

**JUVENILE JUSTICE
IN CONNECTICUT**
A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY



58583

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

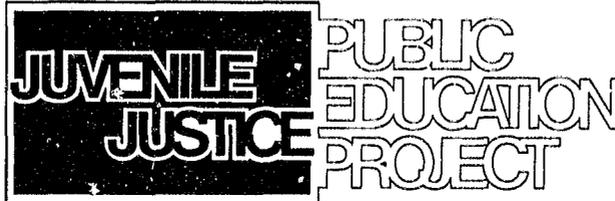
April, 1979

HIGHLIGHTS

Of Connecticut Opinion

This new survey of public opinion on juvenile justice in Connecticut covered a sample of 720 people throughout Connecticut, who were interviewed by telephone February 21 through March 6, 1979. A full technical report is available for inspection through the Juvenile Justice Public Education Project.

- 81% agreed that "when a kid **runs away**, the whole family needs help."
- 60% thought "the only kids who really need to be locked up are **repeated serious offenders**."
- 75% said that "more **tax dollars** should be spent keeping kids out of jail, rather than in jail."
- Juvenile crime ranked low on the list of problems in Connecticut. Just 2.6% said juvenile crime was "the **most important problem** facing Connecticut," while taxes (20%) and energy (11%) led the list. A majority (56%) knew that juvenile jurisdiction only went up to age 16, and most (44%) were aware that "the number of serious offenders is a very small percentage of juvenile offenders."
- **Juvenile court** can be just as tough and effective as adult court, 52% said. Most don't think it has done all that it could, though; there is strong feeling (59%) that juvenile court can do a better job.
- **Swift Justice**—especially *quick handling* of offenders who hurt people—was the change Connecticut wanted most, 86% said.
- Runaways and truants should **not be court cases**, 86% said.
- 42% said they would house a **runaway** in their *homes*. Further, 58% "wouldn't mind having a **home for juvenile offenders**" in their neighborhoods.



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ACQUISITIONS

SURVEY SUMMARY

Helping runaways and their families, quickening court action, and providing sterner treatment for repeated serious offenders were findings that stood out among the consensus in this survey of public opinion on juvenile justice in Connecticut.

As important as the specific opinions was the evidence that most opinions were reasoned and calm. There was little evidence that opinions resulted from blind fear or alarm. As a rule, the opposite was true. Opinions sorted questions carefully, reacted to problems reasonably, and demonstrated surprising consistency.

In some respects, these are refreshing findings, since it is said sometimes that panic has set in and only drastic measures can quell it. There was neither a state of panic nor a desire for Draconian solutions.

Probably the most important part of the survey was its accuracy. The sample was 720 Connecticut residents, who were interviewed by telephone February 21 to March 6, 1979. That's a slightly larger sample and a more reliable technique for interviewing than many surveys of the state have used. More details of the survey's design are available in the technical summary which is Part II. The technical information basically goes to show two things:

- 1) The survey is the most up-to-date tally of Connecticut opinion on juvenile justice. Further, it taps public opinion more deeply and reliably than any other available source.
- 2) The people interviewed for the survey represent Connecticut's population unusually well. Sex, residence, and income were measured in the survey. They were compared very closely to census figures for the state. The education and age comparison showed differences that indicated people with higher educations were more willing to respond.

Highlights of opinion on specific questions are given on the first page of this summary. Responses to all opinion and information questions are listed in the "Direct Responses to Questions," which follows.

More general conclusions that bear on major concerns in juvenile justice today are summarized below. Note that all percentages in this portion of the summary are unadjusted. Stating them that way includes those with "no strong opinion" in the response. For Tables A and B, response is adjusted to delete those with no opinion.

