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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY COMMISSION

212 West State Street

CN 965, Trenton, NJ 08625-0965

**THE CHRONIC
JUVENILE OFFENDER**

**A Challenge to New Jersey's
Juvenile Justice System**

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Executive Summary

Much debate has centered around the unique problems and challenges posed to the juvenile justice system by chronic juvenile offenders. Past research has indicated that a small number of youths are responsible for a disproportionate number of offenses. Is this true for New Jersey, and if so, what do we know about these offenders?

To add to our understanding of this issue, the Commission examined youths entering Family Court between 1986 and 1989. Our findings revealed that chronic offenders account for just under 13% of all docketed youths. However, this small group was responsible for almost one-half (46%) of all charges and an even larger share of serious offenses. Exploratory research on how chronic juvenile offenders are handled in three New Jersey counties suggested that the handling of these offenders (like juvenile offenders more broadly) differs across counties.

The report's findings shed further light on the extent and nature of the chronic juvenile offender problem in New Jersey. We hope it is useful for policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to devise strategies to more effectively identify, treat and control this offender population.

Chronic Offenders - What We Know

Much of what we know about chronic offenders has come from the work of Wolfgang, Figlio and Sellin. Their influential **Delinquency In a Birth Cohort** was published in 1972. The authors examined a cohort of boys born in 1945 who resided in Philadelphia from their 10th to 18th birthdays. They found that 6% of the cohort's youths were responsible for 52% of the cohort's police contacts and 63% of the contacts for Uniform Crime Report "index offenses." Furthermore, this small group was responsible for a very large share of the cohort's arrests for the violent offenses of homicide (71%), rape (73%), robbery (82%) and aggravated assault (69%). Research following cohorts into adulthood reveals that many of them go on to commit offenses as adults. A follow up of the original Wolfgang group found that 45% of the chronic juvenile offenders also went on to become chronic adult offenders.¹

In 1987, the Commission did a preliminary assessment of New Jersey's chronic juvenile offender problem utilizing the Administrative Office of the Courts' computerized Unit Case Data Base.² We examined a group of juveniles who entered the court system between October 1984 and March 1987. We found that just over one-quarter (25.8%) of the juveniles were docketed in Family Court on two or more occasions during that time. A small group, 6.7% of the total juveniles, had four or more court contacts; these juveniles were considered the chronic offenders. The chronic offenders accounted for 28.0% of all charges brought against juveniles during this period. In addition, they accounted for an even larger portion of the more serious offenses -- 41.2% of all first degree, and 38.6% of all second degree offenses.

The Present Study

With the passage of time, the computerized data base provided us an opportunity to track juveniles for a longer period of time and, so, to provide an updated profile of chronic juvenile offenders in New Jersey. Data on all juveniles entering court between 1986 and 1989 were analyzed. As with our prior study, there were certain limitations. The analysis was limited to court contacts between a juvenile and the court in that juvenile's county of residence; unless a case was referred back to that county, out-of-county and out-of-state incidents were not recorded. In addition, court-involvement outside the study time frames could not be considered. While some prior involvement with the court may still go

¹ Marvin Wolfgang, Terence Thornberry & Robert Figlio. 1987. **From Boy to Man, From Delinquency to Crime**. Chicago: University Press.

² See Juvenile Delinquency Commission. 1987. **The Chronic Juvenile Offender, A Report**. Trenton, NJ.

undisclosed, the current research effort was able to follow juveniles' involvement back to October of 1984, the start of the data base.

One caveat that is important to consider in making between county comparisons is the fact that charging practices may vary from county to county. In other words, juveniles who commit the same acts in two different counties may be charged with different types and numbers of offenses. To the degree that charging practices do differ, county comparisons may not be truly representative of differences between the counties.

