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# Update on Juvenile Crime and Justice in Arizona 1979

A Report from The Arizona State  
Justice Planning Agency Statistical Analysis Center

**70820**

**PLANNING AGENCY**

UPDATE ON  
JUVENILE CRIME AND JUSTICE  
IN ARIZONA - 1979

Arizona State Justice Planning Agency  
Richard C. Wertz  
Executive Director

A Report From The  
Statistical Analysis Center  
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Statistical Analysis Center  
Professional Plaza, Suite 400  
4820 N. Black Canyon Freeway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85017  
602-255-5466

Terrie L. Krieg  
Lynn A. Wiletsky  
Judith L. Henkel

Assistant Director  
Research & Statistical Analyst  
Secretary

NCJRS

SEP 11 1980

ASST. DIRECTOR

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INTRODUCTION

Arizona has a young population - nearly one-third of its citizens are juveniles seventeen years of age or under. Youths thirteen through seventeen account for over one-fourth of the state's total arrests. An analysis of data on juvenile crime and the administration of justice indicates that youthful involvement within the Juvenile Court setting centers around the following two areas:

- Property offenses - burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft;
- Status offenses - curfew, runaway, and liquor law violations.\*

UPDATE ON JUVENILE CRIME AND JUSTICE IN ARIZONA is designed for use by Arizona criminal justice planners and administrators. For Arizona citizens, it is distributed as a resource from which they may learn about the nature of juvenile crime and the Arizona juvenile justice system.

Information presented within this report was compiled and analyzed from many sources:

- The Arizona Uniform Crime Reports;
- The Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Director's Office;
- Data summaries and annual reports from many Arizona agencies;
- Telephone and mail surveys conducted by the Statistical Analysis Center;
- State plans and documents.

This report is divided into three sections. The first discusses the juvenile justice system in Arizona and lists definitions of terms. Juvenile crime statistics are presented in the second section, while components of the juvenile justice system are discussed in the last.

\*Juvenile liquor law violations involve to a great degree, arrests for possession of an alcoholic beverage. This is considered a status offense since adults cannot be arrested for possession of liquor. References in this book to juvenile liquor law violations pertain to possession of an alcoholic beverage, however, the Arizona Uniform Crime Reports (AUCR) do not delineate the various offenses within the liquor law violations category.

## ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

### PHILOSOPHY OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The criminal justice system within Arizona performs many diverse functions including police protection, judicial services, prosecution, public defense, and corrections. Juveniles in Arizona violating the law are processed through the criminal justice system; however, procedures dealing with youthful offenders are different from those dealing with adults.

Juvenile divisions, more than court divisions with criminal jurisdiction, have a rehabilitative orientation. In addition to protecting the community, the Juvenile Court has the mission of nurturing positive change in the child.

The Juvenile Court was originally conceived as a separate system to handle youth cases in a non-adversary mode. The principles of a separate juvenile system include:

- Children, because of their young age and dependent status, should not be held as accountable as adult transgressors;
- The objective of juvenile justice is to help the child, to heal and rehabilitate rather than to punish;
- The system should avoid the formalized trappings and labeling of the adult criminal process.

In the Juvenile Court, the judge acts in the place of the parent (parens patriae) to wisely see that the child is provided with the kind of care, protection, and treatment that he is not receiving at home. The legal doctrine of "parens patriae" gives the power of the state to the Court to act in behalf of the child as a wise parent would do. However, this doctrine does not authorize the court to take over the duties of the natural parents without just cause.

Differences in procedures - as well as the desire to set the juvenile system apart from the adult system - have resulted in the development of specialized terminology for the juvenile justice system. For example, the document upon which proceedings are brought against a youthful offender does not charge delinquency, incorrigibility, or dependency; it alleges it. This document is not an indictment or information, but a petition. The court in determining whether a juvenile, who is the subject of a petition, is in fact delinquent, incorrigible, or dependent does not convict; it adjudicates. This process of deciding what to do with an adjudicated juvenile is not sentencing; it is disposition. These terms and others pertaining to the juvenile justice system are defined in the following subsection.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE TERMINOLOGY

- Adjudicated - Having been the subject of completed juvenile proceedings and found to be a delinquent, a status offender, or a dependent. For example, an adjudication that a juvenile has committed a delinquent act is similar to a conviction in a criminal court.
- Adjust - Choosing not to handle a complaint in a formal manner.

- Advisory Hearing - A hearing that allows the juvenile to be informed of the allegations against him and to provide an opportunity for entry of a plea.
- Commitment - The action of a judicial officer ordering that an adjudicated delinquent or status offender be admitted into a correctional facility.
- Community Facility or Treatment Center - A correctional facility from which residents are regularly permitted to depart, unaccompanied by any official, for the purpose of daily use of community resources such as schools. Examples are Boys Ranch in Queen Creek, Florence Crittendon in Phoenix, and Brandeis Ranch in Flagstaff.
- Correctional Institution - A secure facility having custodial authority over delinquents and status offenders committed to confinement after a juvenile disposition hearing.
- Deinstitutionalization - The policy of removing youthful offenders from secure detention or correctional facilities to placement within nonsecure facilities such as foster homes or runaway centers.
- Delinquent - A juvenile who has been adjudicated by a judicial officer as having committed a delinquent act, which is an act for which an adult could be prosecuted in a criminal court.
- Dependent - A juvenile over whom a Juvenile Court has assumed jurisdiction because it has found his care by parent, guardian, or custodian to fall short of a legal standard of proper care, by being neglected, abandoned, or abused.
- Detention - The legally authorized holding in confinement of a person subject to Juvenile Court proceedings, until the point of release or commitment to a correctional facility.
- Disposition - The decision of a Juvenile Court that a juvenile be committed to a correctional facility, placed in a care or treatment program, placed on probation, or released.
- Disposition Hearing - A hearing conducted after an adjudication hearing to determine the most appropriate placement of the juvenile.
- Group Home - A non-confining residential facility for adjudicated juveniles, intended to reproduce as closely as possible the circumstances of family life, and at a minimum, providing access to community activities and resources. Examples include the Bunkhouse in Glendale, Vision Quest in Tucson, and Children's Village in Yuma.
- Incurable - A juvenile who is found by the Juvenile Court to be beyond the control of and/or refuses to obey his parent or legal guardian.
- Juvenile - A person subject to juvenile court proceedings because an event occurred while his age was below the specified limit of original jurisdiction. Although the age limit varies in different states, it is most often the eighteenth birthday, as it is in Arizona.

- Parole - The status of a committed offender conditionally released from a state or federal confinement facility prior to the expiration of his commitment, and placed under the supervision of a parole agency.
- Petition - A document filed in Juvenile Court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent, a status offender, or a dependent, and asking that the court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile, or asking that the juvenile be transferred to a criminal court for prosecution as an adult.
- Probation - The conditional freedom granted by a judicial officer to an adjudicated juvenile offender, as long as the youth meets certain conditions of behavior.
- Referral - A request by the police, parents, or other agency or person, that a court take appropriate action concerning a juvenile alleged to have committed a delinquent act, a status offense, or to be dependent.
- Status Offense - An act or conduct which is declared by statute to be an offense, but only when committed or engaged in by a juvenile. Typical status offenses are violation of curfew, running away from home, truancy, possession of an alcoholic beverage, and incorrigibility.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP) was passed by Congress as a result of nationwide concern about the areas of juvenile delinquency, runaway youth, and the apparent problems encountered by the juvenile justice system and the community in dealing with these areas. The Act provides financial assistance to states for the implementation of local delinquency prevention and diversion programs, and nonsecure alternatives to incarceration. However, any state receiving funds must deinstitutionalize status offenders by 1980 and must prohibit the joint confinement of juveniles and adults to the extent that no physical sound or sight contact is possible. States must also maintain a monitoring system to assure compliance with the status offender and separation requirements, develop an annual juvenile justice plan, and create a statewide Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. The JJDP Act also emphasizes the total removal of juveniles from all adult jails and lock-ups including local police department jails.