1. Opinion generally favored deinstitutionalization of status offenders. Some of the strongest agreement expressed in the survey occurred around these issues.
 - 80.7% agreed that "when a kid runs away, the whole family needs help."
 - 75.4% said "more tax dollars should be spent keeping kids out of jail rather than keeping them in" jail (Q23).
 - 55% thought "runaways and truants should not wind up in court" (Q9)
 - 53.5% did not think the names of anyone arrested should be made public. Further, respondents clearly differentiated serious offenders and switched their opinion on this issue toward them, as described below.
 - 42.4% would house a runaway in their homes, while 43.5% would not. Further, 58.2% would accept a home for juveniles in the neighborhood, while disagreement on this point went down to 28.5%. Those with "no strong opinion" stayed about the same for both questions (Q12 and Q16), at 13%.
 - 60.7% thought "police should be able to arrest kids if their parents cannot control them."

2. Opinion generally favored sterner measures for serious juvenile offenders, with recognition that the problem was not huge. The public is not being stampeded, but it is concerned. Swift justice for offenses where people are hurt (Q20) was the most agreed upon (86%) point in the survey. Yet this was not overtly demanding drastic measures; respondents seemed to care that a comprehensive range of responses be provided. The firmest treatment appeared to be cautiously reserved for the most serious cases, where other means had failed (e.g., cf. Q14 and Q25).
 - 44.3% agreed that "the number of serious offenders is a very small percentage of juvenile offenders." While 41.4% disagreed (and 14.3% held no opinion). (cf. Q15).
 - 62.9% supported making public "the names of juveniles arrested for crimes like murder, rape, robbery, etc." Again, the answer was discriminating. In comparison, 53.5% opposed making public "the names of anyone arrested, including juveniles."
 - 52.6% thought "juvenile court can be just as tough and effective with kids as adult court." A full 30% disagreed. Nonetheless, 59.2% did not think "juvenile courts are a success," while only 17.1% did, and a hefty 23.6% didn't know.
 - 42.8% agreed that "Connecticut already has a law which allows juveniles to be tried in adult courts for serious crimes;" 30.4% had no opinion.
 - 40.1% agreed that "a 15 year-old "robber" deserves the same punishment an adult would get." 59.3% disagreed and no opinion.
 - 59.9% agreed that "the only kids who really need to be locked up are repeated serious offenders."

3. The pattern of opinion generally was reasoned and consistent. There was little evidence that fear motivated opinion in Connecticut. The suggestion was unmistakable that opinion was rather well informed.
 - Juvenile crime generally ranked low on the list of major problems (Q4) facing the state. This was particularly noticeable since that question was asked moments after the interviewer indicated this was a juvenile justice survey. The low rank of juvenile crime, despite this probable "prompting," argues against a state of alarm in public opinion.
 - While this survey focused on opinion rather than knowledge, it appears that the population possessed somewhat higher levels of information than might have been thought. Most (56%) knew that juveniles only went up to age 16, for example. One-in-six were able to explain the difference between such technical concepts as "status offenders" and "serious offenders," without prompting; 82% didn't know.
 - Estimates of the number of status offenders and serious offenders showed guesswork, but were not wild. More than half declined even to guess.
 - Cross-correlations of opinion were remarkably consistent.
4. Residence did not effect opinion significantly. While major city residents were more likely to think that poverty was the most important source of crime, there was no significant correlation between residence and any of the "status offender" or "serious offender" opinions. Being a parent also had little influence on such opinions.
5. The opinions are not fused together. A single person was unlikely to agree with all opinions in the status offender group, even though the opinions between ranges (status offenders v. serious offender, for example) were likely to be consistent overall.
 - No single factor or pair of factors "explained" any group of opinions in the survey.
6. Opinion often proceeds from personal experience. Government information and media reports are not relied upon widely.
 - 39.4% said they "don't trust juvenile justice statistics," while 26.4% disagreed and a hefty 34% had no strong opinion.
7. Broad "linkage" of the opinions was evident. There was a parallel between a desire for more help for families, instead of court treatment, for runaways on the one hand, and quicker, adult court treatment of juvenile murderers, robbers, and the like.
8. Radio audiences were more likely to believe:
 - names of juveniles arrested should be made public (52.5% of radio v. 37.5% of newspapers).
 - taxes should not be used to keep kids out of jail (31.7% of radio v. 13.1% of newspapers and 16% of TV).