The Findings

Our analysis revealed a total of over 118,000 juveniles docketed in Family Court between 1986 and 1989. They averaged 2.1 court contacts apiece. Just over three out of five juveniles (64.8%) were docketed in court only once. The remaining juveniles had more than one court contact: 15.7% were docketed twice and 6.9% were docketed three times. A small group of juveniles, 12.6% of all those docketed, were docketed four or more times – this is the group we call "chronic offenders." An even smaller portion (3.8%) of juveniles were docketed 8 or more times. For a full county breakdown, refer to Table 1 in Appendix. Most of the analysis below will focus on the 14,900 chronic juvenile offenders.

Number of Juveniles and Charges by Number of Times Docketed

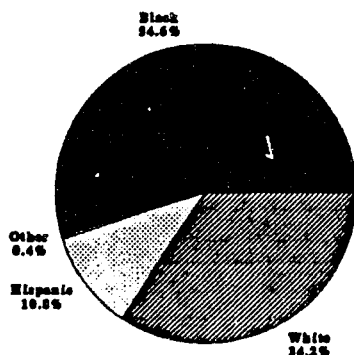
	No. Of Juveniles	% Of All Docketed Juveniles	No. Of Charges	% Of Total Charges
Docketed Once	76,636	64.8	116,795	28.6
Docketed Twice	18,624	15.7	61,793	15.1
Docketed 3 Times	8,143	6.9	42,177	10.3
Docketed 4+ Times	14,900	12.6	188,051	46.0
Total	118,303	100.0	408,816	100.0

Demographics. Chronic juvenile offenders begin their involvement with Family Court at a fairly young age. A majority of the juveniles (51.7%) were 14 or younger when first involved with the court; the average age of initial court involvement was also 14 years of age. The largest portion of juveniles (43.2%) fell into the 15-16 age group. As expected, only a small number (5.1%) were 17 or older at the time of their first court involvement.

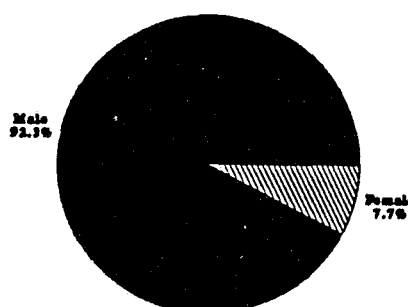
The vast majority (92.3%) of the chronic offenders (whose gender was indicated) were male. In addition, nearly two-thirds of those whose race/ethnicity was indicated (65.8%) were minority youths. More specifically, 54.6% were black, 10.8% were hispanic and less than 1% were "other" minority groups.

Males and minorities comprised a somewhat larger share of chronic juvenile offenders compared with the broader population of court-involved juveniles. According to a recent Commission report, males and minorities comprised 81.8% and 55.7%, respectively, of all youths docketed in Family Court in 1989 (in the cases where the relevant information was indicated).³ For information on sex and race/ethnicity of chronic offenders, by county, refer to Tables 2 and 3 in Appendix.

Race/Ethnicity of Chronic Offenders



Sex of Juvenile Chronic Offenders



Share of Delinquent Charges. These 14,900 chronic juvenile offenders accounted for 188,051 separate charges. This small group (12.6%) of all docketed juveniles, therefore, was responsible for nearly half (46.0%) of all charges. Further, they were charged with an even greater share of the more serious offenses: 61.8% of all first degree, 56.9% of all second degree and 54.3% of all third degree charges. See Table 4 in appendix for a more complete breakdown.

Counties varied greatly in the prevalence of chronic offenders among their court-involved youth. They ranged from highs in Mercer (18.6%) and Essex (17.9%) to lows of 5.5% and 5.9% in Morris and Sussex, respectively. There was also variation in chronic offenders' share of each county's total charges. They ranged from highs in Mercer (59.4%) and Essex (58.3%) to lows in Somerset (21.9%) and Hunterdon (22.1%).

³ Juvenile Delinquency Commission. Winter 1990. **Profile 90, A Sourcebook of Juvenile Justice Data and Trends in New Jersey.** Trenton, NJ.