The deinstitutionalization requirement of the Act has proved to be the most controversial. If return to the home is not possible, the JJDP Act requires that a status offender be placed in a nonsecure facility such as a foster home, emergency shelter care facility, or runaway center. Most of the federal funds received by Arizona have been devoted to developing shelter care programs and prevention services. However, the amount of JJDP funds has been limited and is insufficient to develop adequate shelter care programs to totally remove all status offenders from detention centers. Deinstitutionalization does not withdraw the status offender from the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court or prohibit the apprehension and arrest of runaways, truants, or incorrigibles by law enforcement agencies. The Court is, however, limited in the use of detention as a disposition for status offender behavior.

The JJDP Act assumes that a preventive response to status offender behavior is more appropriate than incarceration which might increase a child's alienation and resentment. The Act promotes the return of the child to the family unit with utilization of community services to relieve and prevent further family strife.

Arizona officially committed itself to participate in the Act in December 1976. In efforts to achieve compliance with the status offender requirement by 1980, the state has encountered numerous obstacles such as lack of placement resources and high numbers of out-of-state runaways. An analysis of juvenile delinquent versus status offender arrests and detention reveals progress in many counties toward the deinstitutionalization goals of the JJDP Act. For the state as a whole, however, the number of arrests for status offenders has decreased from 1975 (8,339) to 1979 (7,196) while the proportion of total arrests accounted for by status offenses has remained relatively constant. (Trend analyses of juvenile arrests by county for 1975 through 1979 and projections to the year 1982 are included in the Appendix.)

### OVERVIEW OF THE JUVENILE SYSTEM

Juvenile justice procedures vary from county to county within Arizona; however, major decision points and basic legal functions may be summarized for the

state as a whole. The following flow chart represents the series of events a juvenile might encounter within the justice system. This chart is primarily based upon the Maricopa County juvenile justice model.

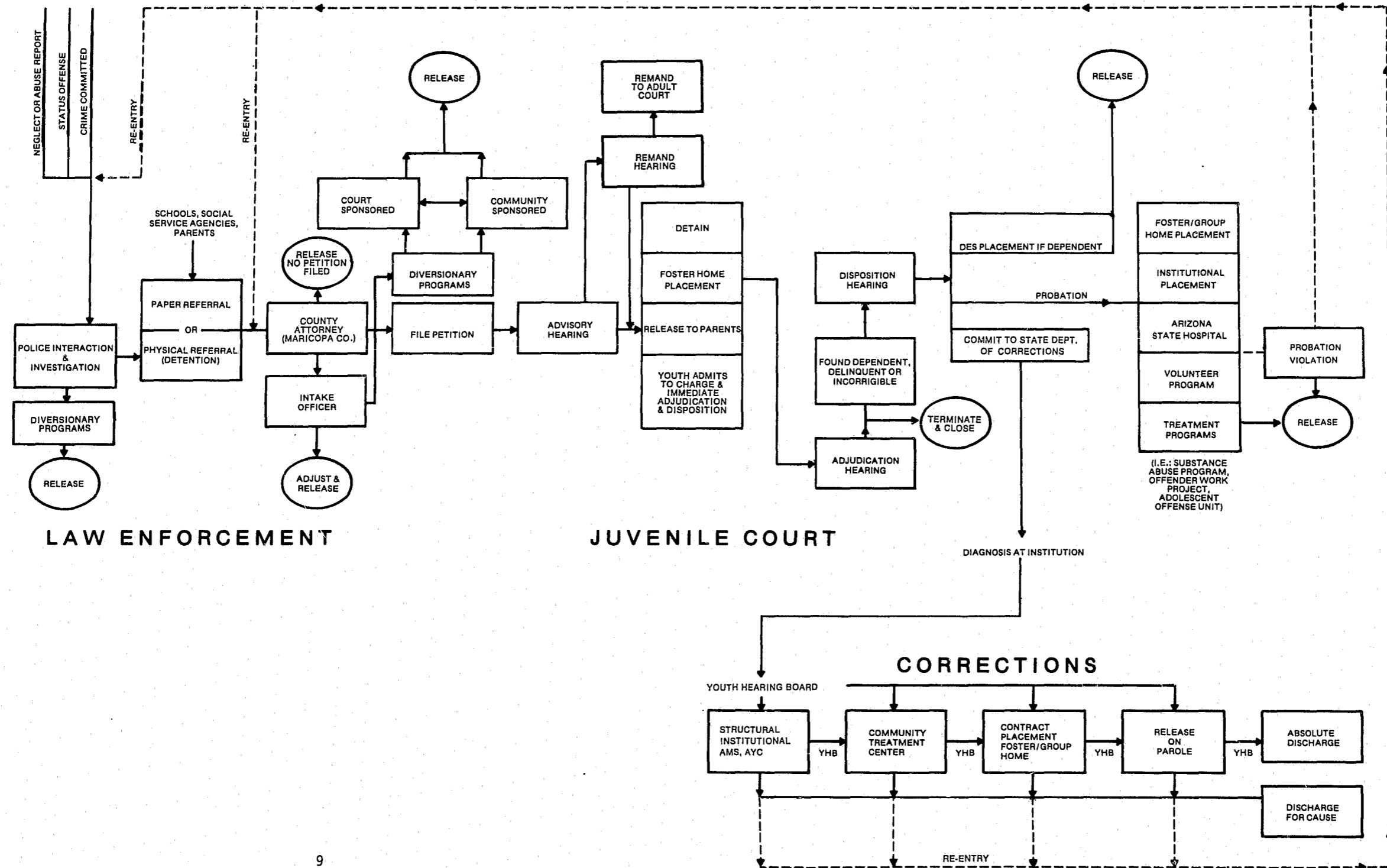
A young person typically enters the system through a neglect or abuse report or by committing a status or criminal offense. Investigating police officers usually refer the young person to Juvenile Court where an intake officer or judicial official studies the case and recommends release, diversionary programs, detention with a petition, release with a petition, or transfer of the case to Adult Court or another jurisdiction.

For those juveniles on whom a petition is filed, an advisory hearing is held usually within one to three weeks, where the allegations are explained to the youth. For those youths on whom the petition is not dismissed at the advisory hearing, an adjudication hearing is convened within 30 days, at which the Juvenile Court determines whether or not there is sufficient evidence to sustain the allegations in the petition. If the allegations are sustained, the juvenile will have a disposition hearing, which is comparable to the sentencing of an adult in a criminal court. For those petitions not sustained, release is affected.

As the flow chart displays, there are several alternatives available to the Court for adjudicated juveniles. The County Probation Department, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Economic Security are all options based on the youth's criminal activity, history and sociological factors. These alternatives are discussed in a later section of this report.

