

82097

MSSD/

JUVENILE

COURT

1976

LIBRARY

INTERIM REPORT

ALSO

THE SERIOUS OFFENDER:

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY



L. J. HOLLENBACH, III
COUNTY JUDGE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TOM HELM
BOB KIRCHDORFER
EARL HARTLAGE

METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

216 S. 5TH STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202



SAM L. NEAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NCJRS

MAY 19 1977

ACQUISITIONS

The contents of this publication, including the conclusions represent the views of the staff of the Office of Research and Planning, Metropolitan Social Services Department.

This publication should not be considered to have official approval of the Jefferson County Fiscal Court, the Jefferson County Juvenile Court, or the Metropolitan Social Services Department, either expressed or implied until reviewed and evaluated by those organizations and subsequently endorsed by the appropriate individuals.


Sam L. Neal
Executive Director

X
LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY, (KY)

X
METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JUVENILE COURT

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT,

~~JANUARY~~ ~~DECEMBER~~ 1976

U.S. Department of Justice 82097
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by
George Haarman

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

Prepared by:

METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Office of Research & Planning
Louisville & Jefferson County, Kentucky

G. B. Haarman, Director
J. E. Metzler, Principal Investigator

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| A. M. Stastny | K. S. McDaniel |
| M. F. Seibold | B. R. Doby |
| T. A. Hildenbrand | H. K. Williams |
| S. A. Mimms | J. P. Bell |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---------------------------------|------|
| List of Tables | ii |
| List of Illustrations | iii |
| Introduction | 1 |
| General Information | 2 |
| Summary | 7 |

LIST OF TABLES

| Table | TITLE | Page |
|-------|---|------|
| 1 | Juvenile Individuals and Referrals by Sex, Race and Year. | 8 |
| 2 | Age of Juvenile Individuals by Year. | 9 |
| 3 | Juvenile Individuals by Total Referrals and Year | 9 |
| 4 | Juvenile Referrals by Source of Referral and Year | 10 |
| 5 | Juvenile Referrals by Manner of Handling and Year | 10 |
| 6 | Juvenile Referrals by Reason Referred and Year | 11 |
| 7 | Total Referrals by Planning Service Community and Year | 14 |
| 8 | Individuals by Employment Status of Head of Household and Year. | 15 |
| 9 | Individuals by Receipt of Public Assistance and Year | 15 |
| 10 | Individuals by Living Arrangement and Year | 16 |
| 11 | Individuals by School Status and Year | 17 |
| 12 | Individuals by Education Claimed and Year. | 17 |
| | Illustration 1. Total Referrals Percentage Change. | 18 |

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide basic information as a preliminary indicator of the volume of Juvenile Court activity during calendar year 1976.

A final, more detailed annual report will be published in late summer/early fall. While the overall totals should not change significantly, this delay is necessary to insure that all referrals have had a final disposition and that this data has been accurately recorded.

The new criminal code for the State of Kentucky which was initiated in 1975, still presented problems in the collection of Juvenile Court statistics in 1976. The Metropolitan Social Services Department Intake Form, the basic source document for Juvenile Court, did not reflect the new classifications for certain offenses created by the criminal code. This resulted in some difficulty for those collecting the data for MSSD. Measures have been taken, specifically a revision of the Intake Form, to reflect the new Kentucky Criminal Code. This will enable the collection of more precise information for calendar year 1977.

GENERAL INFORMATION

During 1976, the number of referrals to the Jefferson County Juvenile Court decreased by almost 300 referrals. However, individuals referred increased by over 100 persons. In every category except female, the mean number of referrals per individual declined. Males were down to 1.4 referrals per individual as compared to 1.5 in 1975; whites decreased to 1.3 referrals in 1976 versus 1.4 in 1975; and blacks averaged 1.4 referrals in 1976 against 1.5 referrals in 1975. The ratio for females remained the same at 1.2 referrals per individual. These changes resulted in a mean number of referrals per individual of 1.3, the lowest rate recorded in this decade.

There were significant changes in the racial and sexual make-up of the court referrals. White referrals declined by over 500 referrals while the number of black referrals increased by more than 200 referrals. Also, the number of male referrals decreased by approximately 300 referrals while female referrals remained relatively the same.

The decrease in white and male referrals between 1975 and 1976 may be misleading. In 1975, a large number of white male youth were arrested during the disorders associated with the desegregation order. This decrease may, in actuality, not be a "real decrease" but a return to normal delinquency patterns.

As shown in Table 2, the mean age of juvenile offenders was lower in 1976 than in 1975. The most notable decrease was in the number of 16 year olds, while the largest increase was in 13 year olds.

Over 55 per cent of the individuals referred to Juvenile Court were first offenders. The number and percentage of first offenders increased in 1976, reversing the trend in recent years of a decline in first offenders. The mean number of total referrals for those who were not first offenders was 4.5 referrals.

As in previous years, the City of Louisville Police Department referred the largest number of cases to Juvenile Court. However, in comparison with 1975, the City Police referred nearly 600 fewer cases in 1976. The decrease in the number of Merchant Police referrals shows their continued cooperation with the Youth Diversion Project. School referrals almost doubled, reflecting the increased number of trancies which followed the desegregation order.

Table 5 lists the manner of handling for juveniles. Two-thirds of the referrals were handled formally. The trend toward more cases being referred to Juvenile Court for formal handling (adjudication) continued in 1976.

Serious offenses committed against individuals increased in 1976. The number of Murder/Manslaughter referrals almost tripled. Forcible Rape offenses increased more than 50 per cent, while Robbery and Purse Snatching declined.

There was no significant change in the number of major offenses against property referrals. The continued decreases in Storehouse and Dwellinghouse Breaking were the direct result of coding changes instituted by the new Kentucky Criminal Code. If the 1976 referrals for Storehouse Breaking, Dwellinghouse

Breaking, Outhouse Breaking, School House Breaking, Grand Larceny and Burglary are grouped, this total is comparable to that of 1975.

Table 6 indicates a substantial reduction in Substance Offenses with major decreases in Narcotic Violations (over 100 fewer referrals) and in Solvent Abuse Referrals (a decrease of more than 100 referrals).*

Minor offenses declined slightly. In 1976, there were nearly one-third fewer disorderly conduct referrals than in 1975. The increase in Petit Larceny referrals was offset by a similar reduction in Shoplifting offenses. (The differences in these categories are a result of coding changes.)

The 300 plus increase in Status Offenses was attributable to the substantial increase in the truancy referrals.

The decrease in Dependency referrals was the direct result of more dependency cases being handled outside the courtroom setting through the social services provided by the Metropolitan Social Services Department's Protective Services Unit.

Table 7 presents the information on Planning Service Community of Residence for juvenile referrals. The largest numeric increase in referrals was in the Algonquin area (PSC-6); while on a percentage basis,

*For a detailed examination of the drug problem in Jefferson County, see MSSD Interim Report, 1975.

the most significant gain in referrals was in the Village West-Central Business area (PSC-3). The Portland-Downtown West Community (PSC-2) had the largest decline, of any Planning Service Community. The nearly 100 fewer referrals in that area corresponded to a similar reduction in solvent abuse referrals for 1976. (See Table 6.) There were also significant decreases in the East End (PSC-12) and in the Middle Outer County (PSC-13). The illustration (Page 18) demonstrates the changes in referrals that occurred from 1975 to 1976.

Table 8 lists the employment status of the head of household for juvenile individuals. Over one-third of the individuals referred to the Court in 1976 lived in a home where the head of the household was unemployed. This was a significant increase in comparison to 1975. There was a similar increase in those individuals residing in families receiving public assistance. (Table 9.) These two economic indicators possibly reflect the adverse conditions in the 1976 economy.

The living arrangement of juveniles individuals is presented in Table 10. For the first time, more of the individuals were living with mother only as opposed to both parent families. The more than 300 numeric increase in the mother only living arrangement coincided with the increase in individuals residing in families receiving public assistance. The number of youths living in institutions continued to decline.

The school status information presented in Table 11 shows the relationship among the various classifications has remained fairly stable over the years.

Table 12 reflects the highest grade completed by those individuals referred to Juvenile Court. The slight decrease in mean grade completed mirrored the similar change in the mean age of individuals. (See Table 2.)