DIRECT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

| Questions | Responses | # | % |
|--|----------------|-----|------|
| Q4--What do you consider the most important problem facing the State of Connecticut? | Taxes-Budget | 141 | 19.6 |
| | Energy-Gas | 82 | 11.4 |
| | Inflation | 72 | 10.0 |
| | Crime | 48 | 6.7 |
| | Unemployment | 37 | 5.1 |
| | Juvenile Crime | 19 | 2.6 |
| | Other* | 161 | 22.4 |
| | No Opinion | 160 | 22.2 |
| Q5--The age of persons handled by Connecticut Juvenile Courts goes up to | 16 | 403 | 56.0 |
| | 18 | 137 | 19.0 |
| | 21 | 6 | .8 |
| | Don't know | 174 | 24.2 |
| Q6--In Connecticut two classes of juvenile offenders are status offenders and serious offenders. What is the difference between the two classes? | Knows | 128 | 17.8 |
| | Doesn't know | 589 | 81.8 |
| Q7--Kids getting into a little trouble is normal. | Agree | 561 | 77.9 |
| | Disagree | 133 | 18.5 |
| | No Opinion | 26 | 3.6 |
| Q8--The number of serious offenders is a very small percentage of juvenile offenders. | Agree | 319 | 44.3 |
| | Disagree | 298 | 41.4 |
| | No Opinion | 103 | 14.3 |
| Q9--Runaways and truants should not wind up in court. | Agree | 402 | 55.8 |
| | Disagree | 231 | 32.1 |
| | No Opinion | 86 | 11.9 |
| Q10--There's too much soft treatment of criminals. | Agree | 556 | 77.2 |
| | Disagree | 100 | 13.9 |
| | No Opinion | 63 | 8.7 |
| Q11--Juvenile courts are a success. | Agree | 123 | 17.1 |
| | Disagree | 426 | 59.2 |
| | No Opinion | 170 | 23.6 |

* All items in the "other" category ranked below 2.6% of the responses. Among those which appeared most were "school finance" and "drinking age."

| Questions | Responses | # | % |
|---|------------|-----|------|
| Q12--I would consider having a runaway stay in my home if I had the room and the kid needed a roof over his head for a couple of weeks. | Agree | 305 | 42.4 |
| | Disagree | 313 | 43.5 |
| | No Opinion | 100 | 13.9 |
| Q13--The names of anyone arrested should be made public, including juveniles. | Agree | 274 | 38.1 |
| | Disagree | 385 | 53.5 |
| | No Opinion | 59 | 8.2 |
| Q14--The only kids who really need to be locked up are repeated serious offenders. | Agree | 431 | 59.9 |
| | Disagree | 213 | 29.6 |
| | No Opinion | 74 | 10.3 |
| Q15--Overall, juvenile crime is going down. | Agree | 65 | 9.0 |
| | Disagree | 563 | 78.2 |
| | No Opinion | 91 | 12.6 |
| Q16--I wouldn't mind having a home for juvenile offenders in my neighborhood. | Agree | 419 | 58.2 |
| | Disagree | 205 | 28.5 |
| | No Opinion | 94 | 13.1 |
| Q17--I don't trust juvenile justice statistics. | Agree | 284 | 39.4 |
| | Disagree | 189 | 26.2 |
| | No Opinion | 245 | 34.0 |
| Q18--Connecticut already has a law which allows juveniles to be tried in adult courts for serious crime. | Agree | 308 | 42.8 |
| | Disagree | 191 | 26.5 |
| | No Opinion | 219 | 30.4 |
| Q19--Poverty is the most important cause of crime. | Agree | 256 | 35.6 |
| | Disagree | 428 | 59.4 |
| | No Opinion | 34 | 4.7 |
| Q20--Courts should be quick in handling criminals who hurt people. | Agree | 619 | 86.0 |
| | Disagree | 68 | 9.4 |
| | No Opinion | 31 | 4.3 |
| Q21--When a kid runs away, the whole family needs help. | Agree | 581 | 80.7 |
| | Disagree | 96 | 13.3 |
| | No Opinion | 41 | 5.7 |
| Q22--The names of juveniles arrested for crimes like murder, rape, robbery, etc., should be made public. | Agree | 453 | 62.9 |
| | Disagree | 195 | 27.1 |
| | No Opinion | 69 | 9.6 |