Figure 1

# ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



## SYSTEM STATISTICS

### JUVENILE ARREST DATA

Arrest data collected by the Arizona Department of Public Safety through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program provide a method of measuring youth involvement in crime. Under the UCR program, data on the characteristics of persons arrested are routinely and uniformly collected from law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona. Arrest data are grouped into the Part I and Part II crimes. The Part I crimes are the eight index offenses of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson; plus negligent manslaughter. Part II offenses are all other non-traffic crimes, such as driving under the influence, narcotic drug law violations, disorderly conduct, and fraud.

Juvenile arrests represented approximately one-third of the total arrests made by Arizona law enforcement agencies from 1975 to 1980. During 1979, there were more than 33,000 juveniles arrested in Arizona. Of these arrests, fully 41% were for property offenses: burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Four percent of all juvenile arrests in 1979 were for violent offenses. Status offenses accounted for 22%; 5% were for narcotics offenses. The remainder were in such areas as simple assault, vandalism, disorderly conduct, and other non-traffic offenses.

The reader is cautioned that UCR data may not accurately reflect the total amount of crime in the state. These limitations affect its accuracy:

- Many crimes against persons and their property are not reported to police. A study commissioned by the Statistical Analysis Center of ASJPA found that 53% of the incidences of crime covered in the study went unreported;
- Some police departments lack the manpower to render a complete and accurate accounting of offenses committed and persons charged;
- Disparities in collection methods and interpretation of crime data exist among agencies;
- How UCR classifies a particular act may vary from classification of that act under state criminal statutes;
- Crime figures are police statistics as distinguished from the findings of a court, coroner, jury, or decision of a prosecutor;
- Crimes committed on Arizona Indian reservations are not included in state totals even though reservation populations are generally included in state population figures.

Table I compares the frequency of juvenile arrests by offense over a five year period. Slight decreases occurred between 1975 and 1976; but 1976 to 1977 showed a positive upturn, especially in Part II crimes. A decline is again evident from 1977 through 1979 in both Part I and Part II crimes.

Over the past five years rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults have

increased while arrests for murder and negligent manslaughter have decreased. It is important to note, however, that violent offenses have comprised approximately 3-4% of all juvenile arrests during this time period whereas property offenses accounted for approximately forty percent each year.

Table II is a comparison of arrest rates per 1,000 of population 17 years of age and under. 1979 displays a drop in rates as well as in total numbers of arrests. An analysis of status offense rates shows an overall decrease of approximately 15% from the 1975 figure.

Table 1  
Comparison of Statewide Juvenile Arrest Data by Offense

1975 - 1979

| Offenses                    | 1975          | 1976          | 1977          | 1978          | 1979          | 1975 - 1979<br>% Change |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Murder/Non-negligent        |               |               |               |               |               |                         |
| Manslaughter                | 23            | 20            | 16            | 17            | 12            | -47.8                   |
| Manslaughter by Negligence  | 8             | 2             | 11            | 8             | 4             | -50.0                   |
| Forcible Rape               | 67            | 51            | 44            | 49            | 72            | +7.5                    |
| Robbery                     | 369           | 311           | 338           | 357           | 374           | +1.4                    |
| Aggravated Assault          | 569           | 522           | 577           | 604           | 848           | +49.0                   |
| Burglary                    | 4,390         | 4,166         | 3,852         | 3,638         | 3,392         | -22.7                   |
| Larceny/Theft               | 9,116         | 9,229         | 9,493         | 9,295         | 9,242         | +1.4                    |
| Motor Vehicle Theft         | 938           | 984           | 1,012         | 1,020         | 922           | -1.7                    |
| Arson                       | 245           | 163           | 186           | 188           | 186           | -24.1                   |
| <b>Total Part I Crime</b>   | <b>15,725</b> | <b>15,448</b> | <b>15,529</b> | <b>15,176</b> | <b>15,052</b> | <b>-4.3</b>             |
| Simple Assault              | 1,105         | 1,055         | 1,169         | 1,358         | 1,300         | +17.6                   |
| Forgery/Counterfeiting      | 56            | 73            | 68            | 70            | 121           | +116.1                  |
| Fraud                       | 133           | 127           | 164           | 105           | 118           | -11.3                   |
| Embezzlement                | 35            | 25            | 16            | 25            | 19            | -45.7                   |
| Stolen Property             | 566           | 493           | 484           | 421           | 239           | -57.8                   |
| Vandalism                   | 1,812         | 1,712         | 1,551         | 1,731         | 1,842         | +1.7                    |
| Weapons                     | 334           | 358           | 344           | 320           | 360           | +7.8                    |
| Prostitution                | 39            | 29            | 32            | 31            | 49            | +25.6                   |
| Sex Offenses                | 201           | 155           | 137           | 164           | 260           | +29.4                   |
| Drug Violation - Possession | 2,582         | 2,835         | 2,792         | 1,861         | 1,361         | -47.3                   |
| Drug Violation - Sales/Mfg. | 0             | 146           | 95            | 110           | 214           | +100.0                  |
| Gambling                    | 1             | 6             | 1             | 2             | 7             | +600.0                  |
| Offenses Against Family     | 256           | 169           | 23            | 18            | 2             | -99.2                   |
| Driving Under Influence     | 520           | 534           | 563           | 575           | 596           | +14.6                   |
| Liquor Laws                 | 1,919         | 1,930         | 2,407         | 2,419         | 2,498         | +30.2                   |
| Disorderly Conduct          | 1,040         | 1,116         | 1,270         | 1,182         | 1,231         | +18.4                   |
| Vagrancy                    | 121           | 91            | 32            | 41            | 30            | -75.2                   |
| All Other Non-Traffic       | 3,320         | 3,052         | 3,249         | 3,191         | 3,391         | +2.1                    |
| Curfew/Loitering            | 1,527         | 1,673         | 1,567         | 1,584         | 1,744         | +14.2                   |
| Runaway                     | 4,893         | 4,951         | 4,934         | 4,753         | 2,954         | -39.6                   |
| Drunkenness                 | 169           | 67            | 110           | --            | --            | --                      |
| <b>Total Part II Crimes</b> | <b>20,629</b> | <b>20,601</b> | <b>21,008</b> | <b>19,961</b> | <b>18,336</b> | <b>-11.1</b>            |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>          | <b>36,354</b> | <b>36,049</b> | <b>36,537</b> | <b>35,137</b> | <b>33,388</b> | <b>-8.2</b>             |

Note: For matters of comparison only, Arson is indicated as a Part I Crime; However, it was not confirmed as such in the Uniform Crime Reports until 1979. Drunkenness was eliminated from UCR data in 1978. Data for 1975 narcotics offenses reported all arrests as possession charges.

Source: Arizona Uniform Crime Report, 1975-1979.