**Prevalence of Chronic Juvenile Offenders
(Docketed Four or More Times), by County**

County	#	% of all docketed	# of charges	% of all charges
Atlantic	802	16.4	10,912	55.0
Bergen	653	8.2	6,659	33.2
Burlington	436	8.7	6,143	37.6
Camden	1,139	13.8	12,508	45.3
Cape May	137	5.9	1,997	30.9
Cumberland	559	14.4	7,911	51.4
Essex	3,263	17.9	44,782	58.3
Gloucester	378	10.6	4,334	40.0
Hudson	1,439	15.2	20,348	55.0
Hunterdon	57	6.0	573	22.1
Mercer	897	18.6	13,750	59.4
Middlesex	658	8.5	7,252	33.3
Monmouth	1,001	10.3	12,368	39.5
Morris	277	5.5	3,111	23.3
Ocean	554	10.3	6,863	38.5
Passaic	991	14.1	9,366	43.3
Salem	173	12.1	2,201	46.0
Somerset	161	6.4	1,693	21.9
Sussex	72	5.9	819	24.4
Union	1,107	15.0	12,772	48.3
Warren	146	10.4	1,689	37.1
State Total	14,900	12.6	188,051	46.0

Degrees of Offenses Charged. Chronic offenders were charged with a wide range of offenses. Many were serious offenses but many others were of a much less serious nature. Nearly half (46.6%) of the offenses (for which degree was indicated) charged to chronic offenders were first, second or third degree offenses. In comparison, only about one-quarter (26.0%) of the offenses charged to juveniles docketed once were as serious. Refer to Table 5, in Appendix, for a more comprehensive breakdown.

We created a "mean offense seriousness score" for juveniles docketed once, twice, three times, or four or more times (the chronic offenders), as a way to reflect the relative

seriousness of offenses charged to each of these groups.⁴ As we see in Table 4 (appended), chronic offenders had the highest mean seriousness score (3.20). The scores for the remaining groups of juveniles were as follows: docketed once (2.64), docketed twice (2.81), and docketed three times (2.90). Therefore, chronic juvenile offenders commit more serious offenses, on average, than do non-chronic offenders. But, they clearly do not "specialize" in these serious offenses.

Types of Offenses Charged. The chronic offenders were charged with close to 400 distinct types of offenses. The following lists the most common ones (excluding violations of probation).

**Charges Most Frequently Brought Against
Juveniles Docketed Four or More Times***

Offense	Degree	# of Charges	% of Chronics' Charges
Burglary	3rd	13,854	7.9
Simple Assault	DP	10,888	6.2
Criminal Mischief (\$500 or less)	DP	9,405	5.4
Theft by Unlawful Taking/Disposition	DP	7,210	4.1
Receiving Stolen Property	2nd	7,088	4.0
Theft by Unlawful Taking/Disposition	2nd	6,349	3.6
Theft by Unlawful Taking/Disposition	3rd	5,457	3.1
Shoplifting	DP	4,797	2.7
Aggravated Assault	2nd	4,673	2.7
Possession, Use or Being under the Influence (drugs)	**	4,339	2.5
Receiving Stolen Property	3rd	4,006	2.3
Robbery	1st	3,904	2.2
Improper Behavior	PDP	3,480	2.0
Driving without a License	DP	3,361	1.9
Manufacturing, Distributing or Dispensing (drugs)	**	2,876	1.6
Top 10		74,060	42.2
Top 15		91,687	52.3

* excludes violations of probation

** no degree provided

⁴ Offenses were scored on a range from one to six. First degree charges were scored highest (6) while petty disorderly persons offenses were scored lowest (1).

Burglary (3rd), Simple Assault (DP) and Criminal Mischief - loss of \$500 or less (DP) were the most common charges levied against chronic offenders, accounting for nearly one in five (18.2%) of this group's total charges. The ten most common offenses accounted for 42.2% while the fifteen most common accounted for just over one-half (52.2%) of all charges. Of the fifteen most common chronic offender charges, six were either a disorderly persons or a petty disorderly persons offense, three were a third degree, three were a second degree, and one was a first degree offense. The remaining two offenses had no charge designated.