| Questions | Responses | # | % |
|--|------------------|-----|------|
| Q23--More tax dollars should be spent keeping kids out of jail rather than keeping them in. | Agree | 543 | 75.4 |
| | Disagree | 97 | 13.5 |
| | No Opinion | 77 | 10.7 |
| Q24--Juvenile court can be just as tough and effective with kids as adult court. | Agree | 379 | 52.6 |
| | Disagree | 216 | 30.0 |
| | No Opinion | 122 | 16.9 |
| Q25--If a 15 year-old commits a robbery, he deserves the same punishment an adult would get. | Agree | 289 | 40.1 |
| | Disagree | 329 | 45.7 |
| | No Opinion | 98 | 13.6 |
| Q26--The police should be able to arrest kids if their parents cannot control them. | Agree | 437 | 60.7 |
| | Disagree | 190 | 26.4 |
| | No Opinion | 89 | 12.4 |
| Q27--Most juveniles don't get any help when they are in trouble. | Agree | 350 | 48.6 |
| | Disagree | 231 | 32.1 |
| | No Opinion | 135 | 18.8 |
| Q28--Locking up juveniles is used more to punish juveniles than to protect society. | Agree | 440 | 61.1 |
| | Disagree | 152 | 21.1 |
| | No Opinion | 123 | 17.1 |
| Q29--How many runaways would you guess there were reported to Juvenile Court in Conn. last year? | Less than 100 | 12 | 1.7 |
| | 100 to 1,000 | 108 | 15.0 |
| | 1,000 - 10,000 | 175 | 24.3 |
| | More than 10,000 | 53 | 7.4 |
| | Doesn't know | 368 | 51.1 |
| Q30--How many juveniles would you guess were referred to Juvenile Court for robbery or assault in Connecticut last year? | Less than 100 | 30 | 4.2 |
| | 100 to 1,000 | 139 | 19.3 |
| | 1,000 - 10,000 | 132 | 18.3 |
| | More than 10,000 | 52 | 7.2 |
| | Doesn't know | 363 | 50.4 |

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II. Technical Summary

Telephone interviews took place February 21 through March 6, 1979, from 5-9:30 p.m.

Interviews were chosen by random digit dialing, using the 272 active exchanges in Connecticut for the three-digit prefix. Like the prefixes, the four-digit suffixes for each telephone number were randomly selected by computer. Business phones and respondents under 12 years of age were excluded. Three callbacks were attempted for phones which did not answer initially.

Random digit dialing was chosen over other survey techniques for several reasons. It guarantees a true random sampling of phone numbers which is free of bias from Connecticut's high proportion of unlisted or unpublished phone numbers. Previous studies of random digit dialing also provide assurance that this kind of sampling represents all socioeconomic groups proportionately--especially in states like Connecticut, where there are more telephones than households. Finally, it is efficient and speedy.

Of all contacts, roughly 63% responded. The median completion time for calls was 5-6 minutes, though many calls ran longer. A number of respondents found the questions engaging and wanted to discuss them, encouraging confidence in the reliability of the results.

