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# JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN WEST VIRGINIA

5-25-95

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*Semiannual Report*

*covering*

*July 1, 1990 to December 31, 1990*

JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA BASE

JANUARY, 1991

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The West Virginia Juvenile Justice Data Base is a computerized information system designed to capture and disseminate data about juvenile delinquency. The establishment of the West Virginia Juvenile Justice Data Base has required a cooperative involvement by many persons. The project is sponsored by the Juvenile Justice Committee and is fiscally administered by the Administrative Office of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Justice William Brotherton signed the contract between the Court and the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice and Highway Safety, detailing the use of federal funding for the project. Governor Gaston Caperton approved the award of the funds to implement the project. Howard Snyder of the National Juvenile Court Data Archive provided direction for the project's development.

The Juvenile Justice Data Base Development Committee, composed of juvenile probation officers appointed by the West Virginia Association of Probation Officers and by the Department of Health and Human Resources, designed the information system to meet the needs of West Virginia. And many staff members in probation and prosecuting attorney offices from across the state have supported full implementation of the Juvenile Justice Data Base.

Special acknowledgment needs to be made in appreciation of the efforts of the following persons:

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- Mary M. Downey, DIRECTOR/LEGAL COUNSEL, JJC
- Beverly C. Jarrett, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, JJC
- Ted Philyaw, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, SUPREME COURT
- Richard Rosswurm, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SUPREME COURT
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- Robert Damron, JJDB COORDINATOR

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ACQUISITIONS

Foremost, however, the outstanding efforts of our state's juvenile probation officers to meet the needs of troubled/troubling youth in West Virginia must be acknowledged. Rather than reacting to the establishment of the data base as involving "just another form to complete," as a group juvenile probation officers have envisioned the data base as a systematic means of strengthening services to youth.

Robert Eggleton  
JJDB PROJECT DIRECTOR

## INTRODUCTION

This is the first comprehensive report about juvenile delinquency in West Virginia that has ever been available. It is a preliminary analysis of data contained within a recently established information system, the Juvenile Justice Data Base (JJDB). As such, this report is being presented to illustrate the potential of the JJDB to provide information on sundry aspects of juvenile delinquency in a manner that enhances our opportunity to respond appropriately to troubled and troubling youths. This report is considered a preliminary analysis because it covers a relatively brief period of time, thereby relying upon limited data.

Subsequent reports similar in topic and format, based upon the on-going expansion of the data base, will be released semiannually. Future semiannual reports will cover trends related to delinquency and will offer more comprehensive county/circuit comparisons than are contained in this report.

The data contained in this report covers the period of July 1 to December 31, 1990 and is based upon the analysis of case specific reports completed and submitted to the JJDB on a monthly schedule by reporters identified in each county. Most reporters to the JJDB are juvenile probation officers employed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals or the Department of Health and Human Resources. As instructed in the JJDB Reporters Instruction Manual, reporters complete a reporting form on each juvenile delinquency case that is disposed during the reporting month. The information about the case is then entered into the JJDB computer located on the fourth floor of the east wing at the State Capitol. This process creates a data base from which reports may be generated and upon which policy makers and practitioners may consider issues related to juvenile delinquency.

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Conclusion

## I. Juvenile Delinquency & Development of Juvenile Justice Systems

### THE EVOLUTION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Historically, American adults have maintained a philosophical consensus that something should be done about children's misbehavior. Since colonial times to present, diverse approaches have been used to control or influence youthful transgressions.

Almost a century ago, state legislatures began to call upon the court to establish proceedings specifically for children. Judges were expected to have a parental interest in the children presented to the court. Dispositions were based upon what was believed by the court to be in the children's best interests. At that time, however, courts had few resources with which to help children and little guidance with regard to children's rights or appropriate judicial processes. Consequently, early models of court intervention with children were unsuccessful in preventing children's on-going victimization or rehabilitating their delinquent conduct.

In the early 1900s, the federal government became involved in addressing the social problem of juvenile delinquency, in part due to the weaknesses discovered in the "best interests" model of court intervention. After several decades of research and few significant initiatives, a national juvenile delinquency policy began to emerge with the passage of the Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Act of 1961. This was the first federal law aimed at curbing and preventing juvenile delinquency by providing grants to states for delinquency programs.

Later in the 1960s, United States Supreme Court opinions (Kent, 1966; Gault, 1967) required that children involved in court proceedings be afforded due process rights, such as counsel and fair hearing. These opinions were the basis of an initiative to establish a "justice" model of court processing for children. Subsequent court opinions have further clarified the rights of children, the nature of the court process, and the various issues related to taking children into custody (arrest). Federal and state legislation has continued the policy of clarifying the rights of children and families and of expanding different types of programs to address delinquency. Many jurisdictions, however, still report inadequate resources to address juvenile delinquency in their communities.

Today, the term "juvenile justice system" refers to a network of agencies and resources utilized to address juvenile delinquency, connected in some fashion to a court which has distinct jurisdiction for processing delinquency cases and under whose jurisdiction juveniles are afforded legal protections, such as due process rights.

Increasingly, persons employed within juvenile justice systems are required to have professional-level training. Social science research is applied to measure the impact of programs within juvenile justice systems upon community delinquency rates. Concepts such as least restrictive alternative, deinstitutionalization, decriminalization, diverting children from formal court proceedings, and fair hearings have been incorporated into the practices of many juvenile courts.