S U M M A R Y

- ✓ There were 300 fewer cases referred to Juvenile Court in 1976.
- ✓ White referrals declined by 8.7% while black referrals increased by 10.1%.
- ✓ Male referrals decreased by almost 300 referrals while female referrals remained relatively the same.
- ✓ The average age of a youth referred to Juvenile Court was 14.1 years old.
- ✓ City Police referrals decreased by 16.6% or by nearly 600 referrals.
- ✓ The percentage of cases handled formally continued to rise.
- ✓ Major offenses against individuals increased by 14.3% with Murder/Manslaughter referrals almost tripling.
- ✓ Substance offenses declined by 20.6% with over 100 fewer referrals in both the Violation of Drug Laws (narcotics) and in the Glue/Paint Sniffing categories.
- ✓ Disorderly Conduct referrals decreased by 200 referrals in 1976.
- ✓ Truancy referrals more than doubled.
- ✓ Substantial decreases occurred in the Portland-Downtown West (PSC-2), East End (PSC-12) and the Middle Outer County (PSC-13) communities.
- ✓ Significant increases were noted in the Algonquin (PSC-6) and Village West-Central Business (PSC-3) areas.

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

| | MALE | | FEMALE | | TOTAL | | WHITE | | BLACK | | TOTAL | |
|-------------------------|-------|------|--------|------|-----------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-----------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| INDIVIDUALS/ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1970 | 4,091 | 71.9 | 1,596 | 28.1 | 5,687 | 100.0 | 3,812 | 67.0 | 1,875 | 33.0 | 5,687 | 100.0 |
| 1971 | 3,955 | 70.7 | 1,638 | 29.3 | 5,593 | 100.0 | 3,876 | 69.3 | 1,717 | 30.7 | 5,593 | 100.0 |
| 1972 | 3,831 | 69.4 | 1,687 | 30.6 | 5,518 | 100.0 | 3,798 | 68.8 | 1,720 | 31.2 | 5,518 | 100.0 |
| 1973 | 4,429 | 68.1 | 2,070 | 31.9 | 6,499 | 100.0 | 4,483 | 69.0 | 2,016 | 31.0 | 6,499 | 100.0 |
| 1974 | 4,160 | 68.5 | 1,916 | 31.5 | 6,076 | 100.0 | 4,168 | 68.6 | 1,908 | 31.4 | 6,076 | 100.0 |
| 1975 | 4,236 | 71.4 | 1,696 | 28.6 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 4,330 | 73.0 | 1,602 | 27.0 | 5,932 | 100.0 |
| 1976 | 4,246 | 70.2 | 1,802 | 29.8 | 6,048 | 100.0 | 4,243 | 70.2 | 1,805 | 29.8 | 6,048 | 100.0 |
| PERCENTAGE CHG./ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1974-75 | +1.8 | | -11.5 | | -2.4 | | +3.9 | | -16.0 | | -2.4 | |
| 1975-76 | +0.2 | | + 6.3 | | +2.0 | | -2.0 | | +12.7 | | +2.0 | |
| REFERRALS/ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1970 | 5,790 | 74.7 | 1,963 | 25.3 | 7,753 | 100.0 | 5,073 | 65.4 | 2,680 | 34.6 | 7,753 | 100.0 |
| 1971 | 5,505 | 72.7 | 2,065 | 27.3 | 7,570 | 100.0 | 5,167 | 68.3 | 2,403 | 31.7 | 7,570 | 100.0 |
| 1972 | 5,481 | 72.2 | 2,113 | 27.8 | 7,594 | 100.0 | 5,160 | 67.9 | 2,434 | 32.1 | 7,594 | 100.0 |
| 1973 | 6,289 | 71.1 | 2,552 | 28.9 | 8,841 | 100.0 | 5,909 | 66.8 | 2,932 | 33.2 | 8,841 | 100.0 |
| 1974 | 5,897 | 71.5 | 2,355 | 28.5 | 8,252 | 100.0 | 5,495 | 66.6 | 2,757 | 33.4 | 8,252 | 100.0 |
| 1975 | 6,183 | 74.9 | 2,068 | 25.1 | 8,251 | 100.0 | 5,925 | 71.8 | 2,326 | 28.2 | 8,251 | 100.0 |
| 1976 | 5,886 | 73.8 | 2,087 | 26.2 | 7,973 | 100.0 | 5,411 | 67.9 | 2,562 | 32.1 | 7,973 | 100.0 |
| PERCENTAGE CHG./ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1974-75 | +4.8 | | -12.2 | | No Change | | +7.8 | | -15.6 | | No Change | |
| 1975-76 | -4.8 | | + 0.9 | | -3.4 | | -8.7 | | +10.1 | | -3.4 | |

TABLE 2. AGE OF JUVENILE INDIVIDUALS BY YEAR

| AGE | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | NO. | % | NO. | % | NO. | % |
| 1 | 156 | 2.6 | 116 | 2.0 | 114 | 1.9 |
| 2 | 79 | 1.3 | 48 | 0.8 | 60 | 1.0 |
| 3 | 61 | 1.0 | 42 | 0.7 | 51 | 0.8 |
| 4 | 54 | 0.9 | 43 | 0.7 | 55 | 0.9 |
| 5 | 41 | 0.7 | 37 | 0.6 | 51 | 0.8 |
| 6 | 42 | 0.7 | 37 | 0.6 | 40 | 0.7 |
| 7 | 45 | 0.7 | 57 | 1.0 | 52 | 0.9 |
| 8 | 56 | 0.9 | 55 | 0.9 | 57 | 0.9 |
| 9 | 60 | 1.0 | 77 | 1.3 | 67 | 1.1 |
| 10 | 92 | 1.5 | 101 | 1.7 | 103 | 1.7 |
| 11 | 130 | 2.1 | 145 | 2.4 | 157 | 2.6 |
| 12 | 243 | 4.0 | 226 | 3.8 | 279 | 4.6 |
| 13 | 451 | 7.4 | 395 | 6.7 | 479 | 7.9 |
| 14 | 799 | 13.2 | 734 | 12.4 | 810 | 13.4 |
| 15 | 1,124 | 18.5 | 1,093 | 18.4 | 1,100 | 18.2 |
| 16 | 1,278 | 21.0 | 1,285 | 21.7 | 1,190 | 19.7 |
| 17 | 1,362 | 22.4 | 1,441 | 24.3 | 1,377 | 22.8 |
| Unk. | 3 | .* | 0 | - | 6 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL | 6,076 | 99.9 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 6,048 | 100.0 |
| X | 14.0 | | 14.3 | | 14.1 | |

*Less than .1 per cent.

TABLE 3. JUVENILE INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL REFERRALS AND YEAR

| REFERRALS | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 1 | 3,468 | 57.1 | 3,280 | 55.3 | 3,437 | 56.8 |
| 2-5 | 1,987 | 32.7 | 1,972 | 33.2 | 2,020 | 33.4 |
| 6-10 | 417 | 6.9 | 462 | 7.8 | 403 | 6.7 |
| 11+ | 204 | 3.4 | 218 | 3.7 | 188 | 3.1 |
| TOTAL | 6,076 | 100.1 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 6,048 | 100.0 |
| X | 2.5 | | 2.7 | | 2.5 | |
| More Than 1 Referral | | | | | | |
| X | 4.6 | | 4.7 | | 4.5 | |

TABLE 4. JUVENILE REFERRALS BY SOURCE OF REFERRAL AND YEAR

| SOURCE OF REFERRALS | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| County Police | 2,629 | 31.9 | 2,659 | 32.2 | 2,729 | 34.2 |
| City Police | 3,307 | 40.1 | 3,599 | 43.6 | 3,002 | 37.7 |
| Merchant Police | 213 | 2.6 | 132 | 1.6 | 88 | 1.1 |
| Parents | 342 | 4.1 | 276 | 3.3 | 295 | 3.7 |
| Social Agency | 778 | 9.4 | 753 | 9.1 | 668 | 8.4 |
| Schools | 294 | 3.6 | 330 | 4.0 | 645 | 8.1 |
| Other* | 689 | 8.3 | 502 | 6.1 | 546 | 6.8 |
| TOTAL | 8,252 | 100.0 | 8,251 | 99.9 | 7,973 | 100.0 |

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

TABLE 5. JUVENILE REFERRALS BY MANNER OF HANDLING AND YEAR

| | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| FORMAL | 5,024 | 60.9 | 5,144 | 62.3 | 5,307 | 66.6 |
| INFORMAL | 3,228 | 39.1 | 3,107 | 37.7 | 2,666 | 33.4 |
| TOTAL | 8,252 | 100.0 | 8,251 | 100.0 | 7,973 | 100.0 |