The interviewers were selected and trained by Sigma Associates. The interviewer survey form is attached as Appendix I. Sigma Associates supervised each nightly calling period. Sigma also made random checks of respondents' numbers checked as completed, to verify the accuracy of call reports.

A total sample of 720 respondents was obtained in this manner.

This sample size yields accuracy of $\pm 4\%$ for all demographic, opinion and cross-tabulated responses.

Because the survey also collected demographic information, it was possible to compare the sample against census information about Connecticut's population to double-check its accuracy. Although this procedure generally was reassuring, the age of census data left room for considerable variation that will be difficult to detect until the 1980 census is completed. Breakdowns by sex, town of residence, and income compared very closely to Connecticut census figures. There was a higher response from respondents with higher education levels.

When the comparisons were complete, it was concluded that the respondents in this survey are a representative sample of the Connecticut population above the age of 18, with the exception of the education bias.

TABLE A

Cross-correlations between all opinion questions (Q7-Q28) were calculated. These are shown in "Table A - Significance Levels for Two-Way Tables of Opinion Variables."

The lower triangular portion of the table shows the strength of the correlation as measured by a standard statistical test known as "chi-square."

The upper triangular portion of the table highlights correlations of some significance. The "+" and "-" symbols indicate positive or negative correlations that are near significance (less than .1 but greater than .01).

Where symbols are parenthesized, as "(+)" or "(-)," it indicates significant correlations (.01 and less). There were 34 correlations between opinion questions at this level of significance.

TABLE B

Correlations also were calculated between the opinion questions (Q7-Q28) and the demographic or related information gathered in the survey. The results are shown in Table B.

The first column, "majority position," gives the adjusted frequency (or percentage of response) to each question. The adjusted frequency is derived by deleting all "no opinion" responses from the tallies. Note that both Tables A and B are based on adjusted frequencies.

A "+" or "-" sign is used to mean "agree" or "disagree" in all columns in Table B. Thus, for example, on Q7 (Kids getting in some trouble is normal), 81% agreed, females were more likely to agree (F+), parents (category 1 in question 35) were less likely to agree (1-), students were more likely to agree (category 1 in question 33 re. occupation) while housewives and the retired were more likely to disagree (categories 2 and 6 in questions 33), and so on. It is necessary to refer to the survey instrument, attached as Appendix I, to translate each of the category numbers under each column.

Arrows in Table B indicate trends of opinion. When an arrow slants upward, it signifies that opinion increasingly avored the question's proposition from the first demographic category through the last one. Conversely, arrows that slant downwards, indicate that disagreement increased from the first demographic category in the questionnaire through the last.

In addition to the demographic breakdowns of respondents, correlations were calculated for questions 3, 6, 29, and 30. There appears to be little information in questions 6, 29, and 30 since more than 50% had no opinion and the rest seem to be guessing.

Question 3 assayed concerned citizens who contacted a public figure within the last year and showed some correlation with opinion (Q 8, 10, 16, 21, 25 and 27) indicating somewhat more sympathy for juveniles and status offenders.

The "likely voter" was synthesized from any 3 of the following 5 categories: (1) resident of suburban or medium-sized town; (2) 35 or older; (3) housewife, professional or retiree; (4) at least some college education; and (5) family income in excess of \$20,000. Approximately one-half of the sample fell in this category.