Are Many Chronic Offenders also Serious Offenders? So far, we have shown that chronic offenders are responsible for a large share of all delinquency charges and that many of the offenses are serious. But, is the typical chronic offender involved with serious crime? The answer appears to be yes - we found that a large portion of the chronic offender group was charged with at least one serious offense. Specifically, looking at the most serious offenses (i.e., first, second and third degree offenses) we found the following:

First degree only - 19.4% of chronic offenders were charged with at least one first degree offense; and 6.7% were charged with two or more of these serious offenses.

First or second degree - A majority (56.1%) of chronic offenders were charged with at least one first or second degree offense; 37.4% with at least two and 26.2% with at least three of these serious offenses.

First, second or third degree - Nearly nine in ten (88.9%) chronic offenders were charged with at least one first, second or third degree offense; 75.8% with two or more; 62.9% with three or more and 50.8% with four or more of these serious offenses.

County Differences. Counties varied greatly in the percentage of chronic offenders who were charged with first, second, and/or third degree offenses.

First degree only - Essex (32.2%) and Hudson (27.2%) counties had the highest percentages of chronic offenders charged with at least one first degree offense. Sussex (0%), Gloucester (5.0%) and Somerset (5.0%) had the lowest.

First or second degree - More than nine in ten chronic offenders in Essex (91.7%) and the vast majority in Hudson (86.9%) were charged with at least one first or second degree offense. Only 13.7% and 14.0% of the chronic offenders in Warren and Hunterdon, respectively, were charged with a first or second degree offense.

First, second or third degree - Large portions of chronic offenders in each county were charged with at least one first, second or third degree offense. Counties

ranged from highs of 98.3% in Essex and 97.6% in Hudson to lows of 68.6% in Bergen and 70.8% in Morris. Twelve of the twenty-one counties had at least 85% of their chronic offenders charged with a first, second or third degree offense.

**Percentage of Chronic Offenders Charged
With Serious Offenses, by County**

County	% of 1st Degree	% of 1st or 2nd Degree	% of 1st, 2nd or 3rd Degree
Atlantic	19.2	54.2	87.5
Bergen	7.7	25.4	68.6
Burlington	11.0	32.3	85.6
Camden	19.6	42.6	90.8
Cape May	8.8	51.1	76.6
Cumberland	10.9	37.0	86.2
Essex	32.2	91.7	98.3
Gloucester	5.0	19.8	74.1
Hudson	27.2	86.9	97.6
Hunterdon	5.3	14.0	75.4
Mercer	23.2	35.3	90.9
Middlesex	11.4	34.5	85.6
Monmouth	9.5	80.9	90.9
Morris	5.1	27.1	70.8
Ocean	8.3	27.4	78.9
Passaic	18.8	42.1	88.2
Salem	6.9	36.4	75.1
Somerset	5.0	18.0	78.9
Sussex	0.0	34.7	86.1
Union	20.1	38.7	85.8
Warren	5.5	13.7	71.2
State	19.4	56.1	88.9

How Are Chronic Offenders Handled?

The above analysis clearly points to the serious nature of the chronic juvenile offender problem in New Jersey. But, how are these offenders handled by the Family Court? Unfortunately, no data currently exists concerning the statewide response to juvenile chronic offenders in New Jersey.

However, below we summarize some findings of an exploratory analysis of "impact offenders" in three counties that was recently conducted by Commission staff for the Attorney General's Impact Offender Committee.⁶ Note that the analysis was done on a group of juveniles who were likely to be, on average, less chronic than the juveniles in the above analysis but were, on average, charged with offenses of a more serious nature.⁶

Utilizing the AOC's Unit Case Data Base, we studied juveniles entering Family Court in Hudson, Passaic and Somerset counties on delinquency charges during 1988 to determine whether or not they were "impact offenders" and, if so, how they were handled.