Table 2  
Comparison of Statewide Juvenile Arrest Rates by Offense

| Offense                        | Per 1,000 Juvenile Population |             |             |             |             | 1975 - 1979<br>% Change |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
|                                | 1975                          | 1976        | 1977        | 1978        | 1979        |                         |
| Murder/Non-negligent           |                               |             |             |             |             |                         |
| Manslaughter                   | .03                           | .03         | .02         | .02         | .02         | -33.3                   |
| Manslaughter by Negligence     | .01                           | .00         | .01         | .01         | .01         | 0                       |
| Forcible Rape                  | .09                           | .07         | .06         | .06         | .09         | 0                       |
| Robbery                        | .50                           | .42         | .46         | .47         | .49         | -2.0                    |
| Aggravated Assault             | .77                           | .71         | .78         | .80         | 1.1         | +42.9                   |
| Burglary                       | 5.9                           | 5.7         | 5.2         | 4.8         | 4.5         | -23.7                   |
| Larceny/Theft                  | 12.3                          | 12.6        | 12.8        | 12.2        | 12.2        | -8                      |
| Motor Vehicle Theft            | 1.3                           | 1.3         | 1.4         | 1.3         | 1.2         | -7.7                    |
| Arson                          | .33                           | .22         | .25         | .25         | .25         | -24.2                   |
| <b>Rates--Part I Crimes</b>    | <b>21.6</b>                   | <b>21.8</b> | <b>20.9</b> | <b>19.0</b> | <b>19.8</b> | <b>-8.3</b>             |
| Simple Assault                 | 1.5                           | 1.4         | 1.6         | 1.8         | 1.7         | +13.3                   |
| Forgery/Counterfeiting         | .08                           | .10         | .09         | .09         | .15         | +87.5                   |
| Fraud                          | .18                           | .17         | .22         | .14         | .15         | -16.7                   |
| Embezzlement                   | .05                           | .03         | .02         | .03         | .02         | -60.0                   |
| Stolen Property                | .76                           | .67         | .65         | .55         | .31         | -59.2                   |
| Vandalism                      | 2.4                           | 2.3         | 2.1         | 2.3         | 2.4         | 0                       |
| Weapons                        | .45                           | .49         | .46         | .42         | .47         | +4.4                    |
| Prostitution                   | .05                           | .04         | .04         | .04         | .06         | +20.0                   |
| Sex Offenses                   | .27                           | .21         | .18         | .22         | .33         | +22.2                   |
| Narcotic Drugs - Possession    | 3.3                           | 3.9         | 3.8         | 2.5         | 1.7         | -48.5                   |
| Narcotic Drugs - Sales/Mfg.    | .15                           | .20         | .13         | .14         | .27         | +80.0                   |
| Gambling                       | .00                           | .01         | .00         | .00         | .00         | 0                       |
| Offenses Against Family        | .35                           | .23         | .03         | .02         | .00         | -100.0                  |
| Driving Under Influence        | .70                           | .73         | .76         | .76         | .79         | +12.9                   |
| Liquor Laws*                   | 2.6                           | 2.6         | 3.2         | 3.2         | 3.3         | +26.9                   |
| Drunkenness                    | .23                           | .09         | .15         | ---         | ---         | ---                     |
| Disorderly Conduct             | 1.4                           | 1.5         | 1.7         | 1.6         | 1.5         | +7.1                    |
| Vagrancy                       | .16                           | .12         | .04         | .05         | .04         | -75.0                   |
| All Other Non-Traffic          | 4.5                           | 4.2         | 4.4         | 4.2         | 4.5         | 0                       |
| Curfew/Loitering*              | 2.1                           | 2.3         | 2.1         | 2.1         | 2.2         | +4.8                    |
| Runaway*                       | 6.6                           | 6.7         | 6.6         | 6.3         | 3.9         | -40.9                   |
| <b>Rates--Part II Crimes</b>   | <b>28.3</b>                   | <b>29.0</b> | <b>28.3</b> | <b>25.0</b> | <b>24.2</b> | <b>-14.5</b>            |
| <b>*Rates--Status Offenses</b> | <b>11.2</b>                   | <b>11.7</b> | <b>12.0</b> | <b>11.5</b> | <b>9.5</b>  | <b>-15.2</b>            |
| <b>TOTAL RATE PER 1,000</b>    | <b>49.0</b>                   | <b>49.1</b> | <b>49.2</b> | <b>46.3</b> | <b>44.0</b> | <b>-10.2</b>            |

Note: Drunkenness was eliminated from the UCR data in 1978 due to the implementation of the new criminal code.

Source: UCR Section of Arizona Department of Public Safety, 1975-1979; Population figures from Arizona Department of Economic Security.

The following chart compares adult and juvenile arrests in 1979 for the eight index crimes. Adults dominated the arrests for violent crimes--murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault--while juveniles accounted for a high proportion of property crimes.

Figure 2  
Comparison of Juvenile and Adult Arrests

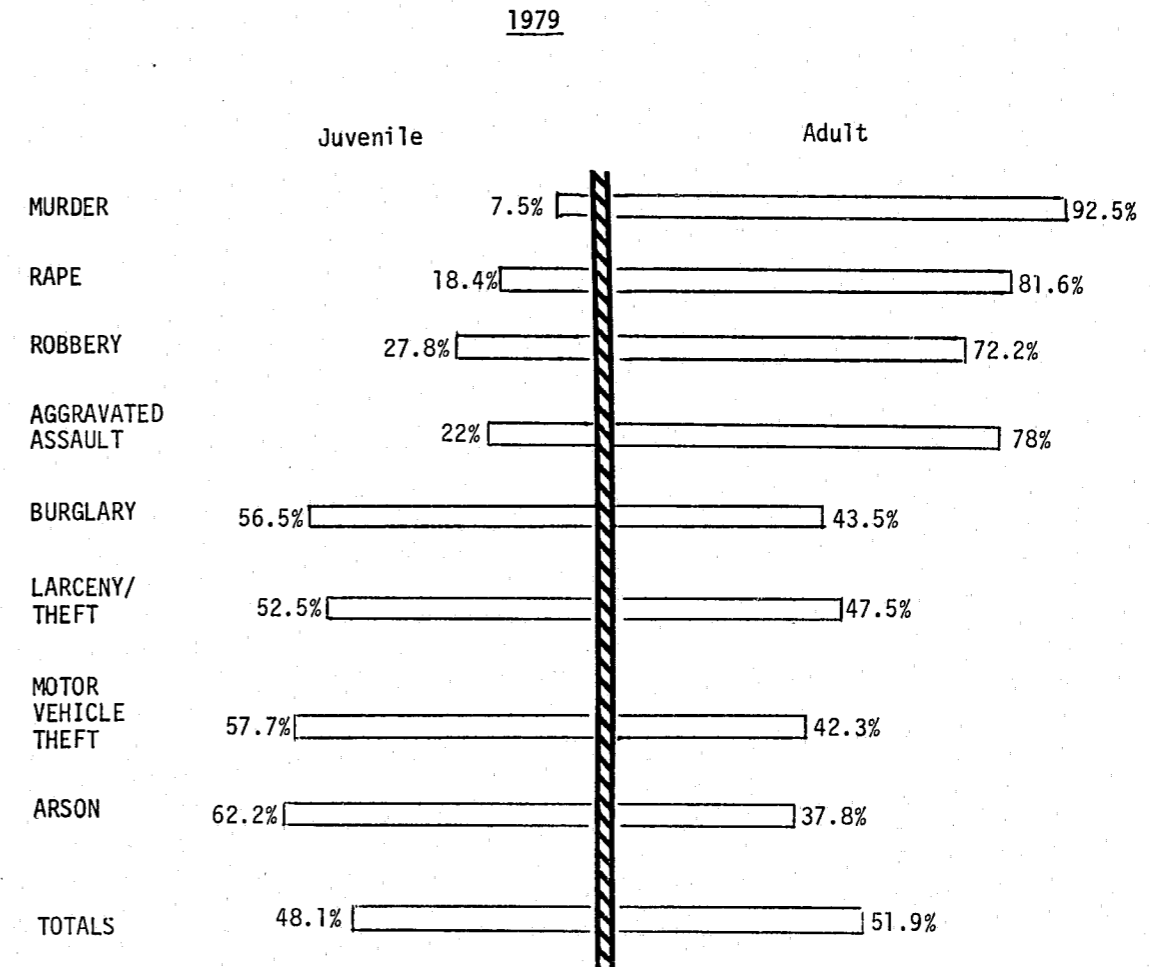


Table 3 displays the age and sex of all juveniles arrested in Arizona in 1979; 77% of the youths arrested were males, with the most common age being 16-17 years. Females, representing 23% of all juveniles arrests, tended to become criminally involved at an earlier age (13-14 years) than their male counterparts.