TABLE A

Significance Levels for Two-Way Tables
of Opinion Variables

| Question | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 7 | | (+) | | | | (+) | | | + | (+) | | | | | | | | | | | (+) | |
| 8 | .002 | | (+) | - | + | | - | (+) | | | | | | | | | + | | (-) | | | |
| 9 | .642 | .006 | | | | | | | | | | | - | | | | | | | - | (+) | (+) |
| 10 | .734 | .052 | .893 | | - | | + | + | | | | | - | | | (+) | | | (+) | + | | |
| 11 | .376 | .047 | .502 | .012 | | | | | (+) | | - | + | | - | | | + | (+) | | | | - |
| 12 | .005 | .911 | .253 | .149 | .410 | | (-) | | | (+) | | | | | (+) | (-) | + | | - | | + | |
| 13 | .271 | .038 | .193 | .017 | .350 | .003 | | | | (-) | | | | | | (+) | (-) | | (+) | (+) | (-) | |
| 14 | .113 | .005 | .249 | .095 | .383 | 1 | .612 | | | | | + | | + | | + | | + | | | | |
| 15 | .041 | .579 | .240 | .104 | .000 | .731 | .522 | .868 | | | | | (+) | - | - | | | | | | | - |
| 16 | .001 | .815 | .504 | .258 | .243 | .000 | .000 | .683 | .334 | | | | | | | | (+) | | (-) | | + | |
| 17 | .244 | .812 | .929 | .928 | .073 | .550 | .184 | .567 | .724 | .916 | | | | + | | | | | | | + | |
| 18 | .800 | .581 | .024 | .672 | .038 | .164 | .884 | .028 | .107 | .209 | .231 | | | | - | | | | (+) | (+) | | |
| 19 | .530 | .558 | .668 | .038 | .063 | .632 | .269 | .158 | .001 | .614 | .426 | .396 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | .933 | .151 | .954 | .865 | .019 | .506 | .154 | .003 | .029 | .243 | .017 | .349 | .963 | | | | | | | | | + |
| 21 | .993 | .800 | .248 | .974 | .347 | .003 | .366 | .602 | .029 | .562 | .194 | .025 | .936 | .198 | | | + | | | | (+) | |
| 22 | .650 | .585 | .720 | .000 | .900 | .009 | .000 | .011 | .913 | .269 | .123 | .103 | .607 | .163 | .315 | | - | | (+) | (+) | | |
| 23 | .697 | .029 | .179 | .128 | .063 | .048 | .000 | .550 | .948 | .001 | .819 | .732 | .542 | .733 | .050 | .015 | | + | (-) | - | (+) | |
| 24 | .209 | .504 | .545 | .211 | .000 | .653 | .109 | .017 | .970 | .755 | .139 | .679 | .803 | .969 | .668 | .305 | .012 | | | | | |
| 25 | .767 | .006 | .035 | .000 | .690 | .039 | .000 | .448 | .586 | .000 | .291 | .003 | .305 | .839 | .139 | .000 | .000 | .980 | | (+) | | |
| 26 | .962 | .645 | .104 | .019 | .771 | .854 | .000 | .870 | .722 | .729 | .581 | .001 | .154 | .568 | .246 | .000 | .045 | .347 | .000 | | - | - |
| 27 | .010 | .913 | .003 | .642 | .975 | .088 | .008 | .956 | .689 | .034 | .022 | .465 | .260 | .806 | .001 | .102 | .000 | .962 | .197 | .018 | | + |
| 28 | .857 | .575 | .005 | .845 | .076 | .665 | .895 | .257 | .025 | .634 | .894 | .193 | .738 | .065 | .633 | .934 | .961 | .940 | .969 | .075 | .011 | |