Briefly, the prevalence of impact offenders varied greatly across the three counties. Nearly two in ten (17.8%) of the Hudson juveniles were impact offenders while the figure was nearly one in twenty in Passaic (4.7%) and less than 1 in 100 in Somerset (0.5%). In addition, Hudson impact offenders accounted for 59.8% of the county's target ("serious") charges while the figures for Passaic and Somerset were 27.0% and 5.0%, respectively.

How they were handled. According to the data available, it appears that handling varies across the three counties.⁷ Even so, in the majority of cases analyzed for each county, the juveniles were adjudicated delinquent and received a formal disposition.

As we see in the table below, Passaic and Somerset counties appear to have utilized custodial dispositions (commitment to DOC; short-term commitment to a county detention facility; residential placement) more often than did Hudson (**but note that Somerset had few cases (5) for analysis**). Passaic committed more than one in five of its cases to DOC and placed an additional 11.5% in DOC or other residential programs. Among the sample of Hudson cases studied, Hudson committed 5.1% to DOC and none to

⁶ A copy of the report, **An Assessment of Impact Offenders in Three Counties**, is available.

⁶ Impact offenders were defined as any juvenile with two or more complaints including a "target" offense of the 1st or 2nd degree or five or more complaints including a "target" offense of the 1st through 4th degree. The range of "target" offenses included about 50 separate charges derived from a list provided by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. They were, for the most part, 1st through 3rd degree offenses, although a few 4th degree offenses were included.

⁷ While all Passaic and Somerset impact offenders were included in the analysis of court handling, only every fourth Hudson impact offender was, due to the large number of their impact offenders and the fact that we manually reviewed each juvenile's dispositional record. To avoid including dispositions for trivial cases, we analyzed the last case of each juvenile that included a "target" charge.

community residential programs. In addition, Passaic and Somerset utilized nonresidential community programs (DOC or others) relatively more often than did Hudson. Juveniles were waived to another court very infrequently. Waivers were ordered most frequently in Passaic (4.6%) followed by Hudson (0.7%) and Somerset (0.0%).

Hudson made greater use of probation (as the most punitive or intrusive disposition) and formal continuance for its impact offenders than either of the other counties. Additionally, while about 60% of all Hudson County probation cases received probation alone, this was true in only 37% of the Passaic County probation cases. In Passaic, other dispositions were also provided in a majority of probation cases (most often community service and suspended commitment orders). Of the three counties, Hudson had the greatest share (37.7%) of its impact offender cases dismissed (on all charges) compared with 26.7% for Passaic and 20.0% for Somerset.

**Disposition of Impact Offender Cases
(Based on Number of Complaints)**

Case Disposition	Hudson		Passaic		Somerset	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Waiver	1	.7	6	4.6	0	0.0
DOC Commitment	7	5.1	27	20.6	1	20.0
Short-term Commitment	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	40.0
Residential DOC	0	0.0	9	6.9	0	0.0
Other Residential	0	0.0	6	4.6	0	0.0
Nonresidential DOC	0	0.0	8	6.1	0	0.0
Other Nonresidential	4	2.9	12	9.2	1	20.0
Probation	52	37.7	24	18.3	0	0.0
Other Conditions	1	.7	4	3.1	0	0.0
Formal Continuance	15	10.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Diverted	6	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
All Charges Dismissed	52	37.7	35	26.7	1	20.0
Total	138	100.0	131	100.1	5	100.0
<hr/>						
# Transferred Out	2		2		0	
# With No Action Listed	12		28		0	

While the above analysis of court handling is suggestive, the findings and any conclusions should be considered preliminary. This is so, in part, due to the fact that dispositional information was not available in all cases, and that our analysis of Hudson was limited to one-quarter of Hudson's impact offender cases.

In addition, these preliminary findings are open to interpretation. We might expect, however, that the apparent differences in handling are influenced by a number of factors. Included among these factors are likely to be differences across counties in charging practices, program resource availability and judicial philosophy.

Conclusion

The findings of this report, although in some ways preliminary, shed further light on the extent and nature of the chronic juvenile offender problem in New Jersey. A small group of offenders are responsible for a large share of the delinquency charges brought to the Family Court. These chronic offenders are often serious offenders, as well.