Table 3  
Juvenile Arrests by Age and Sex  
1979

| Age              | Number | Males   |        | Females |        | Totals |
|------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
|                  |        | Percent | Number | Percent | Number |        |
| 10 and Under     | 1,066  | 4.2     | 162    | 2.1     | 1,228  |        |
| 11 - 12          | 1,746  | 6.8     | 504    | 6.5     | 2,250  |        |
| 13 - 14          | 5,420  | 21.2    | 2,300  | 29.6    | 7,720  |        |
| 15               | 4,659  | 18.2    | 1,677  | 21.6    | 6,336  |        |
| 16               | 6,015  | 23.5    | 1,697  | 21.9    | 7,712  |        |
| 17               | 6,723  | 26.2    | 1,419  | 18.3    | 8,142  |        |
| Totals           | 25,629 | 100.0%  | 7,759  | 100.0%  | 33,388 |        |
| Percent of Total |        | 76.8    |        | 23.2    |        |        |

Source: Arizona Uniform Crime Reports - 1979.

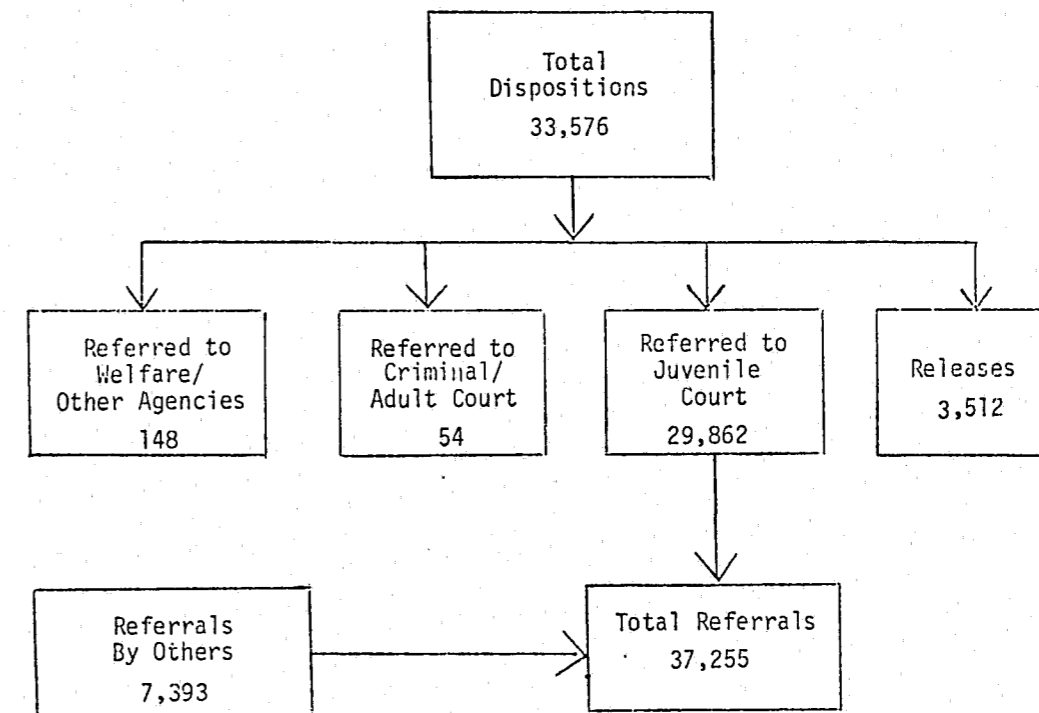
The Arizona population is projected to increase by 20% by 1985, projections for the crime-prone age of 13-17 also show an increase of 20% within the same time frame. Arrests are projected to decrease slightly, however, for this age group.

SYNOPSIS OF SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

The estimated flow of youths through the juvenile system is depicted in Figure 3. The diagram traces police dispositions of juvenile arrests in 1979 through the referral process. Eighty-nine percent of the juveniles arrested were referred to the juvenile court system.

Figure 3

The flow of youths through the Arizona Juvenile Justice System; police handling of all 1979 juvenile cases of non-traffic arrests and referrals.



Source: Arizona Uniform Crime Reports, Department of Public Safety, 1979.

## COMPONENTS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Arizona's Police and Sheriff's Departments are the major sources of juvenile referrals to the Superior Court. Law enforcement officials have a wide range of dispositional choices available to them, including official reprimands, traffic citations, referrals to the probation department or the Juvenile Court, physical detention, release to parents, or no action at all. In addition to their formal enforcement role, law enforcement agencies are active in juvenile delinquency prevention and diversion projects through community liaison and school resource officer programs and volunteer and recreational programs, such as the Phoenix Police Athletic League and the Tucson Police Department School Resource Officers, and Tucson Police Department Athletic League.

### COURTS

In each of the state's fourteen counties, the Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction in all juvenile cases. In Maricopa and Pima Counties, the Juvenile Court is a division of the Superior Court that hears nothing but juvenile cases; judges of these courts do not divide their efforts between juvenile and other cases. In other counties, courts hearing juvenile cases also have other judicial duties; thus judges on these courts must focus less of their attention and efforts on juvenile matters.

Juvenile Courts handled over 37,000 referrals in 1979. Most of these referrals were adjusted and dismissed, or dismissed due to lack of evidence, or were pending at year end.

### PROBATION

Under the supervision of the Superior Court, each county within the state maintains a probation department, half of which are combined departments supervising both adult and juvenile probationers. Staff size of these departments range from two-person operations to more than 280 persons employed at Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department. In the 1978-1979 fiscal year, the aggregated cost of the seven probation departments in Arizona supervising strictly juveniles reached over \$10 million.

Juvenile probation differs from its adult counterpart. Many of these differences center around the responsibilities of the juvenile probation officer. When a child is brought to detention, a probation officer (called an intake officer at this point) determines whether the child will be placed in the facility. In the adult system, this is a police decision. If a child is detained, he is supervised by a probation officer, not a law enforcement guard.

In the adult system the decision to process a case through the court is made by the County Attorney. For the juvenile, it is either the County Attorney or the intake officer, depending upon the county, who makes this determination. The probation officer may adjust the case. An adjust is an official disposition which closes the case, and in such an instance, the probation officer is acting as a judicial officer. However, the County Attorney may still prosecute the case. There is no procedure in the adult system comparable to the juvenile adjust disposition.

Table 4 displays the number of juveniles on probation and the average caseload per probation officer for each Arizona county. Figures for those counties maintaining combined departments represent only juvenile probationers per officer.