TABLE B

| Question | Majority Position | Sex | Age | Income | Education | Parent | Town | Occupation | Source | Q3 | Q6 | Q29 | Q30 | Likely Voter |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|--------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|----------------|--------|----------|----|-------|-------------|--------------|
| Q7 Kids in some trouble normal | +81 | F+ | | | | 1- | | 1+, 2-, 6- | | | | | | 2- |
| Q8 % Serious Offenders small | +52 | F- | | | → | | 2, 3+ | | | 2+ | | | | 2+ |
| Q9 Runaways not in court | +63 | | 1-, 3+ | | → | | | | | | 2+ | | | 2+ |
| Q10 Too much soft treatment | +85 | | | | 5- | | | | | 1, 2+ | | | | |
| Q11 Juvenile court success | -78 | | | | → | | | 3- | | | | 3, 4- | ↘ | 2- |
| Q12 Have runaway in home | -51 | | | | | | | | | 1, 2+ | | | | |
| Q13 Names of all arrested public | -58 | | 4+ | 1+ | | | 3+ 1- | 5+, 6+ | 2+ | 1+ 2- | | | | |
| Q14 Only lock up serious repeaters | +67 | | | | → | | | 1-, 4- | | | | | | 2+ |
| Q15 Juvenile crime down | -90 | F- | 4+ | | → | | | 1-, 3-, 5+, 6+ | 2- | | | | | 2- |
| Q16 Home for juvenile OK | +67 | | | | | | | | | 1, 2+ | | 1, 4- | | |
| Q17 Don't trust statistics | +60 | | | | | | | | | 2+ | | | | |
| Q18 Juveniles tried adult court | +62 | | | | | | | | | | | 2, 5+ | 3- 5+ | |
| Q19 Poverty most imp. cause | -63 | | | | ↘ | | 4+ 2+ | | | | 2- | | 1, 4+ | 2- |
| Q20 Handle quickly those who hurt | +90 | | | | | | | | | | | 1- | | 2+ |
| Q21 Run away, family needs help | +86 | | 1-, 3+ | | → | | | 6+, 2+, 1- | | 1, 2+ | | | | 2+ |
| Q22 Serious crime, name public | +70 | | ↗ | | 4, 5- | | | | | | | | | 2+ |
| Q23 Use taxes to keep out of jail | +85 | F+ | | | → | | 2+ 4- | | 2- | | | | | 2+ |
| Q24 Juvenile court just as tough | +64 | F+ | | | | | | | | | | 5+ | 1+ 2, 4- | |
| Q25 15 yr. robber, same punishment | -53 | | | | → | | | 5+, 6+, 2+ | | 2- | | ↘ | | |
| Q26 Allow police to arrest | +70 | | | 1, 3+ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q27 Do not get help | +60 | F+ | ↘ | | | 1- | | | | 1- 2+ | | | | |
| Q28 Lock up to punish | +74 | | | | 1- | | | | | | | | | |

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APPENDIX I

Survey Instrument

Good evening. My name is _____. I am conducting a survey for the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Project. Your phone number has been selected at random. All responses will be kept confidential. Would you be willing to spend a few minutes to answer some questions? (If respondent is hesitant add - "Your answers are important. They will help decisionmakers involved in juvenile justice.") (If commercial phone, terminate call.)

- 0. Note if respondent is male or female: (1) male (2) female
- 1. Where do you get most of your news about Connecticut?
(1) T.V. (2) Radio (3) Newspaper (4) Other _____
- 2. (a. If T.V., which station _____)
(b. If Radio, which station _____)
(c. If Newspaper, which newspaper _____)

(If specific names of individuals or programs are mentioned, please record.)

- 3. Have you ever contacted a newspaper, radio station, or politician about state issue? (1) Yes (2) No
- 3a. If yes, have you done so within the past year? (1) Yes (2) No
- 4. What do you consider the most important problem facing the State of Connecticut?

- 5. The age of persons handled by Connecticut Juvenile Courts goes up to _____
(1) 16 (2) 18 (3) 21 (4) don't know

(Clarify regardless, that the answer is 16.)

- 6. In Connecticut two classes of juvenile offenders are status offenders and serious offenders. What is the difference between the two classes?
(1) respondent knows (2) doesn't know
- (Clarify regardless that: a. Status offenders are persons under the age of 16 who commit acts which if committed by adults, would not be crimes, such as running away or truancy.
b. Serious offenders are persons under the age of 16 who commit offenses involving violence or the imminent threat of violence, such as assault, robbery, rape or murder.)

Now, I would like to ask your opinion on a number of statements. Please tell me whether you agree, disagree or have no strong opinion.