Typically, the components of a juvenile justice system include:

- (1) Law-enforcement agencies;
- (2) Probation departments, including programs operated through probation;
- (3) Public and privately incorporated child welfare agencies which operate residential programs;
- (4) Public and private counselling, social service, or mental health agencies;
- (5) Secure and non-secure correctional programs;
- (6) Secure and non-secure detention centers for children awaiting court hearings; and
- (7) Prosecutorial and defense attorneys.

Modern juvenile justice systems have retained the concept of processing juveniles in a manner distinct from the processing of adults and have blended the "best interests" and the "justice" models of court intervention. The complementary goals of the systems are to protect the public and to rehabilitate the child. Toward these ends, professionals within the systems are increasingly relying upon standardized assessments based on research to determine the risk that a juvenile presents to the community. In addition, professionals are relying upon objective criteria for determining whether or not a child requires a secure commitment. As the costs of court intervention, especially the costs of out-of-home commitments, continue to rise, juvenile justice systems also focus now upon their cost effectiveness. Great disparity exists, however, among the systems with regard to the resources available to accomplish the systems' goals.

## I. Juvenile Delinquency & Development of Juvenile Justice Systems

### THE DELINQUENT CHILD DEFINED GENERALLY

Early court intervention with children failed to make proper distinctions between children who had familial or individual needs, such as abandoned children, impoverished children, or mentally ill children, from children who were delinquent because they had committed "crimes" and were a threat to public safety.

Today there are distinct court procedures for handling children charged with delinquency as distinguished from children victimized by abuse/neglect, or children who have mental health problems and need treatment. A delinquent child is generally defined as a person under a statutorily set age who has been adjudged delinquent by a court, based upon behavior which is illegal, such as stealing property.

However in some cases, for a number of reasons, an adjudication of delinquency may still be regarded by court officials and/or social service providers as the most direct means of ordering help for a needy child. For example, in consideration of best interests, a juvenile shoplifter or other minor offender may be more likely to be adjudicated delinquent if the child is from a family considered dysfunctional. A fight at school may be more likely to be treated as an assault and battery if a child appears to need mental health services. Situational or personal factors can have as much bearing on whether a child is adjudicated delinquent as the type of offense charged.

Resource deficiencies in some jurisdictions also have an influence upon court practice. If social services or mental health services for needy children/families are more accessible when ordered by a court, in contrast to a voluntary referral for services, the number of children adjudicated delinquent in such jurisdictions may be higher.

Therefore, the behavior of a particular child may be more or less likely to result in an adjudication of delinquency depending upon personal factors or situational factors, and the availability of voluntary services or community resources within the jurisdiction that the case is processed.

Another example of the unclear distinction between a juvenile delinquent and a child in need of services can be illustrated by an examination of the controversial topic of status offenders.

A status offender is a juvenile who has never committed a criminal-type offense, but is considered to be unruly or unmanageable.

At the time of the passage of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (P.L. 93--415) nearly 40% of children brought to the attention of juvenile justice systems had committed no criminal act. Nearly 200,000 children nationwide were being held in secure facilities because they were status offenders and simply would not mind their parents/custodians. After the passage of the Act, most of these children have been deinstitutionalized. Some states, such as Washington, have decriminalized status offenses. In only a few states, including West Virginia, can a status offender be adjudicated delinquent.

Most recently, federal agencies have emphasized the importance of juvenile justice systems focusing upon serious or chronic juvenile offenders. Increasingly, minor offenders are being diverted from formal court proceedings by being referred without an adjudication of delinquency to counselling or social service agencies or by being placed on informal probation. Practices vary, however, among jurisdictions with regard to the utilization of formal or informal processing of delinquency cases.

Only those children actually adjudicated through formal court proceedings are labeled delinquent children. Depending upon practices and other factors, this grouping of children may include:

- (i) Serious offenders, such as those adjudicated for assault or burglary;
- (ii) Chronic offenders who have a long history of property crimes;
- (iii) First time offenders;
- (iv) Children adjudicated for lessor offenses, such as joyriding or shoplifting;
- (v) Status offenders, such as children who skip school;
- (vi) Substance abusers who would not receive treatment unless adjudicated delinquent because community resources are scarce; and
- (vii) Victims of child abuse, family dysfunction, or mental illness who would not receive services unless adjudicated delinquent because community resources are scarce.

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

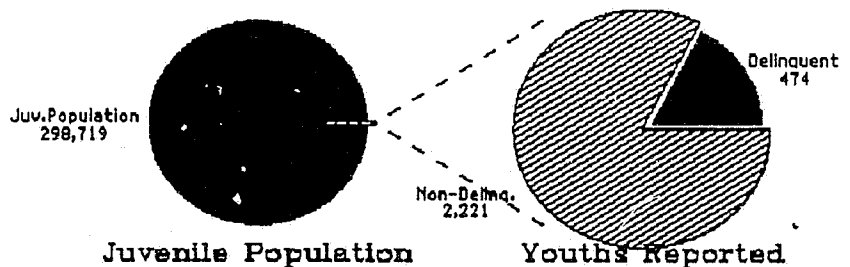
### THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT DEFINED IN WEST VIRGINIA

In West Virginia, a person under the age of 18 years who is charged with a criminal-type offense or a status offense may be adjudicated a delinquent child. A total of 474 different children were adjudicated delinquent during the reporting period covered by this report. If adjudicated delinquent, jurisdiction of the court can extend to a maximum age of 20 years.