### DETENTION

Juvenile detention facilities within Arizona vary as widely as probation departments, with holding capacities ranging from 3 to 101 children. The majority of the county detention facilities were built to accommodate between 20 to 25 youths. In some counties, probation personnel are responsible for supervision of the facility, while in other counties this function is assumed by the County Sheriff's Office. The total number of juveniles incarcerated in detention facilities and the occupancy level of each County's facility are displayed in Table 5.

Table 4  
Juvenile Probationers and Caseload Averages by County  
as of December 31, 1979

| <u>County</u>         | <u>Number of Probationers</u> | <u>Number of Field P.O.'s</u> | <u>Mean Number of Juveniles Per Caseload</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Apache (combined)     | 66                            | 2                             | 33   |
| Cochise               | 158                           | 5                             | 32   |
| Coconino              | 104                           | 5                             | 21   |
| Gila (combined)       | 85                            | 4                             | 21   |
| Graham (combined)     | 32                            | 2                             | 16   |
| Greenlee (combined)   | 10                            | 2                             | 5  |
| Maricopa              | 1,512                         | 45                            | 34   |
| Mohave (combined)     | 95                            | 6                             | 16   |
| Navajo (combined)     | 151                           | 4                             | 38   |
| Pima                  | 590                           | 16.5                          | 36   |
| Pinal                 | 111                           | 3                             | 37   |
| Santa Cruz (combined) | 222                           | 3                             | 74   |
| Yavapai               | 13                            | 3                             | 4  |
| Yuma                  | <u>187</u>                    | <u>3</u>                      | <u>62</u>                                    |
| Arizona Totals        | 3,336                         | 103.5                         | 32   |

Mean Number of Juveniles per Caseload - 32.2

Note: Combined denotes those departments supervising both adult and juvenile probationers.

Source: Arizona Supreme Court 1979 Annual Judicial Report, pg. 39; Telephone Survey by the ASJPA Statistical Analysis Center, May, 1980.

Table 5  
Juvenile Detention Data by County  
1979

| <u>County</u> | <u>No. Detained In Detention*</u> | <u>Occupancy Level of Facility</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Apache        | 52                                | 12                                 |
| Cochise       | 249                               | 20                                 |
| Coconino      | 1,167                             | 24                                 |
| Gila          | 286                               | 16                                 |
| Graham        | 75                                | 8                                  |
| Greenlee      | 18                                | 3                                  |
| Maricopa      | 3,073                             | 101                                |
| Mohave        | 326                               | 15                                 |
| Navajo        | 493                               | 18                                 |
| Pima          | 1,986                             | 60                                 |
| Pinal         | 417                               | 17                                 |
| Santa Cruz    | 97                                | 8                                  |
| Yavapai       | 349                               | 16                                 |
| Yuma          | <u>398</u>                        | <u>29</u>                          |
| State Totals  | 8,986                             | 335                                |

\*Detention data includes multiple detentions of the same child during 1979.

Source: Arizona Supreme Court 1979 Annual Judicial Report, pg. 39; Telephone Survey ASJPA-SAC, May, 1980.

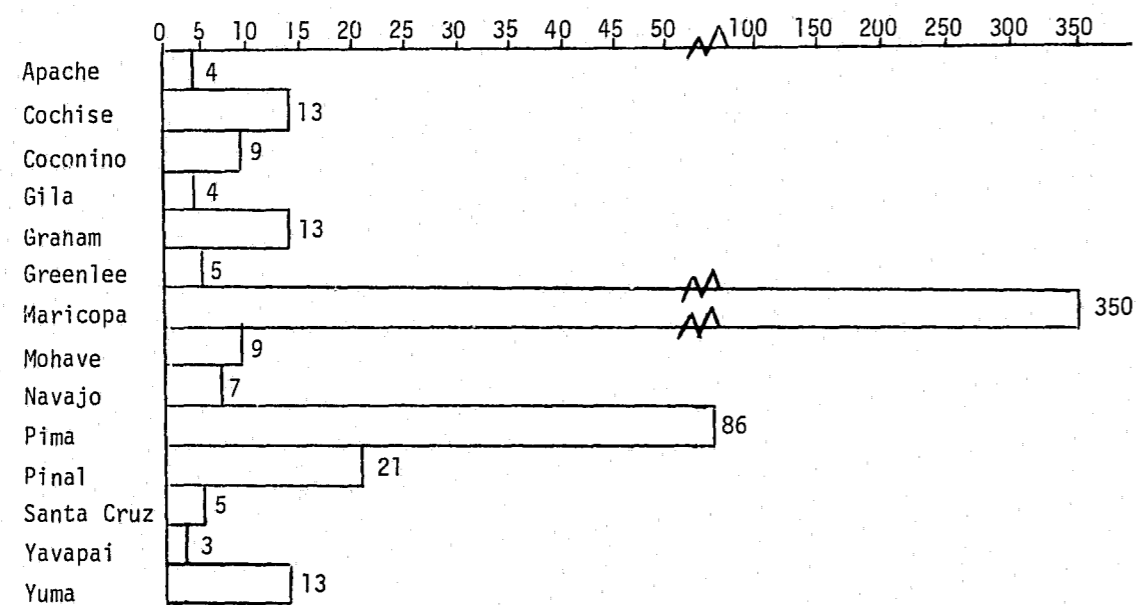
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The State Department of Corrections provides institutional treatment for youths committed by the Juvenile Courts. Three secure institutions are operated by the Department: the Arizona Youth Center, the Adobe Mountain School, and the Alpine Conservation Center\*. Two community treatment centers in Phoenix provide nonsecure residential services as preparation for parole. The Department also maintains contracts with private organizations for placement of youths in foster homes, group homes, or hospitals, as well as a parole division for supervision of juveniles on parole status.

Property offenders and status offenders represented large proportions of 1979 Department of Corrections commitments. Forty-seven percent of juvenile males and twenty-five percent of juvenile females were committed for property offenses.

Status offenses and property offenses appear to be related to gender. Nine percent of juvenile males were committed for status offenses versus 24% of juvenile females. Males were admitted almost twice as frequently as females for property offenses. The following bar chart depicts juvenile commitments to the Department of Corrections by county.

Figure 4  
Department of Corrections  
Juvenile Commitments by County  
1979



\*The Alpine Facility closed March 31, 1980.

During 1979, 542 youths were admitted to the Department of Corrections. Of the total, 491 (91%) were males and 51 (9%) were females. The following table indicates committing offenses for juveniles during 1979.

