
8. Living Arrangement - Section V
  1. With both Parents - 01
  2. With Mother Only - 04
  3. With Father Only - 05
  4. In Foster Family Home - 07

# **Appendix B** **Major and Minor Offenses by County and Sex**

	Without Petition				With Petition				Total Cases*
	Major		Minor		Major		Minor		Reported
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	in
									1977
Adams	0	0	0	0	20	5	6	4	35
Antelope	1	0	0	1	5	2	1	3	13
Arthur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Boone	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	9
Box Butte	4	0	1	0	16	3	3	7	36
Boyd	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Brown	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	1	7
Buffalo	1	0	0	0	23	2	3	6	35
Burt	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	18
Butler	13	3	21	10	16	2	1	12	83
Cass	0	0	0	0	39	3	8	5	59
Cedar	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Chase	1	1	5	0	5	1	0	0	13
Cherry	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	10
Cheyenne	0	0	0	0	23	15	4	4	48
Clay	1	0	0	0	19	0	2	1	32
Colfax	0	0	0	0	10	0	1	2	14
Cuming	2	0	0	0	11	0	2	2	17
Custer	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	3	15
Dakota	13	0	6	0	22	1	0	3	49
Dawes	3	0	0	0	19	3	0	0	28
Dawson	0	1	0	0	11	6	15	8	47
Deuel	1	0	0	0	10	5	0	0	16
Dixon	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Dodge	11	1	8	1	65	13	17	13	136
Douglas	1	0	0	0	765	112	24	46	1,057
Dundy	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	7
Fillmore	0	0	0	0	8	0	32	6	47
Franklin	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Frontier	0	0	0	0	9	0	8	2	22
Furnas	6	0	3	1	6	0	1	0	18
Gage	0	0	0	0	11	1	8	6	26
Garden	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Garfield	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Gosper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greeley	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	6
Hall	27	1	9	2	87	17	33	12	217
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	11	5	2	0	20
Harlan	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Hayes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hitchcock	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Holt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Includes Neglect-Dependent and Special Proceedings.

# Appendix B (Continued)

	Without Peition				With Petition				Total Cases* Reported in 1977
	Major		Minor		Major		Minor		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Howard	0	0	2	0	9	2	30	6	49
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	16
Johnson	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	8
Kearney	1	0	1	0	8	0	3	1	16
Keith	1	0	0	1	13	1	5	2	27
Keya Paha	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Kimball	2	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	15
Knox	0	0	0	0	18	1	6	1	31
Lancaster	440	94	88	68	281	47	43	52	1,148
Lincoln	0	6	3	1	70	10	28	18	146
Logan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Madison	2	0	3	2	29	4	6	2	62
McPherson	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Merrick	0	0	0	0	6	3	3	9	25
Morrill	1	1	1	0	9	2	5	2	21
Nance	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Nemaha	0	0	0	0	20	1	0	1	26
Nuckolls	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Otoe	1	0	0	0	19	1	8	1	31
Pawnee	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	2	11
Perkins	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	6
Phelps	0	0	0	1	15	4	6	8	34
Pierce	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	8
Platte	0	0	0	0	63	2	19	12	97
Polk	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	9
Red Willow	0	0	0	0	14	2	2	0	21
Richardson	0	0	0	0	12	2	6	6	34
Rock	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Saline	2	0	0	1	24	2	3	3	37
Sarpy	0	1	0	1	187	39	72	47	373
Saunders	2	0	2	0	41	5	7	5	68
Scotts Bluff	0	0	0	0	90	45	19	20	248
Seward	1	1	0	2	41	5	20	6	83
Sheridan	1	0	1	0	27	1	0	6	48
Sherman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stanton	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	3	9
Thayer	0	0	0	0	6	0	5	0	11
Thomas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	1	0	0	0	4	3	6	3	25
Valley	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	7
Washington	7	2	2	0	19	4	0	1	35
Wayne	0	0	0	0	15	3	21	4	53
Webster	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Wheeler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
York	0	0	0	0	45	7	10	14	79
Total	556	112	163	93	2,405	396	529	388	5,103

# Appendix C

## Major and Minor Offenses by County

1975 Juvenile Population Under 499	1975 Estimated Juvenile Population	Area in Miles <sup>2</sup>	1977 Major Offenses	1977 Minor Offenses
Arthur	171	704	0	0
Banner	296	738	0	0
Blaine	265	710	0	0
Grant	314	764	0	0
Hayes	444	711	0	0
Hooker	292	722	0	0
Keya Paha	427	768	3	0
Logan	350	570	0	0
Loup	276	574	0	1
McPherson	202	856	2	0
Thomas	295	716	0	0
Wheeler	360	576	0	0
1975 Juvenile Population 500-999				
Deuel	720	436	16	0
Dundy	706	921	2	1
Garden	776	1678	3	0
Garfield	631	569	1	1
Gosper	604	464	0	0
Perkins	905	885	2	4
Rock	638	1009	1	0
Sioux	516	2063	0	0
1975 Juvenile Population 1000-4999				
Antelope	2628	853	8	5
Boone	2490	683	2	2
Box Butte	2947	1065	23	11
Boyd	1027	538	1	0
Brown	1179	1218	4	3
Burt	2450	483	12	0
Butler	2700	582	34	44
Cedar	3978	742	3	0
Chase	1164	890	8	5
Cherry	2033	5966	10	0
Cheyenne	3280	1186	38	8
Clay	2542	570	20	3
Colfax	2775	406	10	3
Cuming	3939	571	13	4
Custer	3826	2558	5	5
Dawes	2464	1389	25	0