A criminal-type offense is an offense that would be a crime if the offender were 18 years old or older at the time the offense was committed. The same terms that describe adult offenses may be applied to acts of juvenile delinquency. For example, burglary is a criminal-type offense for which a child may be adjudicated delinquent.

A status offense is an act of delinquency which would not be a crime if committed by an adult. Incurrigibility (including running away from home) and truancy are examples of status offenses for which a child may be adjudicated delinquent.

### Juvenile Delinquency Population/Youths Reported/Adjudications



#### JUVENILE POPULATION

\*298,719

#### YOUTHS REPORTED TO JJDB

2,695

#### ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT

474

\*source for population statistics, *WV Population Projections, 1985-2000*, published by the Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University.

*The definitions and descriptions within this report are based upon West Virginia Code, Chapters Forty-Nine (Child Welfare) and Twenty-Seven (Mental Health); West Virginia Code, §49-5-1, et seq., contains requirements for juvenile proceedings involving delinquency matters.*



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### INTAKE AND GENERAL RESPONSE

When a complainant, such as a law-enforcement agent, parent, or victim makes an allegation that a child is delinquent, a delinquency case has been initiated if:

- (a) A particular child is named;
- (b) The facts specify an action that is illegal; and
- (c) The complainant is requesting consideration of court involvement.

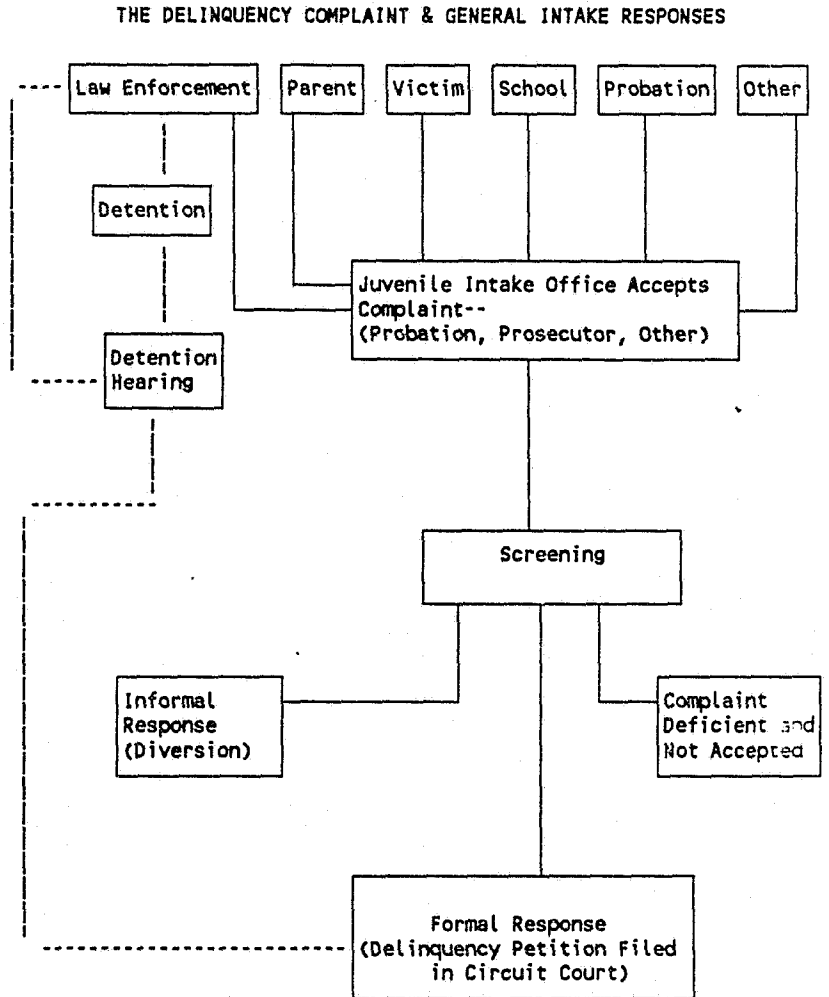
In response to a delinquency complaint, the case may be:

- (a) Unacceptable because it is deficient (for example, if the child's behavior is not illegal or if the complaint contains no specific facts);
- (b) Handled informally without going to court; or
- (c) Handled formally through a series of court proceedings.

Pending further court proceedings, a child may be placed in a secure or a non-secure detention setting. A detention hearing must be conducted for a child to be in detention beyond the next judicial day.

*In West Virginia, during the reporting period, most complainants involved in juvenile delinquency cases were:*

Law Enforcement	36.82%
Parent	22.43%
School	4.53%
Probation	1.60%
Victim	29.22%
Other	5.40%



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### INFORMAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO DELINQUENCY COMPLAINTS

The least coercive and least expensive method of disposing a delinquency complaint is informal adjustment.