Table 6  
DOC Juvenile Commitment Offense by Sex\*

|                           | Males |      | Females |      | Total |      |
|---------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|-------|------|
|                           | N     | %    | N       | %    | N     | %    |
| Offenses Against Persons  | 128   | 26   | 11      | 22   | 139   | 26   |
| Offenses Against Property | 232   | 47   | 13      | 25   | 245   | 45   |
| Drug/Alcohol Offenses     | 19    | 4    | 1       | 2    | 20    | 4    |
| Status Offenses           | 43    | 9    | 12      | 24   | 55    | 10   |
| Other                     | 69    | 14   | 14      | 27   | 83    | 15   |
| Totals                    | 491   | 100% | 51      | 100% | 542   | 100% |

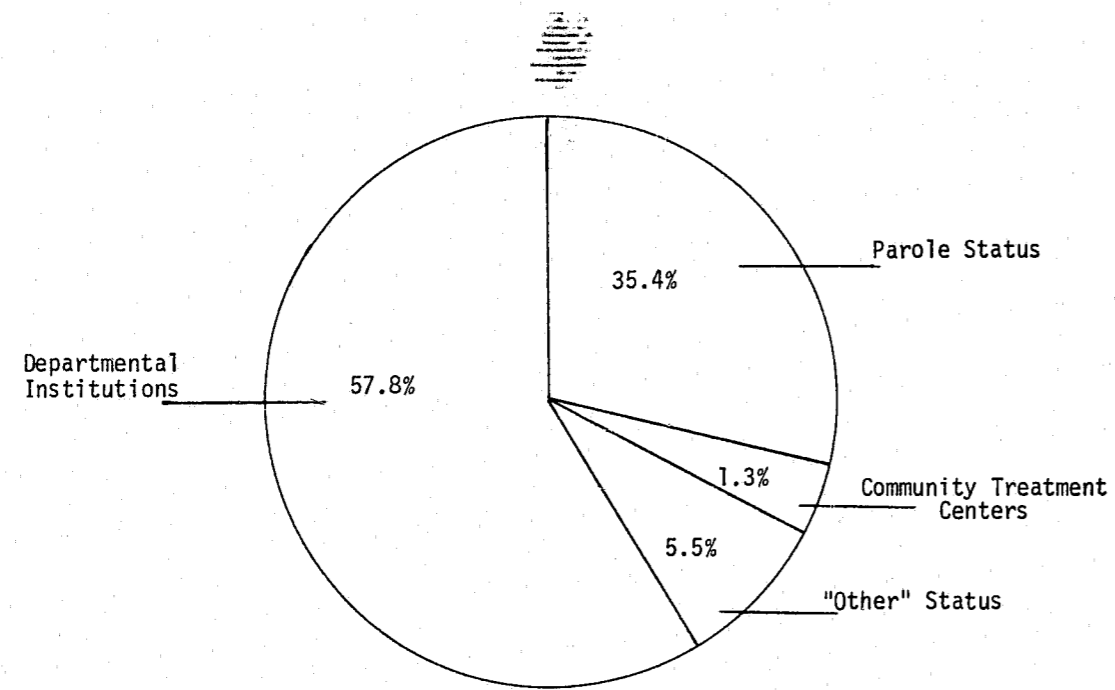
Source: Arizona Department of Corrections.

As of January 1, 1980, the Department of Corrections was responsible for 785 youths, with 278 (35%) on parole status. The following pie chart illustrates the location and number of the Department's total juvenile population. "Other" status refers to those juveniles in contract facilities.

Figure 5

Location of Juveniles Under DOC Jurisdiction

as of January 1, 1980



24

APPENDIX

25

Juvenile Delinquency and Status Offender\* Arrests by County

1975 - 1979

| County   |                         | 1975  | 1976  | 1977  | 1978  | 1979  |
|----------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Apache   | Juvenile Arrests        | N/A   | 55    | 105   | 180   | 171   |
|          | % of Total Arrests      |       | 20%   | 29%   | 27%   | 24%   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | N/A   | 47    | 83    | 140   | 136   |
|          | % of Total Juv. Arrests |       | (85%) | (79%) | (78%) | (80%) |
| Cochise  | Juvenile Arrests        | 1,243 | 1,339 | 1,448 | 1,410 | 1,184 |
|          | % of Total Arrests      | 31%   | 33%   | 32%   | 36%   | 34%   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 953   | 956   | 1,126 | 1,033 | 944   |
|          | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (77%) | (71%) | (78%) | (73%) | (80%) |
| Coconino | Juvenile Arrests        | 1,182 | 1,371 | 1,257 | 1,371 | 1,251 |
|          | % of Total Arrests      | 18%   | 15%   | 15%   | 18%   | 16%   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 747   | 796   | 760   | 813   | 742   |
|          | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (63%) | (58%) | (60%) | (59%) | (59%) |
| Gila     | Juvenile Arrests        | 472   | 442   | 376   | 417   | 359   |
|          | % of Total Arrests      | 25%   | 20%   | 20%   | 27%   | 24%   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 344   | 328   | 283   | 317   | 231   |
|          | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (73%) | (74%) | (75%) | (76%) | (64%) |
| Graham   | Juvenile Arrests        | 142   | 134   | 200   | 233   | 254   |
|          | % of Total Arrests      | 24%   | 25%   | 33%   | 34%   | 32%   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 96    | 95    | 146   | 163   | 174   |
|          | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (68%) | (71%) | (73%) | (70%) | (69%) |
| Mohave   | Juvenile Arrests        | 46    | 39    | 54    | 70    | 80    |
|          | % of Total Arrests      | (32%) | (29%) | (27%) | (30%) | (31%) |

Juvenile Delinquency and Status Offender Arrests by County

1975 - 1979

(Continued)

| County                  |                         | 1975   | 1976   | 1977   | 1978   | 1979   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Greenlee                | Juvenile Arrests        | 122    | 105    | 141    | 88     | 97     |
|                         | % of Total Arrests      | 26%    | 22%    | 39%    | 34%    | 27%    |
|                         | Delinquency Arrests     | 56     | 55     | 84     | 49     | 69     |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (46%)  | (52%)  | (60%)  | (56%)  | (71%)  |
| Maricopa (includes DPS) | Juvenile Arrests        | 17,698 | 17,993 | 17,515 | 17,434 | 17,763 |
|                         | % of Total Arrests      | 30%    | 30%    | 28%    | 31%    | 25%    |
|                         | Delinquency Arrests     | 14,252 | 14,183 | 13,599 | 13,736 | 14,448 |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (81%)  | (79%)  | (78%)  | (79%)  | (81%)  |
| Mohave                  | Juvenile Arrests        | 323    | 306    | 349    | 321    | 370    |
|                         | % of Total Arrests      | 28%    | 28%    | 26%    | 22%    | 27%    |
|                         | Delinquency Arrests     | 194    | 198    | 233    | 196    | 266    |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (60%)  | (65%)  | (67%)  | (61%)  | (72%)  |
| Navajo                  | Juvenile Arrests        | 129    | 108    | 116    | 125    | 104    |
|                         | % of Total Arrests      | (40%)  | (35%)  | (33%)  | (39%)  | (28%)  |
|                         | Delinquency Arrests     | 690    | 492    | 650    | 633    | 529    |
|                         | % of Total Arrests      | 22%    | 17%    | 21%    | 19%    | 18%    |
| Pima                    | Juvenile Arrests        | 413    | 281    | 382    | 361    | 328    |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (60%)  | (57%)  | (59%)  | (57%)  | (62%)  |
|                         | Status Offender Arrests | 277    | 211    | 268    | 272    | 201    |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (40%)  | (43%)  | (41%)  | (43%)  | (38%)  |
| Pima                    | Juvenile Arrests        | 11,909 | 10,854 | 11,018 | 9,337  | 7,437  |
|                         | % of Total Arrests      | 50%    | 48%    | 46%    | 43%    | 37%    |
|                         | Delinquency Arrests     | 9,097  | 8,221  | 8,233  | 6,765  | 5,908  |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (76%)  | (76%)  | (75%)  | (72%)  | (79%)  |
| Pima                    | Status Offender Arrests | 2,812  | 2,633  | 2,785  | 2,572  | 1,529  |
|                         | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (24%)  | (24%)  | (25%)  | (28%)  | (21%)  |