TABLE 6. JUVENILE REFERRALS BY REASON REFERRED AND YEAR

| REASON REFERRED | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1975-76 PERCENTAGE CHANGE | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------------------------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | Inc. | Dec. | |
| MAJOR VS. PERSON | Murder & Manslaughter | 11 | 0.1 | 6 | 0.1 | 16 | 0.2 | 166.7 | - |
| | Forcible Rape | 13 | 0.2 | 21 | 0.3 | 32 | 0.4 | 52.4 | - |
| | Assault: Aggravated | 142 | 1.7 | 126 | 1.5 | 168 | 2.1 | 33.3 | - |
| | Assault | 134 | 1.6 | 255 | 3.1 | 337 | 4.2 | 32.2 | - |
| | Robbery | 191 | 2.3 | 150 | 1.8 | 134 | 1.7 | - | 10.7 |
| | Robbery: Purse Snatching | 71 | 0.9 | 49 | 0.6 | 31 | 0.4 | - | 36.7 |
| | Sex Offenses | 72 | 0.9 | 66 | 0.8 | 51 | 0.6 | - | 22.7 |
| SUB TOTAL | 634 | 7.7 | 673 | 8.2 | 769 | 9.6 | 14.3 | - | |
| MAJOR VS. PROPERTY | Arson | 43 | 0.5 | 59 | 0.7 | 64 | 0.8 | 8.5 | - |
| | Auto Tampering | 81 | 1.0 | 27 | 0.3 | 19 | 0.2 | - | 29.6 |
| | Auto Theft | 6 | 0.1 | 18 | 0.2 | 13 | 0.2 | - | 27.8 |
| | Unauthorized Use of Auto | 84 | 1.0 | 87 | 1.1 | 67 | 0.8 | - | 23.0 |
| | Grand Larceny | 544 | 6.6 | 265 | 3.2 | 463 | 5.8 | 74.7 | - |
| | Burglary | 59 | 0.7 | 1,046 | 12.7 | 956 | 12.0 | - | 8.6 |
| | Storehouse Breaking | 284 | 3.4 | 27 | 0.3 | 5 | 0.1 | - | 81.5 |
| | Dwellinghouse Breaking | 394 | 4.8 | 89 | 1.1 | 26 | 0.3 | - | 70.8 |
| | Outhouse Breaking | 22 | 0.3 | 0 | - | 1 | -* | - | - |
| | School House Breaking | 58 | 0.7 | 6 | 0.1 | 8 | 0.1 | 33.3 | - |
| | Possessing Burglary Tools | 13 | 0.2 | 32 | 0.4 | 26 | 0.3 | - | 18.8 |
| | Banding To Commit a Felony | 3 | -* | 9 | 0.1 | 15 | 0.2 | 66.7 | - |
| | Weapons: Carrying/Possessing | 86 | 1.0 | 59 | 0.7 | 46 | 0.6 | - | 22.0 |
| | Uttering a Forged Instrument | 50 | 0.6 | 44 | 0.5 | 31 | 0.4 | - | 29.5 |
| SUB TOTAL | 1,727 | 20.9 | 1,768 | 21.4 | 1,740 | 21.8 | - | 1.6 | |

TABLE 6. JUVENILE REFERRALS BY REASON REFERRED AND YEAR (Continued)

| REASON REFERRED | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1975-76 PERCENTAGE CHANGE | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|------------------------------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | Inc. | Dec. | |
| SUBSTANCE OFFENSES | Violation Drug Laws:Narcotic | 214 | 2.6 | 200 | 2.4 | 87 | 1.1 | - | 56.5 |
| | Violation Drug Laws | 233 | 2.8 | 281 | 3.4 | 266 | 3.3 | - | 5.3 |
| | Glue/Paint Sniffing | 104 | 1.3 | 228 | 2.8 | 117 | 1.5 | - | 48.7 |
| | Drunkenness | 104 | 1.3 | 202 | 2.4 | 217 | 2.7 | 7.4 | - |
| | Possessing/Drinking Liquor | 251 | 3.0 | 341 | 4.1 | 307 | 3.9 | - | 10.0 |
| SUB TOTAL | 906 | 11.0 | 1,252 | 15.1 | 994 | 12.5 | - | 20.6 | |
| MINOR OFFENSES | Disorderly Conduct | 908 | 11.0 | 628 | 7.6 | 428 | 5.4 | - | 31.8 |
| | Petit Larceny | 188 | 2.3 | 224 | 2.7 | 621 | 7.8 | 177.2 | - |
| | Shoplifting | 892 | 10.8 | 856 | 10.4 | 446 | 5.6 | - | 47.9 |
| | Destruction of Property | 170 | 2.1 | 168 | 2.0 | 162 | 2.0 | - | 3.6 |
| | False Alarms | 15 | 0.2 | 35 | 0.4 | 18 | 0.2 | - | 48.6 |
| | Neighborhood Complaints | 3 | -* | 7 | 0.1 | 2 | -* | - | 71.4 |
| | Loitering | 90 | 1.1 | 54 | 0.7 | 35 | 0.4 | - | 35.2 |
| | AWOL From Institution | 245 | 3.0 | 193 | 2.3 | 105 | 1.3 | - | 45.6 |
| | Traffic Offenses | 169 | 2.0 | 160 | 1.9 | 176 | 2.2 | 10.0 | - |
| | Other | 129 | 1.6 | 332 | 4.0 | 347 | 4.4 | 4.5 | - |
| SUB TOTAL | 2,809 | 34.1 | 2,657 | 32.1 | 2,340 | 29.3 | - | 11.9 | |
| STATUS OFFENSES | Attempted Suicide | 9 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.1 | - | 20.0 |
| | Runaway: In County | 298 | 3.6 | 265 | 3.2 | 297 | 3.7 | 12.1 | - |
| | Runaway: Out of County | 47 | 0.6 | 38 | 0.5 | 38 | 0.5 | - | - |
| | Runaway: Out of State | 138 | 1.7 | 137 | 1.7 | 106 | 1.3 | - | 22.6 |
| | Ungovernable Behavior | 346 | 4.2 | 362 | 4.4 | 347 | 4.4 | - | 4.1 |
| | Truancy | 262 | 3.2 | 271 | 3.3 | 589 | 7.4 | 117.3 | - |
| SUB TOTAL | 1,100 | 13.4 | 1,078 | 13.2 | 1,381 | 17.4 | 28.1 | - | |

TABLE 6. JUVENILE REFERRALS BY REASON REFERRED AND YEAR (Continued)

| REASON REFERRED | | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1975-76 PERCENTAGE CHANGE | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------------------------------|------|
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | Inc. | Dec. |
| OTHER | Dependency | 993 | 12.0 | 804 | 9.7 | 730 | 9.2 | - | 9.2 |
| | Paternity | 10 | 0.1 | 2 | .* | 12 | 0.2 | 500.0 | - |
| | Marriage Request | 73 | 0.9 | 17 | 0.2 | 7 | 0.1 | - | 58.8 |
| SUB TOTAL | | 1,076 | 13.0 | 823 | 9.9 | 749 | 9.5 | - | 9.0 |
| T O T A L S | | 8,252 | 100.1 | 8,251 | 99.9 | 7,973 | 100.1 | - | 3.4 |

*Less than .1 per cent.