# Appendix C (Continued)

1975 Juvenile Population 1000-4999	1975 Estimated Juvenile Population	Area in Miles <sup>2</sup>	1977 Major Offenses	1977 Minor Offenses
Dixon	2120	475	7	0
Fillmore	2216	577	8	38
Franklin	1053	578	3	0
Frontier	1081	962	9	10
Furnas	1643	722	12	5
Greeley	1209	570	5	1
Hamilton	2890	537	16	2
Harlan	1102	556	4	0
Hitchcock	1086	712	3	0
Holt	4129	2405	0	0
Howard	2249	564	11	38
Jefferson	2584	577	15	0
Johnson	1576	377	3	5
Kearney	2039	512	9	5
Keith	2802	1032	15	8
Kimball	1943	953	8	4
Knox	3397	1107	19	7
Merrick	2935	480	9	12
Morrill	1602	1402	13	8
Nance	1458	439	1	0
Nemaha	2269	400	21	1
Nuckolls	2089	579	3	0
Otoe	4492	619	21	9
Pawnee	1047	433	5	5
Phelps	2907	524	19	15
Pierce	2702	573	6	1
Polk	1726	432	5	2
Red Willow	3795	686	16	2
Richardson	3210	550	14	12
Saline	3359	575	28	7
Seward	4014	571	48	28
Sheridan	2094	2462	29	7
Sherman	1402	567	0	0
Stanton	1908	431	1	8
Thayer	2009	577	6	5
Thurston	2300	388	8	9
Valley	1572	569	1	6
Washington	4304	386	32	3
Wayne	2710	443	18	25
Webster	1366	575	3	0
York	4173	577	52	24
1975 Juvenile Population 5000-9999				
Adams	9007	562	25	10
Buffalo	9134	952	26	9
Cass	5886	555	42	13
Dakota	5073	255	36	9
Dawson	6213	975	18	23

### Appendix C (Continued)

1975 Juvenile Population 5000-9999	1975 Estimated Juvenile Population	Area in Miles <sup>2</sup>	1977 Major Offenses	1977 Minor Offenses
Gage	6897	858	12	14
Lincoln	9824	2522	95	50
Madison	8734	572	35	13
Platte	9155	667	65	31
Saunders	5008	759	48	14
1975 Juvenile Population 10000-49999				
Dodge	11,610	528	90	39
Hall	14,683	537	132	56
Sarpy	31,062	239	227	120
Scotts Bluff	11,799	726	135	39
1975 Juvenile Population Over 50000				
Douglas	133,978	335	878	70
Lancaster	52,008	845	862	251
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>508,412</b>	<b>76,483</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>1,173</b>

Appendix D includes Major and Minor Offenses handled either with or without a formal petition. For a list of the total cases reported by each county in 1976 (including Neglect-Dependent and Special Proceedings) see Appendix C. The juvenile population figures for this appendix are taken from the medium series projections by county, age 0-17, in *Nebraska Population Projections II*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Nebraska Population Projections II*, Nebraska Economic and Business Reports, Number 14, Bureau of Business Research, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, July, 1976.



## Appendix D

### Major and Minor Offenses by Ethnic Group and Sex

	White		Black		American Indian		Mexican-American		Other		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Forcible Rape	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Robbery: Purse Snatching	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0
Robbery (Except Purse Snatching)	41	8	28	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	72	11
Assault: Aggravated	17	3	12	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	31	9
Assault: All except aggravated	64	22	23	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	91	27
Burglary: Breaking or Entering	486	20	119	2	14	2	19	0	0	0	638	24
Auto theft: Unauthorized Use (Joyriding)	133	17	10	2	4	1	14	0	0	0	161	20
Auto Theft: All except Unauthorized Use	69	6	10	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	81	6
Larceny: Shoplifting	150	114	27	17	2	10	9	9	2	1	190	151
Larceny: All Except Shoplifting	402	34	48	5	8	2	5	3	1	0	464	44
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	24	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	25	2
Sex Offenses (Except Forcible Rape)	10	7	5	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	16	10
Violation of Drug Laws: Narcotic	52	17	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	55	18
Violation of Drug Laws: Except Narcotic	184	44	6	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	193	46
Drunkenness	35	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	36	8

### Appendix D (Continued)

	White		Black		American Indian		Mexican-American		Other		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Disorderly Conduct	35	5	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	41	6
Vandalism	284	20	20	5	8	2	8	1	0	0	320	28
Forger	42	20	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	50	20
Buy, Receive, Possess Stolen Property	89	3	21	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	111	6
Arson	10	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	9
Other Major Offenses	305	48	29	4	4	1	5	2	0	0	343	55
<b>Total Major Offenses</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,941</b>	<b>502</b>
Running Away	41	103	8	4	1	0	0	2	0	1	50	110
Truancy	72	68	1	4	1	2	7	0	1	1	82	75
Curfew Violation	20	16	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	20	18
Ungovernable Behavior	96	100	2	6	0	5	2	2	0	0	100	119
Possess/Drink Liquor	396	134	2	0	6	3	6	4	2	0	412	141
Other Minor Offenses	20	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	11
<b>Total Major and Minor Offenses</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>474</b>
<b>Total Major and Minor Offenses</b>	<b>3,083</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3,625</b>	<b>976</b>



**END**