Juvenile Delinquency and Status Offender Arrests by County

1975 - 1979

(Continued)

| County       |                         | 1975   | 1976   | 1977   | 1978   | 1979   |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pinal        | Juvenile Arrests        | 878    | 915    | 1,066  | 1,232  | 1,409  |
|              | % of Total Arrests      | 24%    | 25%    | 27%    | 31%    | 33%    |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|              | Delinquency Arrests     | 640    | 698    | 853    | 971    | 1,140  |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (73%)  | (76%)  | (80%)  | (79%)  | (81%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| Santa Cruz   | Status Offender Arrests | 238    | 217    | 213    | 261    | 269    |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (27%)  | (24%)  | (20%)  | (21%)  | (19%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| Yavapai      | Juvenile Arrests        | 173    | 176    | 137    | 142    | 160    |
|              | % of Total Arrests      | 23%    | 24%    | 19%    | 18%    | 20%    |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|              | Delinquency Arrests     | 158    | 162    | 122    | 137    | 155    |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (91%)  | (92%)  | (89%)  | (96%)  | (97%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| Yuma         | Status Offender Arrests | 15     | 14     | 15     | 5      | 5      |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (9%)   | (8%)   | (11%)  | (4%)   | (3%)   |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| State Totals | Juvenile Arrests        | 726    | 638    | 625    | 692    | 726    |
|              | % of Total Arrests      | 40%    | 40%    | 31%    | 30%    | 35%    |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|              | Delinquency Arrests     | 535    | 513    | 474    | 527    | 545    |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (74%)  | (80%)  | (76%)  | (76%)  | (75%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| State Totals | Status Offender Arrests | 191    | 125    | 151    | 165    | 181    |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (26%)  | (20%)  | (24%)  | (24%)  | (25%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| State Totals | Juvenile Arrests        | 789    | 1,229  | 1,650  | 1,647  | 1,678  |
|              | % of Total Arrests      | 22%    | 30%    | 35%    | 34%    | 33%    |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|              | Delinquency Arrests     | 526    | 962    | 1,251  | 1,173  | 1,218  |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (67%)  | (78%)  | (76%)  | (71%)  | (73%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| State Totals | Status Offender Arrests | 263    | 267    | 399    | 474    | 460    |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (33%)  | (22%)  | (24%)  | (29%)  | (27%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| State Totals | Juvenile Arrests        | 36,354 | 36,049 | 36,537 | 35,137 | 33,388 |
|              | % of Total Arrests      | 33%    | 32%    | 31%    | 30%    | 27%    |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|              | Delinquency Arrests     | 28,015 | 27,495 | 27,629 | 26,381 | 26,192 |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (77%)  | (76%)  | (76%)  | (75%)  | (78%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |
| State Totals | Status Offender Arrests | 8,339  | 8,554  | 8,908  | 8,756  | 7,196  |
|              | % of Total Juv. Arrests | (23%)  | (24%)  | (24%)  | (25%)  | (22%)  |
|              | -----                   |        |        |        |        |        |

\*Includes Incurable, Runaway and Liquor Violations.  
Source: Arizona Uniform Crime Report - 1975-1979.

Juvenile Delinquency and Status  
Offender Arrest Projections by County

| County   |                         | 1980  | 1981  | 1982  |
|----------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Apache   | Juvenile Arrests        | 234   | 276   | 318   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 183   | 215   | 247   |
|          | Status Offender Arrests | 51    | 61    | 71    |
| Cochise  | Juvenile Arrests        | 1,311 | 1,306 | 1,301 |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 1,020 | 1,026 | 1,032 |
|          | Status Offender Arrests | 291   | 280   | 269   |
| Coconino | Juvenile Arrests        | 1,328 | 1,342 | 1,355 |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 774   | 774   | 775   |
|          | Status Offender Arrests | 554   | 567   | 580   |
| Gila     | Juvenile Arrests        | 338   | 313   | 288   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 230   | 206   | 182   |
|          | Status Offender Arrests | 108   | 107   | 106   |
| Graham   | Juvenile Arrests        | 290   | 322   | 354   |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 202   | 224   | 247   |
|          | Status Offender Arrests | 88    | 97    | 107   |
| Greenlee | Juvenile Arrests        | 91    | 84    | 77    |
|          | Delinquency Arrests     | 69    | 71    | 73    |
|          | Status Offender Arrests | 22    | 13    | 5     |



Juvenile Delinquency and Status  
Offender Arrests Projections by County  
(Continued)

| <u>County</u>                 |                         | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1982</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Maricopa<br>(includes D.P.S.) | Juvenile Arrests        | 17,552      | 17,509      | 17,466      |
|                               | Delinquency Arrests     | 14,027      | 14,022      | 14,016      |
|                               | Status Offender Arrests | 3,525       | 3,487       | 3,450       |
| <hr/>                         |                         |             |             |             |
| Mohave                        | Juvenile Arrests        | 367         | 377         | 388         |
|                               | Delinquency Arrests     | 260         | 274         | 288         |
|                               | Status Offender Arrests | 107         | 103         | 100         |
| <hr/>                         |                         |             |             |             |
| Navajo                        | Juvenile Arrests        | 545         | 526         | 508         |
|                               | Delinquency Arrests     | 326         | 317         | 308         |
|                               | Status Offender Arrests | 219         | 209         | 200         |
| <hr/>                         |                         |             |             |             |
| Pima                          | Juvenile Arrests        | 6,973       | 5,927       | 4,881       |
|                               | Delinquency Arrests     | 5,295       | 4,511       | 3,728       |
|                               | Status Offender Arrests | 1,678       | 1,415       | 1,153       |
| <hr/>                         |                         |             |             |             |
| Pinal                         | Juvenile Arrests        | 1,514       | 1,652       | 1,790       |
|                               | Delinquency Arrests     | 1,242       | 1,397       | 1,497       |
|                               | Status Offender Arrests | 271         | 282         | 293         |
| <hr/>                         |                         |             |             |             |
| Santa Cruz                    | Juvenile Arrests        | 140         | 134         | 128         |
|                               | Delinquency Arrests     | 138         | 134         | 131         |
|                               | Status Offender Arrests | 2           | 0           | 0           |

Juvenile Delinquency and Status  
Offender Arrests Projections by County  
(Continued)

| <u>County</u> |                         | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1982</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yavapai       | Juvenile Arrests        | 698         | 703         | 708         |
|               | Delinquency Arrests     | 529         | 532         | 536         |
|               | Status Offender Arrests | 169         | 171         | 173         |
| <hr/>         |                         |             |             |             |
| Yuma          | Juvenile Arrests        | 2,057       | 2,277       | 2,497       |
|               | Delinquency Arrests     | 1,505       | 1,664       | 1,824       |
|               | Status Offender Arrests | 553         | 613         | 673         |
| <hr/>         |                         |             |             |             |
| State Totals  | Juvenile Arrests        | 33,440      | 32,755      | 32,071      |
|               | Delinquency Arrests     | 25,714      | 25,238      | 24,762      |
|               | Status Offender Arrests | 7,725       | 7,517       | 7,309       |

Note: Projections are straight line estimates based on arrest data from 1975 through 1979.

**END**