After considering the complaint, usually involving discussions with the child, the victim, and the child's parents, the complaint may be disposed of by:

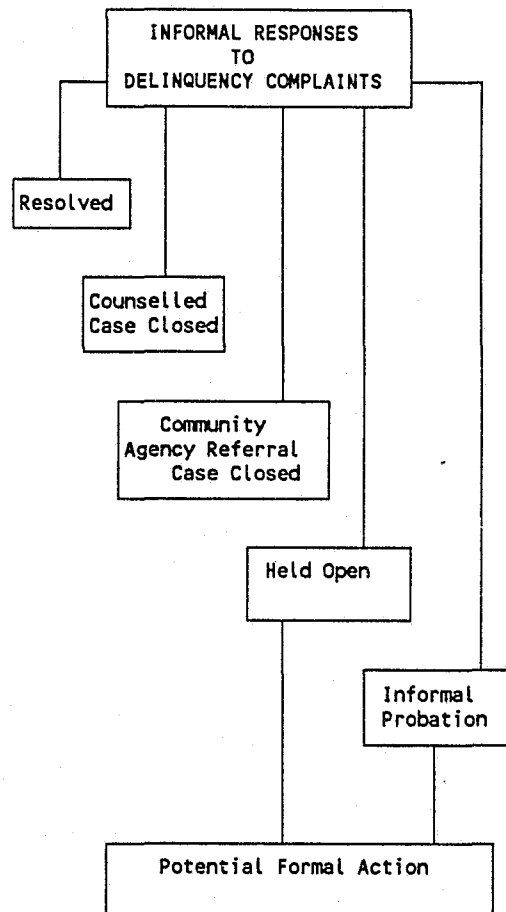
- (1) Resolving (dismissing) the complaint;
- (2) Counselling parties and closing the case;
- (3) Referring the child and/or parent(s) to a community agency and closing the case;
- (4) Holding the case open without further action, usually with the agreement that the child will stay out of trouble; or
- (5) The child agreeing to be placed on informal probation.

Informal responses to delinquency complaints occasionally include children agreeing to pay for property damages, such as a broken window.

Informal probation usually has terms similar to probation that has been court ordered, such as school attendance and curfews.

The advantages of an informal response to a delinquency complaint are that the child avoids an adjudication of delinquency or any potential for an out-of-home commitment and the state saves court, prosecutorial, clerical, and defense-related costs.

If an informal response to a delinquency complaint is unsuccessful, formal action may be taken by filing a delinquency petition in circuit court. No information received during the informal action is admissible in a formal proceeding.



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

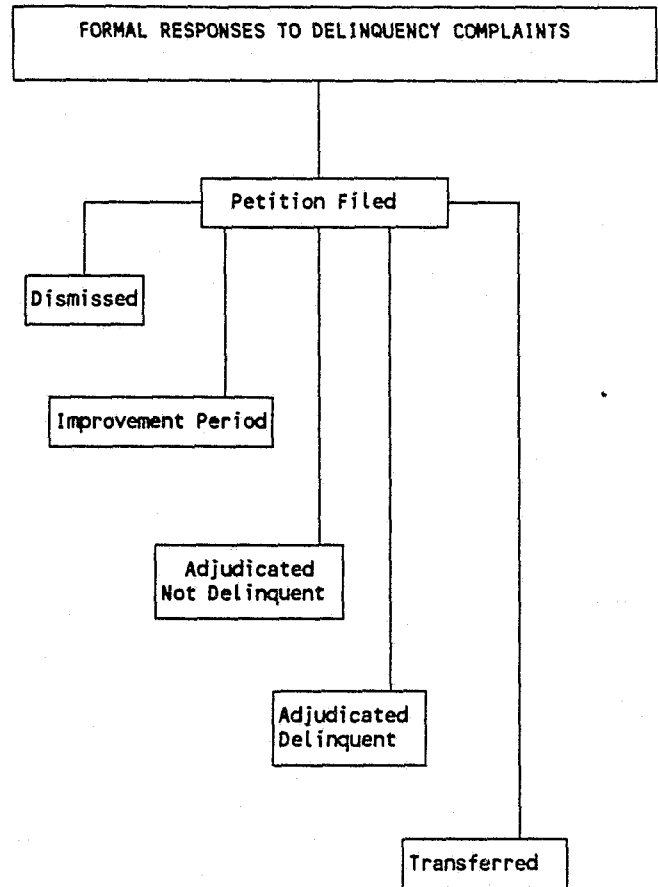
### FORMAL ACTIONS

Informal responses to delinquency complaints are attempted much less often when children are charged with serious offenses.

In cases involving serious offenses, unsuccessful informal adjustments, and in other instances, depending upon the practices of the particular court, a juvenile delinquency petition may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk. From that point, formal proceedings have commenced, including the child's right to be represented by counsel.

Once a petition has been filed, the petition may be:

- (1) Dismissed by the court;
- (2) The child may be granted an improvement period without being adjudicated delinquent;
- (3) The child may be adjudicated not delinquent (not guilty);
- (4) The child may be adjudicated delinquent (guilty): or
- (5) The child may be transferred to criminal jurisdiction (adult court) for proceedings.



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### TYPES OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS

If a child has been committed to detention pending court proceedings or is being considered for commitment, the first stage of delinquency proceedings is the detention hearing. The sole issue is whether or not the child needs detention. The child has a right to be represented by an attorney and there is a presumption against the use of secure custody. This type of hearing may be conducted by juvenile referees or magistrates, or by circuit judges. A motion to review the detention order may be heard at a later date.

The next stage is a preliminary hearing to determine whether or not there is probable cause to believe that an offense was committed, and if so, the correct person was charged.