TABLE 7. TOTAL REFERRALS BY PLANNING SERVICE COMMUNITY AND YEAR

| P.S.C. | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | | 1975-76 PERCENTAGE CHANGE | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------------------------------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | Inc. | Dec. |
| 1 | 505 | 6.1 | 408 | 4.9 | 443 | 5.6 | 8.6 | - |
| 2 | 653 | 7.9 | 662 | 8.0 | 572 | 7.2 | - | 13.6 |
| 3 | 155 | 1.9 | 170 | 2.1 | 200 | 2.5 | 17.6 | - |
| 4 | 539 | 6.5 | 486 | 5.9 | 484 | 6.1 | - | 0.4 |
| 5 | 534 | 6.5 | 473 | 5.7 | 456 | 5.7 | - | 3.6 |
| 6 | 574 | 7.0 | 451 | 5.5 | 506 | 6.3 | 12.2 | - |
| 7 | 208 | 2.5 | 190 | 2.3 | 171 | 2.1 | - | 10.0 |
| 8 | 286 | 3.5 | 294 | 3.6 | 267 | 3.3 | - | 9.2 |
| 9 | 419 | 5.1 | 469 | 5.7 | 465 | 5.8 | - | 0.9 |
| 10 | 578 | 7.0 | 656 | 8.0 | 670 | 8.4 | 2.1 | - |
| 11 | 834 | 10.1 | 787 | 9.5 | 813 | 10.2 | 3.3 | - |
| 12 | 797 | 9.7 | 794 | 9.6 | 710 | 8.9 | - | 10.6 |
| 13 | 860 | 10.4 | 1,111 | 13.5 | 1,028 | 12.9 | - | 7.5 |
| 14 | 501 | 6.1 | 469 | 5.7 | 428 | 5.4 | - | 8.7 |
| 15 | 306 | 3.7 | 335 | 4.1 | 342 | 4.3 | 2.1 | - |
| Out of County | 503 | 6.1 | 496 | 6.0 | 418 | 5.2 | - | 15.7 |
| TOTAL | 8,252 | 100.1 | 8,251 | 100.1 | 7,973 | 99.9 | - | 3.4 |

TABLE 8. INDIVIDUALS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD AND YEAR

| EMPLOYMENT STATUS | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| EMPLOYED | 4,065 | 72.1 | 3,830 | 70.4 | 3,515 | 64.0 |
| UNEMPLOYED | 1,575 | 27.9 | 1,612 | 29.6 | 1,975 | 36.0 |
| UNKNOWN | 436 | * | 490 | * | 558 | * |
| T O T A L | 6,076 | 100.0 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 6,048 | 100.0 |

*Percentage excludes Unknowns.

TABLE 9. INDIVIDUALS BY RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND YEAR

| | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| YES | 1,270 | 22.7 | 1,224 | 23.1 | 1,452 | 26.9 |
| NO | 4,333 | 77.3 | 4,065 | 76.9 | 3,943 | 73.1 |
| UNKNOWN | 473 | * | 643 | * | 653 | * |
| TOTAL | 6,076 | 100.0 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 6,048 | 100.0 |

* Percentage excludes unknowns.

TABLE 10. INDIVIDUALS BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT AND YEAR

| LIVING ARRANGEMENT | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Mother & Stepfather | 445 | 7.4 | 426 | 7.2 | 403 | 6.8 |
| Mother Only | 1,946 | 32.6 | 2,014 | 34.1 | 2,333 | 39.0 |
| Relative | 474 | 7.9 | 436 | 7.4 | 401 | 6.7 |
| Institution | 199 | 3.3 | 152 | 2.6 | 104 | 1.7 |
| Both Parents | 2,410 | 40.3 | 2,398 | 40.6 | 2,272 | 38.0 |
| Father & Stepmother | 76 | 1.3 | 87 | 1.5 | 91 | 1.5 |
| Father Only | 209 | 3.5 | 194 | 3.3 | 223 | 3.7 |
| Foster Home | 111 | 1.9 | 118 | 2.0 | 85 | 1.4 |
| Independent | 106 | 1.8 | 76 | 1.3 | 64 | 1.1 |
| Unknown | 100 | * | 31 | * | 72 | * |
| TOTAL | 6,076 | 100.0 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 6,048 | 99.9 |

*Percentage excludes unknowns.

TABLE 11. INDIVIDUALS BY SCHOOL STATUS AND YEAR

| SCHOOL STATUS | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Pre-School | 388 | 6.4 | 290 | 4.9 | 334 | 5.6 |
| Attending | 4,637 | 76.9 | 4,543 | 77.4 | 4,640 | 77.2 |
| Completed | 62 | 1.0 | 84 | 1.4 | 81 | 1.3 |
| Withdrawn | 942 | 15.6 | 953 | 16.2 | 957 | 15.9 |
| Unknown | 47 | * | 62 | * | 36 | * |
| TOTAL | 6,076 | 99.9 | 5,932 | 99.9 | 6,048 | 100.0 |

*Percentages excludes unknowns.

TABLE 12. INDIVIDUALS BY EDUCATION CLAIMED AND YEAR

| EDUCATION CLAIMED | 1974 | | 1975 | | 1976 | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Pre-School | 464 | 7.8 | 380 | 6.8 | 419 | 7.4 |
| 2-5 Years | 342 | 5.8 | 364 | 6.5 | 386 | 6.8 |
| 6 | 261 | 4.4 | 224 | 4.0 | 270 | 4.8 |
| 7 | 518 | 8.7 | 498 | 8.9 | 555 | 9.8 |
| 8 | 977 | 16.5 | 952 | 17.0 | 952 | 16.9 |
| 9 | 1,237 | 20.9 | 1,145 | 20.4 | 1,201 | 21.3 |
| 10 | 1,221 | 20.6 | 1,191 | 21.3 | 1,076 | 19.1 |
| 11 | 835 | 14.1 | 755 | 13.5 | 694 | 12.3 |
| 12 | 74 | 1.2 | 90 | 1.6 | 82 | 1.5 |
| Spec. Ed. | 2 | ** | 2 | ** | 1 | ** |
| Unknown | 145 | * | 331 | * | 412 | * |
| TOTAL | 6,076 | 100.0 | 5,932 | 100.0 | 6,048 | 99.9 |
| MEAN | 8.9 | | 8.7 | | 8.6 | |

*Percentages excludes unknowns.
 **Less than .1 per cent.

TOTAL REFERRALS PERCENTAGE CHANGE

(1975 - 1976)

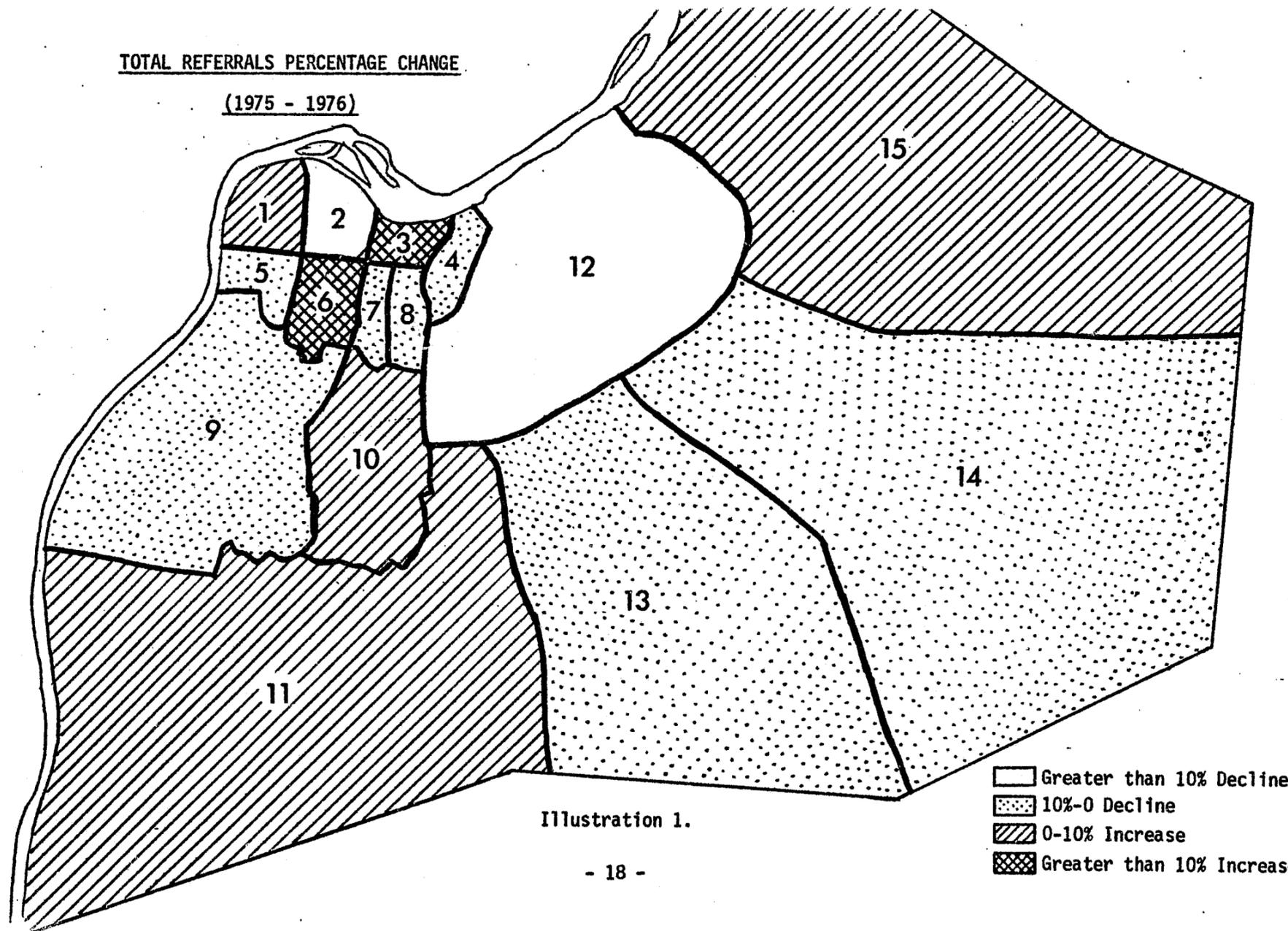


Illustration 1.