- 7. Kids getting into a little trouble is normal.
- 8. The number of serious offenders is a very small percentage of juvenile offenders.

9. Runaways and truants should not wind up in court.
10. There's too much soft treatment of criminals.
11. Juvenile courts are a success.
12. I would consider having a runaway stay in my home if I had room and the kid needed a roof over his head for a couple of weeks.
13. The names of anyone arrested should be made public, including juveniles.
14. The only kids who really need to be locked up are repeated serious offenders.
15. Overall, juvenile crime is going down.
16. I wouldn't mind having a home for juvenile offenders in my neighborhood.
17. I don't trust juvenile justice statistics.
18. Connecticut already has a law which allows juveniles to be tried in adult courts for serious crimes.
19. Poverty is the most important cause of crime.
20. Courts should be quick in handling criminals who hurt people.
21. When a kid runs away, the whole family needs help.
22. The names of juveniles arrested for crimes like murder, rape, robbery, etc., should be made public.
23. More tax dollars should be spent keeping kids out of jail rather than keeping them in.
24. Juvenile court can be just as tough and effective with kids as adult court.
25. If a 15 year old commits a robbery, he deserves the same punishment an adult would get.
26. The police should be able to arrest kids if their parents cannot control them.
27. Most juveniles don't get any help when they are in trouble.
28. Locking up juveniles is used more to punish juveniles than to protect society.
29. How many runaways would you guess there were reported to Juvenile Court in Connecticut last year?
 (1) less than 100 (2) 100 to 1000 (3) 1000 to 10,000 (4) more than 10,000
 (5) don't know
30. How many juveniles would you guess were referred to Juvenile Court for robbery or assault in Connecticut last year?
 (1) less than 100 (2) 100 to 1000 (3) 1000 to 10,000 (4) more than 10,000
 (5) don't know

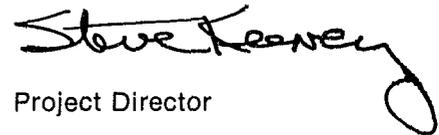
31. In what town do you live?
32. In which of the following age categories do you fall?
(1) under 18 (2) 19-34 (3) 35-49 (4) 50 and above
33. What is your occupation? (1) Student (2) Housewife (3) Professional (4)
Non-Professional (5) Unemployed (6) Retired (7) Law Related Profession
34. What was the highest level of schooling you completed?
(1) didn't finish high school (2) high school grad (3) some college
(4) college grad (5) grad work
35. Do you have any children? (1) Yes (2) No
36. Into which category does your yearly (family) income fall?
(1) less than 15,000 (2) 15,000 to 20,000 (3) 20,000 to 30,000
(4) 30,000 to 50,000 (5) 50,000 +
37. Anecdotal comments:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. WE APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH. GOODBYE.

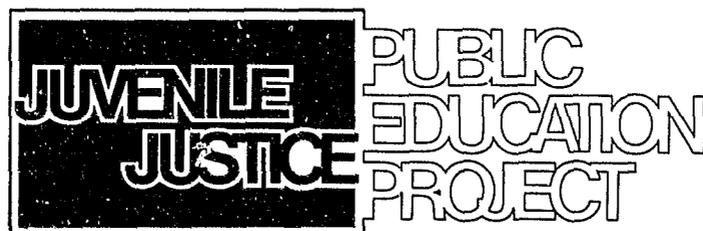
This survey was conducted by Sigma Associates, a Connecticut firm specializing in statistics, for the Juvenile Justice Public Education Project (JJ/PEP).

JJ/PEP is a new project funded by the Connecticut Child Welfare Association, Inc., the Connecticut Justice Commission, and the Department of Children and Youth Services, DSO Project.

The purpose of JJ/PEP is to provide a reliable central source of information on Juvenile Justice for the public. You are invited to contact JJ/PEP for more information on the survey, or for answers to other questions you may have about Juvenile Justice.

Steve Keane

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END