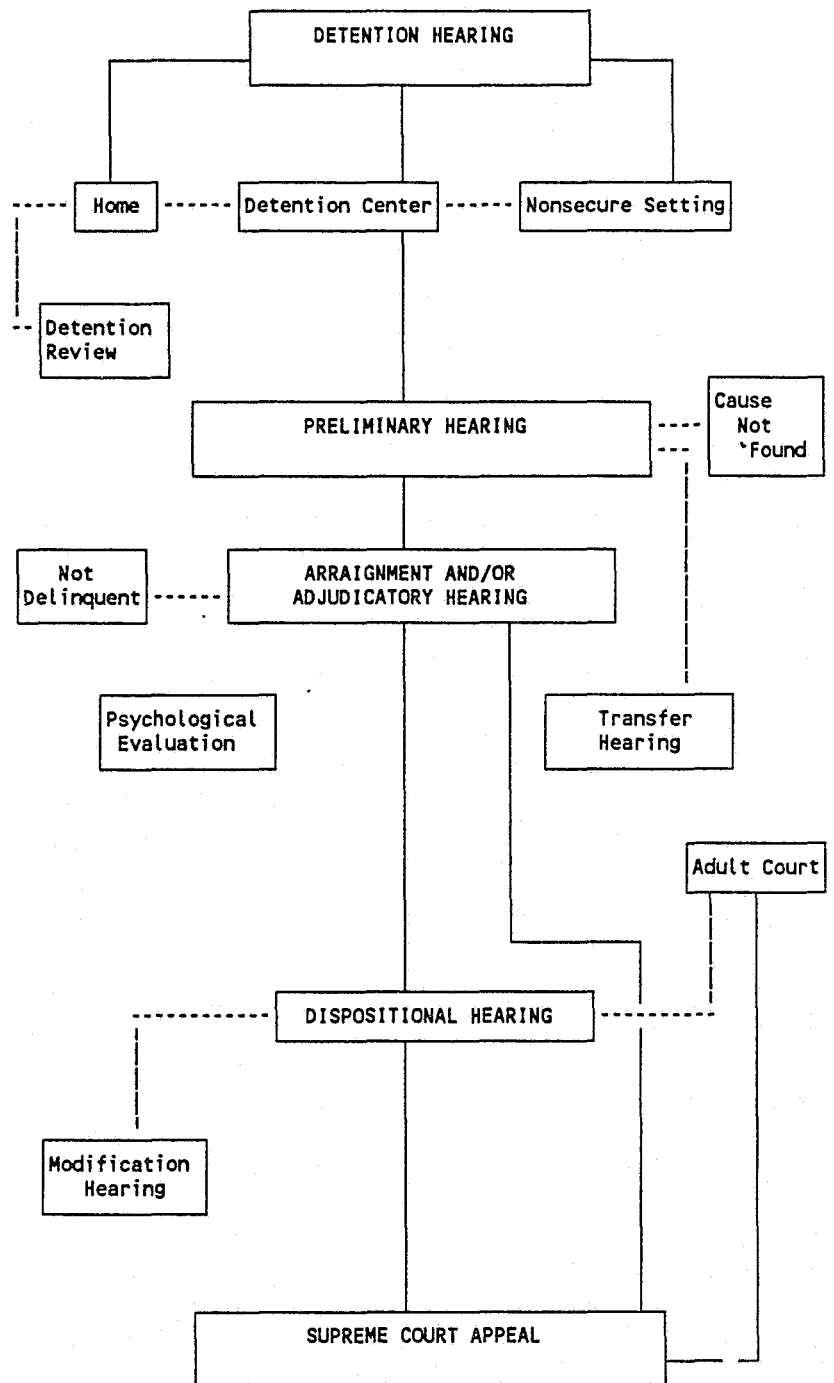
If the child does not plead delinquent at an arraignment before a circuit judge, the subsequent stage is an adjudicatory hearing in which the child is either adjudicated delinquent or not delinquent.

In most cases when children are adjudicated delinquent, the last stage is a dispositional hearing in which the circuit judge orders an official consequence to the child's delinquency. A motion to modify a disposition may be heard at a later date. It may involve the consideration of a more restrictive disposition, such as in probation revocation, or a less restrictive disposition, such as the child returning home from a commitment setting.

In exceptional cases, a transfer hearing may be held to determine if the child should be treated as a juvenile or transferred to criminal jurisdiction (adult court) for prosecution.

The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals may be petitioned to hear appeals of an adjudicatory or dispositional nature, or for the purpose of appealing transfer hearings.

Except for youth detained, state law contains no time lines required for court processing.