THE SERIOUS OFFENDER:

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

Prepared by:

METROPOLITAN SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Office of Research and Planning
Louisville & Jefferson County, Ky.

G. B. Haarman, Director

M. F. Seibold and T. A. Hildenbrand,
Principal Investigators

82097

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| List of Tables | ii |
| Illustrations | iii |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Methodology | 2 |
| Historical Trends | 3 |
| General Characteristics of Sample | 5 |
| Follow-Up Period | 11 |
| Conclusions and Suggestions | 17 |
| Summary | 21 |

LIST OF TABLES

| TABLE | TITLE | Page |
|-------|--|------|
| 1 | Offense Distribution. | 5 |
| 2 | Type of Offense by Sex and Race | 5 |
| 3 | Age at First Offense. | 6 |
| 4 | Living Arrangement | 6 |
| 5 | Number of Siblings | 7 |
| 6 | Receipt of Public Assistance | 7 |
| 7 | Income | 8 |
| 8 | School Status | 8 |
| 9 | Guilt Admitted or Proved | 8 |
| 10 | Disposition | 9 |
| 11 | Pre-History Offense | 9 |
| 12 | Length of Pre-History | 10 |
| 13 | Sex and Race by Post History | 11 |
| 14 | Age by First Offense by Outcome | 12 |
| 15 | Pre-History Offense by Follow-Up. | 13 |
| 16 | Length of Pre-History by Follow-Up Score | 14 |

LIST OF TABLES

| TABLE | TITLE | Page |
|-------|--|------|
| 17 | Pre-History Score by Post-History Score. | 14 |
| 18 | Disposition by Outcome | 15 |
| 19 | Follow-Up Master Score* by Type of Serious Offender. | 16 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rank Scattergram: Property - Offenses to All Referrals for Selected Years (1951-9774) | 4 |
| 2 | Rank Scattergram: Persons - Offenses to All Referrals for Selected Years (1951-1974) | 4 |

THE SERIOUS OFFENDER: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

INTRODUCTION

The problem of juveniles who commit serious property or violent offenses has received increasing attention in recent years. The costs of serious offenses, both in terms of money and human suffering, are immense. However, some perceptions of the serious offenses have been distorted and it is the purpose of this study to investigate certain aspects of the serious offender problem to achieve a more accurate picture of this phenomena.

This study is a preliminary exploration of the problem and should by no means be viewed as an all-encompassing examination of the serious offender. Because court records are the basis of the study, the limitations of using such data must be acknowledged. The information included in this report cannot explore the social and psychological aspects of the problem and is thus limited to a cursory examination of the serious offender. No causal inferences should be drawn from the data.

With this in mind, the findings of the study are presented.

M E T H O D O L O G Y

A random sample of 290 "serious"* offenders was taken from over 2,000 serious offenders referred to Juvenile Court in 1974. Of this sample, one record (0.3%) had been expunged and was unavailable; 22 (7.6%) were incorrectly coded or were cases of mistaken identity; and 29 (10.0%) did not meet the minimum follow-up allowance of three months. This yielded an analysable sample of 238 cases. This is well within a reasonable confidence interval for making inferences to the entire serious offender population in that year.

Information was collected from the case record concerning age, sex, race, living arrangement, number of siblings, income, receipt of public assistance, school status, length of pre-history, number and type of pre-history offenses, age at first offense, admission of guilt, disposition, length of follow-up, number and type of follow-up offenses, census tract, Interpersonal Maturity Level (I-Level) and I.Q. Information concerning I-Level and I.Q. was unavailable on most cases and is not reported in the test.

Pre and post history offenses were grouped into the following:

- 0 = No Offense
- 1 = Status Offenses
- 2 = Minor Offenses
- 3 = Major Offenses
- 4 = Persons Offenses

The scoring was based on the most serious offense in either period.

*Serious offenders include: Arson, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Dwellinghouse Breaking, Rape, Grand Larceny, Murder, Purse Snatching, Robbery and Storehouse Breaking.

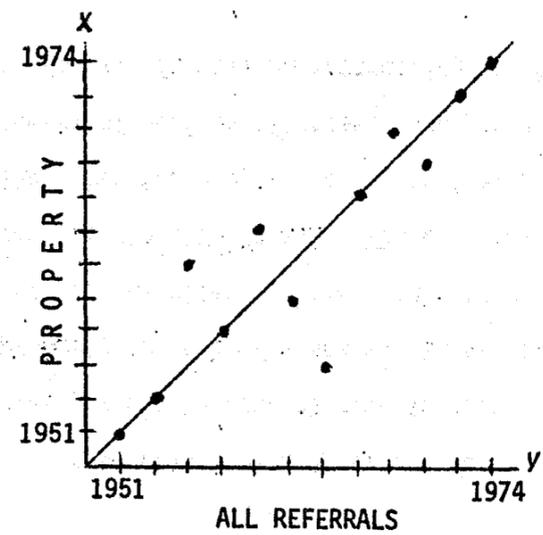
HISTORICAL TRENDS

Data concerning certain serious offenses (burglary, murder, assault, grand larceny and robbery) has been collected in a uniform manner over the period of 1951 through 1974 and thus can be analysed. Numerically, the increase in these offenses has been enormous. However, referrals for these offenses have generally increased at the same rate as all referrals to Court.

A correlation analysis was completed to determine if the rise in serious offenses differed significantly from the general rise in referrals to Juvenile Court. Data was gathered on the number of persons, property and all offenses for 12 selected years.* The analysis showed that the number of both property and persons offenses were highly correlated with the number of all offenses in a given year (both significant at the .005 level). The correlation coefficient for persons offenses ($R=.85$) was slightly lower than that for property offenses ($R=.92$). However, it can be generally inferred from the data that the number of serious offenses, both property and persons, is highly dependent on the volume of all referrals to Court. It will be interesting to note if this trend will continue in the future.

*1951, 53, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 68, 70, 72 and 74. (See Illustrations 1 & 2 on the following page).

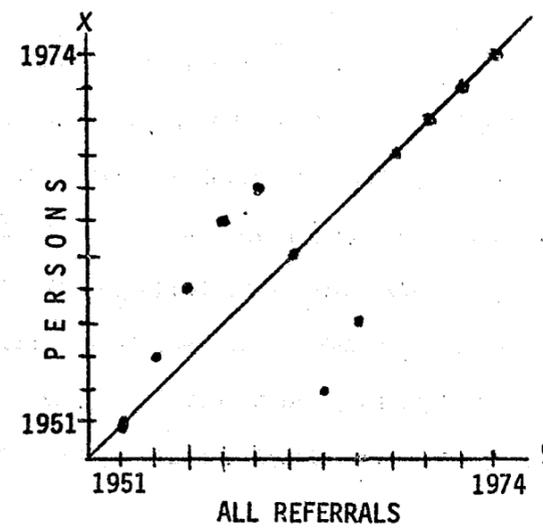
Illustration 1.



Rank Scattergram: Property
Offenses to All Referrals
For Selected Years - (1951-1974)

(R = .92 P <.005)

Illustration 2.



Rank Scattergram: Persons
Offenses to All Referrals
For Selected Years - (1951-1974)

(R = .85 P <.005)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE

In the sample, the most frequently committed offense was Grand Larceny with Dwellinghouse Breaking and Storehouse Breaking second and third. All of these offenses are crimes against property. Of offenses against persons, Robbery was the largest category with Assault second. Of the entire sample, 55 or 23.1 per cent of the cases involved offenses against persons. The remainder were major offenses against property.