In addition, the chronic juvenile offender problem varies from county to county. And, there is some indication that, as in delinquency cases more generally, counties respond differently.

Much needs to be done. We hope that the present analysis is useful for policymakers and practitioners in their efforts to devise strategies to more effectively identify, treat and control this offender population.

APPENDIX

Table 1

**Number and Proportion of Juveniles and Charges by
Number of Times Docketed, by County**

Atlantic County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	3,002	61.4	4,486	22.6
Docketed Twice	752	15.4	2,494	12.6
Docketed 3 Times	336	6.9	1,938	8.8
Docketed 4+ Times	802	16.4	10,912	55.0
Total	4,892		19,830	

Bergen County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	5,753	72.1	7,837	39.0
Docketed Twice	1,119	14.0	3,444	17.2
Docketed 3 Times	454	5.7	2,135	10.6
Docketed 4+ Times	653	8.2	6,659	33.2
Total	7,979		20,075	

Burlington County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	3,435	68.6	5,534	33.9
Docketed Twice	187	16.3	2,851	17.5
Docketed 3 Times	322	6.4	1,798	11.0
Docketed 4+ Times	436	8.7	6,143	37.6
Total	5,010		16,326	

Camden County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	5,236	63.2	7,910	28.6
Docketed Twice	1,323	16.0	4,299	15.6
Docketed 3 Times	585	7.1	2,909	10.5
Docketed 4+ Times	1,139	13.8	12,508	45.3
Total	8,283		27,626	

Cape May County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	1,823	78.8	2,891	44.7
Docketed Twice	255	11.0	929	14.4
Docketed 3 Times	98	4.2	644	10.0
Docketed 4+ Times	137	5.9	1,997	30.9
Total	2,313		6,461	

Cumberland County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	2,310	59.7	3,670	23.8
Docketed Twice	712	18.4	2,401	15.6
Docketed 3 Times	291	7.5	1,415	9.2
Docketed 4+ Times	559	14.4	7,911	51.4
Total	3,872		15,397	

Essex County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	10,625	58.3	15,651	20.4
Docketed Twice	2,933	16.1	9,162	11.9
Docketed 3 Times	1,419	7.8	7,164	9.3
Docketed 4+ Times	3,263	17.9	44,782	58.3
Total	18,240		76,759	

Gloucester County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	2,368	66.6	3,385	31.2
Docketed Twice	563	15.8	1,738	16.0
Docketed 3 Times	249	7.0	1,377	12.7
Docketed 4+ Times	378	10.6	4,334	40.0
Total	3,558		10,834	

Hudson County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	6,032	63.5	9,020	24.4
Docketed Twice	1,349	14.2	4,331	11.7
Docketed 3 Times	674	7.1	3,331	9.0
Docketed 4+ Times	1,439	15.2	20,348	55.0
Total	9,494		37,030	

Hunterdon County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	713	74.6	1,251	48.2
Docketed Twice	131	13.7	476	18.4
Docketed 3 Times	55	5.8	294	11.3
Docketed 4+ Times	57	6.0	573	22.1
Total	956		2,594	

Mercer County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	2,703	56.0	4,483	19.4
Docketed Twice	846	17.5	2,826	12.2
Docketed 3 Times	378	7.8	2,094	9.0
Docketed 4+ Times	897	18.6	13,750	59.4
Total	4,824		23,153	

Middlesex County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	5,418	69.7	8,066	37.1
Docketed Twice	1,189	15.3	3,933	18.1
Docketed 3 Times	505	6.5	2,517	11.6
Docketed 4+ Times	658	8.5	7,252	33.3
Total	7,770		21,768	

Monmouth County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	6,535	67.0	10,109	32.3
Docketed Twice	1,615	16.6	5,614	17.9
Docketed 3 Times	600	6.2	3,229	10.3
Docketed 4+ Times	1,001	10.3	12,368	39.5
Total	9,751		31,320	