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### TYPES OF FORMAL DISPOSITIONS

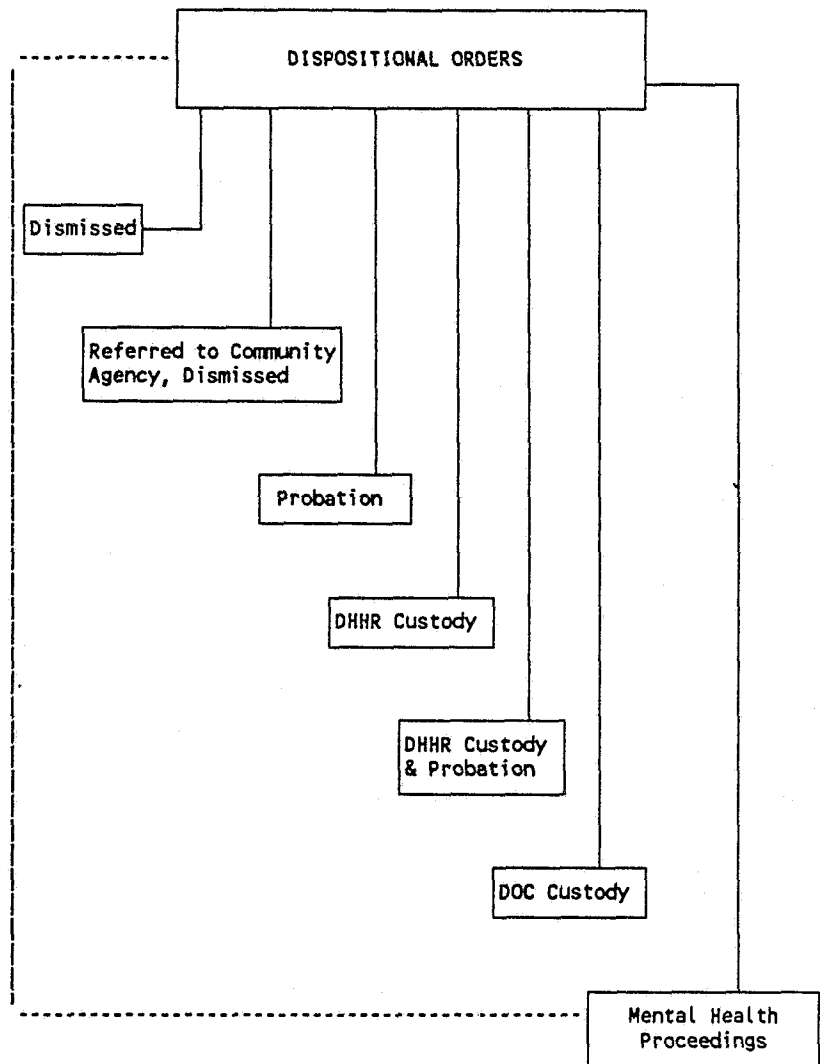
If a child is adjudicated delinquent, there are seven different types of formal dispositions which may be ordered:

- (1) The case may be dismissed;
- (2) The child may be referred to a community agency and the case dismissed;
- (3) The child may be placed on noncustodial probation;
- (4) The child may be committed into physical custody of the Department of Health and Human Resources, *without* probation also being ordered;
- (5) The child may be committed into physical custody of the Department of Health and Human Resources, *with* probation also being ordered;
- (6) The child may be ordered to a Division of Corrections' facility; or
- (7) Upon the belief that the child may have mental health related problems, mental health proceedings may be initiated.

The court is required to give precedence to the least restrictive disposition that is in the best interests of the public and the child.

To aid the court in reaching disposition, it may order a report about the child and family to be prepared by a probation officer or may order physical or psychological evaluations of the child.

If mental health proceedings result in a child's commitment to a mental health facility, the child must return to court for further disposition at a later date following treatment; or, the delinquency petition is dismissed because the child is found to be incompetent and unlikely to become competent.



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### TYPES OF COMMITMENT SETTINGS

Out-of-home commitment is a very coercive response to juvenile delinquency. In West Virginia, there are two larger juvenile correctional facilities operated by the Division of Corrections and several facilities funded through the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR): one larger facility operated by DHHR; eight larger private facilities; two twenty-bed private facilities that house status offenders only; sixteen private small-group homes; nine private agencies which recruit families to serve as specialized foster homes; and one longer-term twenty-two bed facility that is exclusively a mental health facility. Occasionally out-of-state facilities are also utilized. A listing of in-state facilities, entitled "Directory of Residential Care for Children and Youth in West Virginia" is available from the West Virginia Child Care Association, P. O. Box 3403, Charleston, WV, 25334.

To some extent, all of these settings house youth who have been adjudicated delinquent.

A **child welfare setting** is defined as a normalized environment with children being provided an opportunity to participate in age-appropriate community activities. Such settings are supposed to be as home-like as possible.

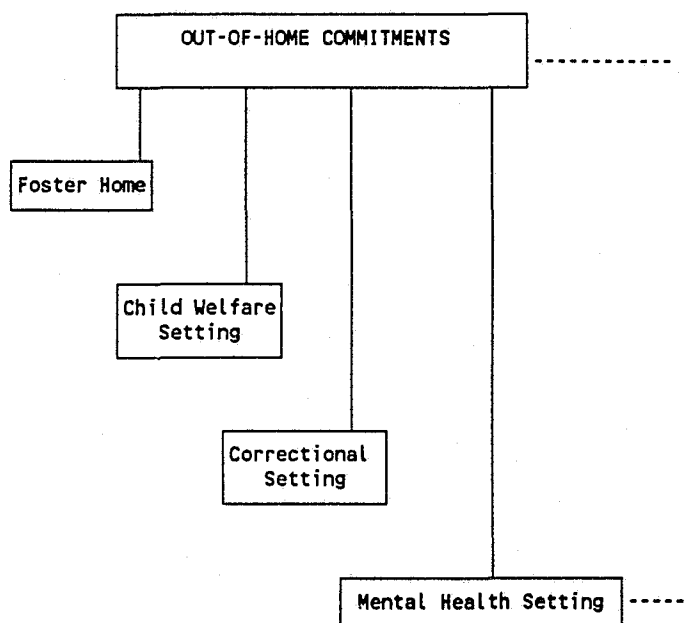
**Correctional settings**, on the other hand, may restrict community involvement by using point or level systems and by other means, such as bars or fences, if the setting is a secure correctional setting.