TABLE 1. OFFENSE DISTRIBUTION

| | No. | % |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Arson | 7 | 2.9 |
| Assault | 20 | 8.4 |
| Burglary | 11 | 4.6 |
| Dwellinghouse Breaking | 55 | 23.1 |
| Rape | 1 | .5 |
| Grand Larceny | 71 | 29.8 |
| Purse Snatching | 12 | 5.0 |
| Robbery | 22 | 9.2 |
| Storehouse Breaking | 39 | 16.4 |
| T O T A L | 238 | 99.9 |

TABLE 2. TYPE OF OFFENSE BY SEX AND RACE

| S E X | M A L E | | F E M A L E | | T O T A L | | R A C E | W H I T E | | B L A C K | | T O T A L | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Persons | 50 | 18.1 | 5 | 45.5 | 55 | 23.1 | Persons | 22 | 16.2 | 33 | 32.0 | 55 | 23.1 |
| Property | 177 | 81.9 | 6 | 54.5 | 183 | 76.9 | Property | 114 | 83.8 | 69 | 68.0 | 183 | 76.9 |
| T O T A L | 227 | 100.0 | 11 | 100.0 | 238 | 100.0 | T O T A L | 136 | 100.0 | 102 | 100.0 | 238 | 100.0 |
| MEAN | (X² = 2.05) | | (P <.N.S.) | | | | MEAN | (X² = 7.69) | | (P <.01) | | | |

Females had a greater tendency to commit offenses against persons than males but the size of a sample precludes a significant finding. However, it can be inferred from the sample that blacks had a greater probability of committing an offense against persons than whites. (P <.01)

Age at the time of the first offense appears to have a significant effect on the type of serious offense one commits. The mean age of persons offenders was greater than those who commit property offenses. Juveniles below the age of 14 had a greater probability of committing a property offense ($P < .01$) and those above 16 had a greater chance of committing an offense against persons ($P < .02$).

TABLE 3. AGE AT FIRST OFFENSE

| A G E | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | T O T A L | |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 5 | 1 | 1.8 | - | - | 1 | .4 |
| 9 | - | - | 1 | .5 | 1 | .4 |
| 10 | - | - | 2 | 1.1 | 2 | .8 |
| 11 | 1 | 1.8 | 6 | 3.3 | 7 | 2.9 |
| 12 | - | - | 12 | 6.6 | 12 | 5.0 |
| 13 | 3 | 5.5 | 21 | 11.5 | 24 | 10.2 |
| 14 | 7 | 12.7 | 40 | 21.9 | 47 | 19.7 |
| 15 | 15 | 27.3 | 42 | 23.0 | 57 | 23.9 |
| 16 | 20 | 36.4 | 39 | 21.3 | 59 | 24.8 |
| 17 | 8 | 14.5 | 20 | 10.9 | 28 | 11.8 |
| TOTAL MEAN | 55 | 100.0 (15.2) | 183 | 100.1 (14.6) | 238 | 99.9 (14.7) |

TABLE 4. LIVING ARRANGEMENT

| ARRANGEMENT | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | T O T A L | |
|--------------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|-----------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Parent/Step-parent | 4 | 7.3 | 23 | 12.6 | 27 | 11.3 |
| Single Parent | 22 | 40.0 | 73 | 39.9 | 95 | 39.9 |
| Both Parents | 24 | 43.6 | 67 | 36.6 | 91 | 38.2 |
| Other | 5 | 9.1 | 20 | 10.9 | 25 | 10.5 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 | 183 | 100.0 | 238 | 99.9 |

There was no apparent difference in the juvenile's living arrangement between the type of offense committed. Persons offenders had a slightly higher rate of residence with both parents; however, it was not found to be significant.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF SIBLINGS

| NO. | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|------------|---------|----------------|----------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0 | 3 | 5.5 | 13 | 7.1 | 16 | 6.7 |
| 1 | 2 | 3.6 | 20 | 10.9 | 22 | 9.2 |
| 2 | 9 | 16.4 | 25 | 13.7 | 34 | 14.3 |
| 3 | 11 | 20.0 | 30 | 16.4 | 41 | 17.2 |
| 4 | 9 | 16.4 | 34 | 18.6 | 43 | 18.1 |
| 5 | 6 | 10.9 | 23 | 12.6 | 29 | 12.2 |
| 6 | 5 | 9.1 | 18 | 9.8 | 23 | 9.7 |
| 7 | 4 | 7.3 | 6 | 3.3 | 10 | 4.2 |
| 8 | 1 | 1.8 | 5 | 2.7 | 6 | 2.5 |
| 9 | 5 | 9.1 | 9 | 4.9 | 14 | 5.9 |
| TOTAL MEAN | 55 | 100.1 (4.2) | 183 | 100.0 (3.7) | 238 | 100.0 (3.8) |

Although not a significant difference, juveniles committing persons offenses tended to have a slightly higher mean number of siblings than property offenders.

Those juveniles whose families received public assistance had a greater chance of committing an offense against persons compared to those not receiving assistance ($P < .05$). However, for both offenses, the majority were not receiving assistance.

TABLE 6. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|---------|---------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| NO | 35 | 63.6 | 144 | 80.0 | 179 | 76.2 |
| YES | 20 | 36.4 | 36 | 20.0 | 56 | 23.8 |
| UNKNOWN | - | - | 3* | - | 3 | - |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 ($X = 5.35$) | 183 | 100.0 ($P < .05$) | 238 | 100.0 |

*Unknown not included in analysis.

The mean income for property offenders was almost 1,000 more per year than persons offenders. Due to the fact that almost one-third of the cases did not have a reported income, valid statistical analysis is impossible. However, there seems to be a relationship between income and the type of offense committed.

TABLE 8. SCHOOL STATUS

| | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|------------|---------|------|----------|------|-------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Pre-School | 1 | 1.8 | 0 | - | 1 | .4 |
| Attending | 45 | 81.8 | 158 | 86.3 | 203 | 85.3 |
| Completed | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | .5 | 2 | .8 |
| Withdrawn | 8 | 14.5 | 24 | 13.1 | 32 | 13.4 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 99.9 | 183 | 99.9 | 238 | 99.9 |

Property offenses were admitted or proved at a slightly higher rate as compared to persons offenders.

TABLE 7. INCOME

| | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|---------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| \$ 0-\$4,999 | 15 | 42.9 | 49 | 38.3 | 64 | 39.3 |
| 5,000- 9,999 | 16 | 45.7 | 48 | 37.5 | 64 | 39.3 |
| 10,000 & Over | 4 | 11.4 | 31 | 24.2 | 35 | 21.5 |
| Unknown | 20 | -* | 55 | -* | 75 | -* |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 | 183 | 100.0 | 238 | 100.1 |
| MEAN | (6,207) | | (7,185) | | (7,001) | |

*Unknowns not included.

School status appeared to have little effect on the type of offense committed. The overwhelming majority were attending school at the time of the offense which made them a part of this study.

TABLE 9. GUILT ADMITTED OR PROVED

| | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| YES | 30 | 54.5 | 114 | 62.3 | 144 | 60.5 |
| NO | 25 | 45.5 | 69 | 37.7 | 94 | 39.5 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 | 183 | 100.0 | 238 | 100.0 |

TABLE 10. DISPOSITIONS

| | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|-----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Dismiss/FAWL | 21 | 38.2 | 81 | 44.3 | 102 | 42.9 |
| Probation | 17 | 30.9 | 31 | 16.9 | 48 | 20.2 |
| Group Home | - | - | 3 | 1.6 | 3 | 1.3 |
| State Inst. | 6 | 10.9 | 15 | 8.2 | 21 | 8.8 |
| County Inst. | 5 | 9.1 | 14 | 7.7 | 19 | 8.0 |
| Comm. Agency | 1 | 1.8 | 11 | 6.0 | 12 | 5.0 |
| Grand Jury | - | - | 1 | .5 | 1 | .4 |
| Judicial Ruling | 1 | 1.8 | 4 | 2.2 | 5 | 2.1 |
| Other | 1 | 1.8 | 10 | 5.5 | 11 | 4.6 |
| Informal | 3 | 5.5 | 13 | 7.1 | 16 | 6.7 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 | 183 | 100.0 | 238 | 100.0 |

Persons offenders had a greater mean number of pre-history offenses compared to property offenders. They also had a slightly longer pre-history. The differences however were not statistically significant.

The rate of cases filed away was slightly less for persons offenders compared to property offenders. Persons offenders received probation and institutionalization at a greater rate. Persons offenders received a treatment disposition (Probation, Group Homes, State Institution and County Institution) at a significantly greater rate than property offenders.