Morris County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	3,639	72.1	5,589	41.9
Docketed Twice	818	16.2	3,035	22.7
Docketed 3 Times	310	6.1	1,607	12.0
Docketed 4+ Times	277	5.5	3,111	23.3
Total	5,044		13,342	

Ocean County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	3,544	66.2	5,552	31.2
Docketed Twice	867	16.2	3,043	17.1
Docketed 3 Times	390	7.3	2,361	13.2
Docketed 4+ Times	554	10.3	6,863	38.5
Total	5,355		17,819	

Passaic County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	4,428	63.0	6,385	29.5
Docketed Twice	1,097	15.6	3,506	16.2
Docketed 3 Times	511	7.3	2,354	10.9
Docketed 4+ Times	991	14.1	9,366	43.3
Total	7,027		21,611	

Salem County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	940	65.6	1,409	29.5
Docketed Twice	227	15.8	718	15.0
Docketed 3 Times	94	6.6	456	9.5
Docketed 4+ Times	173	12.1	2,201	46.0
Total	1,434		4,784	

Somerset County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	1,853	73.4	3,560	46.0
Docketed Twice	372	14.7	1,606	20.7
Docketed 3 Times	140	5.5	882	11.4
Docketed 4+ Times	161	6.4	1,693	21.9
Total	2,526		7,741	

Sussex County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	893	73.7	1,498	44.6
Docketed Twice	198	16.3	759	22.6
Docketed 3 Times	49	4.0	285	8.5
Docketed 4+ Times	72	5.9	819	24.4
Total	1,212		3,361	

Union County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	4,464	60.6	7,070	26.7
Docketed Twice	1,210	16.4	3,781	14.3
Docketed 3 Times	581	7.9	2,812	10.6
Docketed 4+ Times	1,107	15.0	12,772	48.3
Total	7,362		26,435	

Warren County	No. of Juveniles	% of All Docketed Juveniles	No. of Charges	% of Total Charges
Docketed Once	922	65.8	1,439	31.6
Docketed Twice	231	16.5	847	18.6
Docketed 3 Times	102	7.3	575	12.6
Docketed 4+ Times	146	10.4	1,689	37.1
Total	1,401		4,550	

Table 2

Sex of Chronic Offenders

County	Total # of Juveniles	Male	%	Female	%	Not Ind.	%
Atlantic	802	727	90.6	75	9.4	0	0.0
Bergen	653	600	91.9	51	7.8	2	0.3
Burlington	436	420	96.3	16	3.7	0	0.0
Camden	1,139	1,059	93.0	80	7.0	0	0.0
Cape May	137	127	92.7	10	7.3	0	0.0
Cumberland	559	488	87.2	68	12.2	3	0.5
Essex	3,263	3,061	93.8	202	6.2	0	0.0
Gloucester	378	353	93.4	25	6.6	0	0.0
Hudson	1,439	1,352	94.0	73	5.1	14	1.0
Hunterdon	57	51	89.5	6	10.5	0	0.0
Mercer	897	810	90.3	87	9.7	0	0.0
Middlesex	658	609	92.6	49	7.4	0	0.0
Monmouth	1,001	886	88.5	113	11.3	2	0.2
Morris	277	255	92.1	22	7.9	0	0.0
Ocean	554	496	89.5	57	10.5	0	0.0
Passaic	991	925	93.3	63	6.4	3	0.3
Salem	173	143	82.7	30	17.3	0	0.0
Somerset	161	149	92.5	12	7.5	0	0.0
Sussex	72	67	93.1	5	6.9	0	0.0
Union	1,107	1,036	93.6	71	6.4	0	0.0
Warren	146	121	82.9	25	17.1	0	0.0
State Total	14,900	13,735	92.2	1,140	7.7	24	0.2