A **mental health facility** is a setting intended for youth who have or are suspected of having mental health problems, such as mental illness, retardation, or substance abuse. It may restrict community involvement, dependent upon treatment

needs. A child may be ordered into a facility that is a mental health treatment facility only through mental health proceedings and not directly through delinquency proceedings. When children are ordered into child welfare settings, the disposition is based upon the court's belief that the failure or inability of the parent(s) to supervise or care for the child contributed to the delinquency and that the child will be helped by surrogate parenting without being a threat to the public.

Children who are believed to require more structure than child welfare settings are ordered into more restrictive correctional settings. Some of these settings are secure.

Children adjudicated delinquent and adjudicated mentally ill may be ordered into mental health treatment facilities under the assumption that the mental health problems contributed to the delinquency.



In practice, however, many West Virginia facilities are not clearly distinguishable as child welfare, correctional, or mental health facilities.

Some courts' dispositional orders specify a particular facility so as to ensure that the child is not placed in a more or less restrictive setting than is intended. Other orders require DHHR to determine the placement when custody is ordered to DHHR.

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION GENERALLY

West Virginia does not have a unified juvenile probation system. Three branches of government administer juvenile probation:

- (i) The West Virginia Supreme Court (SC), through its Administrative Office;
- (ii) The Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR); and
- (iii) The Division of Corrections (DOC).

The DOC handles juveniles who have been transferred from another state by placing them on the caseload of adult parole officers. Otherwise, all juvenile probation officers are under the supervision of circuit judges.

In particular probation offices, officers are employed by either the Department of Health and Human Resources or the Supreme Court, or by both. Some probation officers cover more than one county. Some Supreme Court officers have a caseload including both adult and juvenile offenders.

County practices vary with regard to the duties assigned to juvenile probation officers. In general, juvenile probation officers perform several other duties in addition to supervising youth placed upon probation as a disposition to delinquent behavior.

They prepare predisposition reports to aid the court in reaching appropriate disposition and in some counties:

*perform intake duties; informally adjust juvenile delinquency complaints; operate such programs as restitution, education, community service, or group counselling; supervise juveniles on parole (released from commitment settings), conduct home visits and investigations; and provide various other services.*

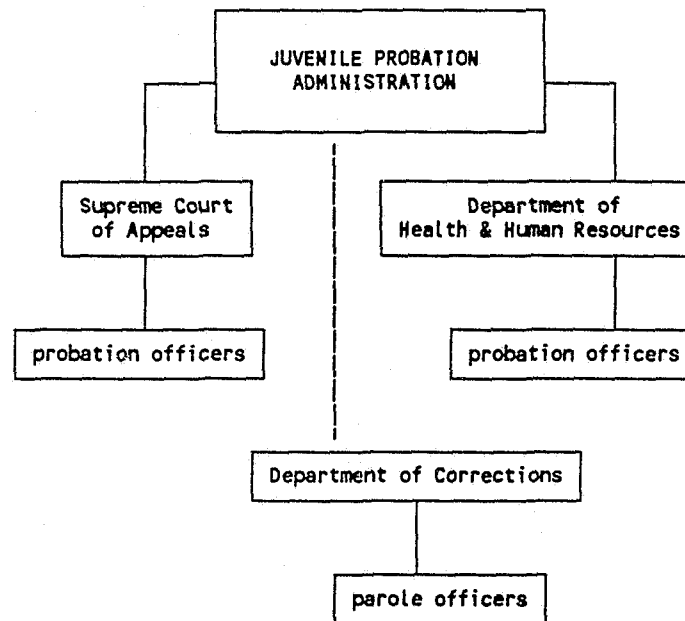
Some DHHR probation officers have duties in addition to probation, such as adult or child protective services.

The following pages contain charts that indicate, by county for each judicial circuit, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) number of juvenile probation officers currently within each circuit and the governmental agency which administers juvenile probation. The Division of Corrections is not included. Also indicated on the chart is the probation coverage for each circuit which is calculated using two methods:

youthful population of the circuit divided by FTE officers, and square miles within the circuit divided by FTE officers. For the purpose of these calculations, if a probation officer covers more than one county, the officer's time is divided equally between the counties covered.

Refer to other sections of this report for data regarding the proportion of juveniles within a county who become involved in delinquency cases, thereby requiring services through the juvenile probation offices.

The data contained on this chart may offer a broader context for considering data contained in other sections of



this report.

*Statewide, at this time, 62.81 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) officers in the state cover an average youthful population of 4,756 juveniles and an average geographic area of 374 square miles.*

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT<sup>1</sup>

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
1ST	Ohio	106.00	8114	1.0	Supreme Court
	Brooke	90.00	4469	.65	Supreme Court
	Hancock	84.00	5576	.70	Supreme Court
	3	280.00	18,159.00	2.35	Supreme Court

Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 7,727 Youths

Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 119 square Miles

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
2ND	Marshall	305.00	5829	2.0	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources
	Tyler	258.00	1864	.5	Health & Human Resources
	Wetzel	359.00	3492	.5	Health & Human Resources
	3	922.00	11,185.00	3.00	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources

Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,728 Youths

Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 307 Square Miles

<sup>1</sup>Based upon information available as of 01-09-91.