($\chi^2 = 4.19$ P < .05)

TABLE 11. PRE HISTORY OFFENSES

| NUMBER | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|------------|---------|-------------|----------|--------------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| None | 18 | 32.7 | 74 | 40.4 | 92 | 38.7 |
| 1 | 8 | 14.5 | 36 | 19.7 | 44 | 18.5 |
| 2 | 4 | 7.3 | 18 | 9.8 | 22 | 9.2 |
| 3 | 7 | 12.7 | 12 | 6.6 | 19 | 8.0 |
| 4 | 2 | 3.6 | 8 | 4.4 | 10 | 4.2 |
| 5 | 2 | 3.6 | 4 | 2.2 | 6 | 2.5 |
| 6 | 3 | 5.5 | 11 | 6.0 | 14 | 5.9 |
| 7 | 1 | 1.8 | 3 | 1.6 | 4 | 1.7 |
| 8 | 1 | 1.8 | 6 | 3.3 | 7 | 2.9 |
| 9 | 9 | 16.4 | 11 | 6.0 | 20 | 8.4 |
| TOTAL MEAN | 55 | 99.9 3.1 | 183 | 100.0 2.2 | 238 | 100.0 |

TABLE 12. LENGTH OF PRE-HISTORY

| LENGTH | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|----------|---------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0 | 18 | 32.7 | 74 | 40.4 | 92 | 38.7 |
| 6 Months | 5 | 9.1 | 27 | 14.8 | 32 | 13.4 |
| 1 Year | 5 | 9.1 | 18 | 9.8 | 23 | 9.7 |
| 1½ Years | 7 | 12.7 | 7 | 3.8 | 14 | 5.9 |
| 2 Years | 3 | 5.5 | 19 | 10.4 | 22 | 9.2 |
| 2½ Years | 3 | 5.5 | 4 | 2.2 | 7 | 2.9 |
| 3 Years | 7 | 12.7 | 12 | 6.6 | 19 | 8.0 |
| 3½ Years | 1 | 1.8 | 2 | 1.1 | 3 | 1.3 |
| 4 Years | 1 | 1.8 | 10 | 5.5 | 11 | 4.6 |
| 4½ Years | 5 | 9.1 | 10 | 5.5 | 15 | 6.3 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 | 183 | 100.1 | 238 | 100.0 |
| MEAN | | 1.5 | | 1.2 | | 1.3 |

FOLLOW-UP PERIOD

The entire sample averaged 1.6 years of follow-up. Those with less than one year of follow-up were less likely to have committed a follow-up offense (P <.05).

As noted in the methodology, both pre-history and post-history were scored in five offense categories: No Offenses, Status, Minor, Major and Persons. To aid in analysis, these were sometimes grouped into two categories: Serious* and Non-Serious (includes "No Offenses").

As with the type of offense committed, noted in the previous section, race had a significant effect on the outcome of the follow-up period.

TABLE 13. SEX AND RACE BY POST-HISTORY

| POST HISTORY | M A L E | | | | F E M A L E | | | | T O T A L | |
|--------------|---------|-------|-------|------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | White | | Black | | White | | Black | | No. | % |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | | |
| None | 47 | 35.6 | 25 | 26.3 | 3 | 75.0 | 2 | 28.6 | 77 | 32.4 |
| Status | 5 | 3.8 | 2 | 2.1 | 0 | - | 1 | 14.3 | 8 | 3.4 |
| Minor | 23 | 17.4 | 8 | 8.4 | 1 | 25.0 | 0 | - | 32 | 13.4 |
| Major | 45 | 34.1 | 33 | 34.7 | 0 | - | 3 | 42.9 | 81 | 34.0 |
| Persons | 12 | 9.1 | 27 | 28.4 | 0 | - | 1 | 14.3 | 40 | 16.8 |
| TOTAL | 132 | 100.0 | 95 | 99.9 | 4 | 100.0 | 7 | 100.1 | 238 | 100.0 |

*Includes all offenses listed in Methodology plus weapons and drugs.

Among males, for example, blacks had a much greater chance of committing a follow-up offense against persons than whites ($P < .001$). When divided as a serious/non-serious offense typology, blacks had a greater number of serious offenses in the follow-up compared to whites ($P < .01$).

TABLE 14. AGE AT FIRST OFFENSE BY OUTCOME

| A G E | NONE | | STATUS | | MINOR | | MAJOR | | PERSON | |
|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 5-10 | 5 | 6.5 | 1 | 12.5 | 3 | 9.4 | 9 | 11.1 | 9 | 22.5 |
| 11-12 | 12 | 15.6 | 2 | 25.0 | 5 | 15.6 | 17 | 21.0 | 8 | 20.0 |
| 13-15 | 40 | 51.9 | 5 | 62.5 | 21 | 65.6 | 50 | 61.7 | 20 | 50.0 |
| 16-17 | 20 | 26.0 | 0 | - | 3 | 9.4 | 5 | 6.2 | 3 | 7.5 |
| TOTAL | 77 | 100.0 | 8 | 100.0 | 32 | 100.0 | 81 | 100.0 | 40 | 100.0 |
| MEAN | | 14.1 | | 12.9 | | 13.6 | | 12.9 | | 12.5 |

Age appeared to have an effect on outcome. When grouped into the serious/non-serious offense typology, those over 14 years of age at the time of their first referral committed significantly fewer serious offenses in their follow-up periods ($P < .001$). Thus, those under 14 had a greater chance of committing a serious offense.

As can be noted in Table 14, over 40 per cent of the persons offenders were under 12 years of age at their first referral to Court. Also, juveniles over 16 at the time of their first offense had a significantly greater chance of not committing any offenses in the follow-up ($P < .001$).

TABLE 15. PRE-HISTORY OFFENSES BY FOLLOW-UP

| PRE-HISTORY OFFENSES | FOLLOW-UP OFFENSES | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | NONE | | STATUS | | MINOR | | MAJOR | | PERSON | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| None | 51 | 66.2 | 2 | 25.0 | 16 | 50.0 | 16 | 19.8 | 7 | 17.5 |
| 1-3 | 20 | 26.0 | 5 | 62.5 | 8 | 25.0 | 38 | 46.9 | 14 | 35.0 |
| 4-6 | 3 | 3.9 | 1 | 12.5 | 4 | 12.5 | 14 | 17.3 | 8 | 20.0 |
| 7-9 | 3 | 3.9 | 0 | - | 4 | 12.5 | 13 | 16.0 | 11 | 27.5 |
| TOTAL | 77 | 100.0 | 8 | 100.0 | 32 | 100.0 | 81 | 100.0 | 40 | 100.0 |
| MEAN | .89 | | 1.5 | | 2.3 | | 3.2 | | 4.0 | |

The number of pre-history offenses was generally predictive of continued delinquent behavior of serious offenders. For example, those who had no offenses in their pre-history were much more prone to commit no offenses or, at worst, minor or social offenses ($P < .001$). On the other hand, those with five or more pre-history offenses had a great tendency to continue committing serious offenses ($P < .001$).

The length of pre-history had a similar effect on continued patterns of delinquency. Those with one year or less of previous activity had a much smaller chance of continuing in serious delinquent acts ($P < .001$). Those with three years or more of pre-history tended to commit more serious offenses ($P < .05$).

TABLE 16. LENGTH OF PRE-HISTORY BY FOLLOW-UP SCORE

| LENGTH | NONE | | STATUS | | MINOR | | MAJOR | | PERSON | |
|----------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0-1 yrs. | 61 | 79.2 | 6 | 75.0 | 19 | 59.4 | 41 | 50.6 | 20 | 50.0 |
| 1-3 yrs. | 6 | 7.8 | 2 | 25.0 | 6 | 18.8 | 22 | 27.2 | 7 | 17.5 |
| 3+ yrs. | 10 | 13.0 | 0 | - | 7 | 21.9 | 18 | 22.2 | 13 | 32.5 |
| TOTAL | 77 | 100.0 | 8 | 100.0 | 32 | 100.1 | 81 | 100.0 | 40 | 100.0 |
| MEAN | | .8 | | .9 | | 1.2 | | 1.5 | | 2.0 |

TABLE 17. PRE-HISTORY SCORE BY POST-HISTORY SCORE

| PRE-HISTORY | POST-HISTORY SCORE | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | NONE | | STATUS | | MINOR | | MAJOR | | PERSON | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| None | 51 | 66.2 | 2 | 25.0 | 16 | 50.0 | 16 | 19.8 | 7 | 17.5 |
| Status | 4 | 5.2 | 3 | 37.5 | 1 | 3.1 | 8 | 9.9 | 4 | 10.0 |
| Minor | 9 | 11.7 | 1 | 12.5 | 0 | - | 14 | 17.3 | 2 | 5.0 |
| Major | 12 | 15.6 | 2 | 25.0 | 9 | 28.1 | 32 | 39.5 | 12 | 30.0 |
| Persons | 1 | 1.3 | 0 | - | 6 | 18.8 | 11 | 13.6 | 15 | 37.5 |
| TOTAL | 77 | 100.0 | 8 | 100.0 | 32 | 100.0 | 81 | 100.1 | 40 | 100.0 |

Those who committed a pre-history offense against persons were significantly more likely to commit another persons offense in their post-history (P <.001). Also, those who committed no offenses in their pre-history had a significant chance of desisting completely from further delinquent activity in the follow-up (P <.001).