Table 3

Race/Ethnicity of Chronic Offenders

County	#	% Black	% White	% Hispanic	% Other	% Not Ind.
Atlantic	802	60.2	31.4	8.1	0.2	0.0
Bergen	653	29.7	65.1	2.8	0.4	2.0
Burlington	436	38.8	51.8	1.8	0.9	6.7
Camden	1,139	51.9	31.1	16.6	0.4	0.0
Cape May	137	31.4	61.3	2.9	0.0	4.4
Cumberland	559	35.4	39.4	14.3	0.2	10.7
Essex	3,263	82.6	8.6	7.9	0.2	0.6
Gloucester	378	30.2	68.5	1.1	0.3	0.0
Hudson	1,439	42.6	21.8	21.1	0.5	14.1
Hunterdon	57	3.5	94.7	0.0	1.8	0.0
Mercer	897	70.2	22.9	6.9	0.0	0.0
Middlesex	658	34.3	49.4	13.2	0.6	2.4
Monmouth	1,001	38.7	47.0	4.7	0.5	9.2
Morris	277	14.4	78.3	4.7	1.8	0.7
Ocean	554	19.5	72.2	6.9	0.4	1.1
Passaic	991	45.2	16.4	24.2	0.4	13.7
Salem	173	54.3	43.9	1.7	0.0	0.0
Somerset	161	30.4	65.2	1.9	1.9	0.6
Sussex	72	4.2	94.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Union	1,107	64.0	23.3	11.0	0.4	1.4
Warren	146	3.4	92.5	2.1	0.0	2.1
State Total	14,900	52.4	32.8	10.4	4.0	0.4

Table 4

Offenses Charged to Chronic and Other Offenders

	Chronic Offenders N = 14,900		All Other Offenders N = 103,403	
	#	%	#	%
First Degree	4771	61.8	2943	38.2
Second Degree	26,732	56.9	20,244	43.1
Third Degree	45,744	54.3	38,492	45.7
Fourth Degree	17,061	46.0	20,012	54.0
DP/PDP	72,091	36.5	125,642	63.5
Unknown	21,652	61.7	13,432	38.3
Totals	188,051	46.0	220,765	54.0

Table 5

**Degree of Charges for Juveniles,
by Number of Times Docketed**

	# of Juveniles	# of Charges	Percent of Charges
Juveniles Docketed Once	76,636		
First Degree		1,306	1.1
Second Degree		9,817	8.4
Third Degree		17,725	15.2
Fourth Degree		10,248	8.8
Disorderly Persons		62,411	53.4
Petty Disorderly Persons		9,236	7.9
Degree Not Indicated		6,052	5.2
Total Number of Charges for Juveniles Docketed Once		116,795	

Mean Offense Seriousness Score: 2.64

Juveniles Docketed Twice	18,624		
First Degree		907	1.5
Second Degree		5,969	9.7
Third Degree		12,002	19.4
Fourth Degree		5,815	9.4
Disorderly Persons		28,772	46.6
Petty Disorderly Persons		4,449	7.2
Degree Not Indicated		3,879	6.3
Total Number of Charges for Juveniles Docketed Twice		61,793	

Mean Offense Seriousness Score: 2.81

Table 5 (cont.)

	# of Juveniles	# of Charges	Percent of Charges
Juveniles Docketed 3 Times	8,143		
First Degree		730	1.7
Second Degree		4,458	10.6
Third Degree		8,765	20.8
Fourth Degree		3,949	9.4
Disorderly Persons		17,949	42.6
Petty Disorderly Persons		2,825	6.7
Degree Not Indicated		3,501	8.3
Total Number of Charges for Juveniles Docketed Three Times		42,177	
 Mean Offense Seriousness Score: 2.90			
Juveniles Docketed Four or More Times	14,900		
First Degree		4,771	2.5
Second Degree		26,732	14.2
Third Degree		45,744	24.3
Fourth Degree		17,061	9.1
Disorderly Persons		63,170	33.6
Petty Disorderly Persons		8,921	4.7
Degree Not Indicated		21,652	11.5
Total Number of Charges for Juveniles Docketed Four or More Times		188,051	
 Mean Offense Seriousness Score: 3.20			
Totals	118,303	408,816	