Following the serious/non-serious typology, those who committed serious offenses in the pre-history had a significantly higher chance of committing additional serious offenses compared to pre-history non-serious offenders (P <.001).

TABLE 18. DISPOSITION BY OUTCOME

| | NONE | | STATUS/ MINOR | | PERSONS/ MAJOR | | T O T A L | |
|--------------|------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|------|-----------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Dismiss/FAWL | 40 | 39.2 | 16 | 15.7 | 46 | 45.1 | 102 | 100.0 |
| Probation | 10 | 20.8 | 9 | 18.8 | 29 | 60.4 | 48 | 100.0 |
| Group Home | 0 | - | 1 | 33.3 | 2 | 66.6 | 3 | 99.9 |
| Institution | 7 | 17.1 | 5 | 12.2 | 29 | 70.7 | 41 | 100.0 |
| Social Agcy. | 4 | 33.3 | 3 | 25.0 | 5 | 41.7 | 12 | 100.0 |
| Other | 9 | 56.3 | 2 | 12.5 | 5 | 31.3 | 16 | 100.1 |
| Informal | 7 | 43.8 | 4 | 25.0 | 5 | 31.3 | 16 | 100.1 |
| TOTAL | 77 | 32.4 | 40 | 16.8 | 121 | 50.8 | 238 | 100.0 |

Over 70 per cent of those receiving an institutional disposition committed another serious offense (P <.01). Of those receiving a treatment disposition (Probation, Group Home and Institution), a significant majority committed another serious offense in the post-history (P <.001). However, there was no significant difference in the probation group when examined separately.

Overall, the entire sample committed an average of 2.1 offenses in the follow-up compared to 2.4 offenses in the pre-history. This decrease occurred despite the fact that the follow-up averaged slightly longer than the pre-history.

When placed in the Master Score scheme, which adds the factor of institutionalization, property offenders were slightly more successful than persons offenders. On a percentage basis, persons offenders were institutionalized or re-institutionalized at a greater rate than property offenders in the follow-up. Almost one-fourth of all of those in the study were later institutionalized. No differences were significant, however.

TABLE 19. FOLLOW-UP MASTER SCORE* BY TYPE OF SERIOUS OFFENDER

| | PERSONS | | PROPERTY | | TOTAL | |
|----------|---------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Success | 16 | 29.1 | 61 | 33.3 | 77 | 32.4 |
| Moderate | 7 | 12.7 | 32 | 17.5 | 39 | 16.4 |
| Minimal | 15 | 27.3 | 50 | 27.3 | 65 | 27.3 |
| Failure | 17 | 30.9 | 40 | 21.9 | 57 | 23.9 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 100.0 | 183 | 100.0 | 238 | 100.0 |

*Success = No Offenses; Moderate = Minor Offenses;
Minimal = Major Offenses; Failure = Institutionalization

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study has touched on only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the problem of the serious offender and will, to many, only serve to confirm the obvious findings of previous studies. We have not explored the depth of the problem or been able to draw any causal inferences concerning either the property or violent offender. However, we have defined certain explicit parameters of the serious offender population in Louisville and Jefferson County. Defining an offender population is the first step in the meaningful research of a social phenomena.

Certain variables have proven to be significant in both the type of offense (person or property) a serious offender commits as well as his/her continued patterns of deviant behavior. Race, age and economic status appear to have a significant relationship with the type of serious offense committed. In regard to age, for example, those who commit their first offense at the age of 16 or over, tend to commit an offense against person. Those under 14 at their first delinquent offense tend to commit property offenses. Juveniles who are black commit persons offenses and those from families receiving public assistance commit disproportionately more offenses against persons.

The type of treatment a serious offender receives is determined, in part, by the type of offense. Persons offenders receive a treatment disposition more often than property offenders. In terms of outcome, however, those receiving a treatment disposition, especially institutionalization, are more likely to commit further serious offenses. Of the treatment disposition, only probation does not have a dispro-

portionate number of juveniles committing additional serious offenses. Because of the nature of this study, it cannot be determined why this is true, but in past studies, it has been found that institutions receive relatively "worse" referrals.

In this study, the juvenile's pre-history, that is, his recorded behavior prior to the offense which put him in the study, had the most significant effect on the nature of his continued behavior. The age at first offense, length of pre-history, number of offenses and type of offenses had a significant effect on outcome. A juvenile who was 16 or older at first offense, with no previous referrals to Court or with one year or less of pre-history, had a much greater chance of committing minor offenses or no offenses at all. Those with five or more offenses, more than three years of pre-history, a pre-history serious offense, or younger than 16 at the first offense had a high probability of committing more serious offenses. Those with violent offenses in the pre-history had a greater chance of committing additional offenses against persons.

The implications of these findings are far reaching both in terms of further research and program planning. Research could be directed in more detail into the familial, psychological, school history and peer group patterns of the serious offender. Such an undertaking involves much time and significant resources but would certainly yield valuable information.

Because pre-history proved so important in this study, the necessity of early intervention, especially with violence-prone juveniles is paramount if desistance from continued violent behavior is desired. Different approaches to the treatment of the offender must be explored.

Many of the findings of this study are similar to previous delinquency studies. In Wolfgang, Sellin and Figlio's Delinquency in a Birth Cohort, the probability of delinquent behavior was studied in a cohort of all boys born in 1945 in Philadelphia. Of the 9,945 boys studied, 35 per cent had an officially reported offense as juveniles. Of the group committing an offense, there were 627 "chronic" offenders who committed over one-half of all the reported offenses.¹

While the present study does not pretend to achieve the depth of sophistication of the Wolfgang, Sellin and Figlio study, some of the results are surprisingly similar. They found, for example, that "the probability of an offense repeat sometime in a delinquent's career must be positively related to increasing offense number."² The current study revealed, for example, that those with five or more offenses in their pre-history tended to commit at least one more serious offense.

In terms of age, Wolfgang, et al found "that both whites and nonwhites commit a greater number of violent crimes as they age."³ In the present study, those over 16 at their first delinquent offense tended to commit offenses against persons.

In general, it was found in this study that those who committed a serious offense in their pre-history tended to commit another serious offense in the follow-up. Wolfgang et al had a similar finding that "once

¹Wolfgang, Sellin and Figlio; Delinquency in a Birth Cohort. (University of Chicago Press, 1972); pg. 248.

²Ibid. pg. 249.

³Ibid. pg. 251.

a boy has committed an index (serious) offense, the likelihood of a repeat sometime in his career is much greater than the initial probability of commission be it injury, theft, or a combination of these offense types."⁴

The authors of the cohort study also found that socio-economic status and race increased the probability of becoming involved with the Court.

Thus it can be generalized that the findings of this study correlate, to some degree, with previous findings.

⁴Ibid. pg. 251.

S U M M A R Y

✓ While serious offenses have increased substantially in the past 25 years, the increase has been in proportion to the increase in all offenses.

✓ Blacks in the sample had a greater probability of committing an offense against person.

✓ Persons offenders had a significantly high rate of receiving public assistance.

✓ Persons offenders receive a treatment disposition more often than property offenders.

✓ The older a juvenile was at the time of his first offense, the less likely he will commit another serious offense in the follow-up period.

✓ The more pre-history offense a serious offender had, the greater the tendency to commit additional serious offenses. The same was true for length of pre-history.

✓ Those who committed an offense against persons in their pre-history were prone to commit another such offense in the follow-up.

✓ Those who received a treatment disposition (excluding Probation) had a greater chance of committing another serious offense.

✓ The findings of this study are consistent with previous research.

END