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>3RD</b>	Pleasants	131.00	1293	.33	Health & Human Resources
	Doddridge <sup>2</sup>	321.00	1256	.33	Health & Human Resources
	Ritchie	454.00	1637	.33	Health & Human Resources
	<b>3</b>	<b>906.00</b>	<b>4,186.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 4,186 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 906 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>4TH</b>	Wood <sup>3</sup>	367.00	13771	4.0	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources
	Wirt	258.00	912	.5	Health & Human Resources
	<b>2</b>	<b>625.00</b>	<b>14,683.00</b>	<b>4.50</b>	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,263 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 139 Square Miles*

<sup>2</sup>There is one DHHR JPO position vacant in Doddridge County with unknown FTE.

<sup>3</sup>There are two DHHR JPO positions vacant in Wood County with 2 FTE.

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>5TH</b>	Jackson	464.00	4005	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	Roane	484.00	2202	.50	Health & Human Resources
	Calhoun	280.00	1311	.50	Health & Human Resources
	<b>3</b>	<b>1,228.00</b>	<b>7,518.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Health &amp; Human Resources</b>

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,759 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 614 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>6TH</b>	Cabell	282.00	14584	5.0	Supreme Court
	<b>1</b>	<b>282.00</b>	<b>14,584.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 2,917 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 56 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>7TH</b>	Logan	456.00	8712	2.00	Health & Human Resources
	<b>1</b>	<b>456.00</b>	<b>8,712.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Health &amp; Human Resources</b>

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 4,356 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 228 Square Miles*

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
8TH	McDowell	535.00	8361	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	1	535.00	8,361.00	1.00	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 8,361 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 535 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
9TH	Mercer	420.00	11140	2.0	Health & Human Resources
	1	420.00	11,140.00	2.0	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 5,570 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 210 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
10TH	Raleigh	608.00	13633	2.00	Health & Human Resources
	1	608.00	13,633.00	2.00	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 6,817 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 304 Square Miles*

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>11TH</b>	Greenbrier	1025.00	5567	1.0	Health & Human Resources
	Monroe	473.00	2011	.25	Health & Human Resources
	Pocahontas <sup>4</sup>	942.00	1393	0	Health & Human Resources
	Summers	353.00	2103	1.0	Health & Human Resources
	<b>4</b>	<b>2,793.00</b>	<b>11,074.00</b>	<b>2.25</b>	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 4,922 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 1,241 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>12TH</b>	Fayette <sup>5</sup>	667.00	9182	1.0	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources
	<b>1</b>	<b>667.00</b>	<b>9,182.00</b>	<b>1.0</b>	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 9,182 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 667 Square Miles*

<sup>4</sup>There is one DHHR JPO position vacant in Pocahontas County with .25 FTE.

<sup>5</sup>There is one DHHR JPO position vacant in Fayette County with 1 FTE.

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
13TH	Kanawha	901.00	30171	10.00	Supreme Court
	1	901.00	30,171.00	10.00	Supreme Court

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,017 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 90 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
14TH	Webster	556.00	2144	1.25	Health & Human Resources
	Braxton	513.00	2293	.58	Health & Human Resources
	Clay	346.00	2218	.58	Health & Human Resources
	Gilmer	340.00	1226	.58	Health & Human Resources
	4	1,755.00	7,881.00	3.00	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 2,627 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 585 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
15TH	Harrison	417.00	10843	1.0	Health & Human Resources
	1	417.00	10,843.00	1.0	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 10,843 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 417 Square Miles*

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
16TH	Marion <sup>6</sup>	312.00	9562	1.5	Health & Human Resources
	1	312.00	9562.00	1.5	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,017 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 90.10 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
17TH	Monongalia <sup>7</sup>	363.00	11679	1.40	Supreme Court
	1	363.00	11,679.00	1.40	Supreme Court

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 8,342.14 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 259.29 Square Miles*

<sup>6</sup>There is one DHHR JPO position vacant in Marion County with 1 FTE.

<sup>7</sup>A SC supervisor position in Monongalia County who oversees adult and juvenile PO's is included.

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
18TH	Preston	651.00	5096	.30	Supreme Court
	1	651.00	5,096.00	.30	Supreme Court

Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 16,986.67 Youths  
 Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 2170 Square Miles

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
19TH	Taylor	174	2768	.50	Health & Human Resources
	Barbour	343	2673	.50	Health & Human Resources
	2	517.00	5,441.00	1.00	Health & Human Resources

Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 5,441 Youths  
 Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 517 Square Miles

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
20TH	Randolph	1040.00	4184	.20	Supreme Court
	1	363.00	4,184.00	.20	Supreme Court

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 20,920 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 1815 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
21ST	Grant	480.00	1835	.50	Health & Human Resources
	Mineral	329.00	4488	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	Tucker	421.00	1281	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	3	1,230.00	7,604.00	2.50	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,041.60 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 492 Square Miles*



## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
22ND	Hardy	585.00	1542	.27	Health & Human Resources
	Hampshire	644.00	2748	.27	Health & Human Resources
	Pendleton	698.00	1109	.27	Health & Human Resources
	3	1,927.00	5,399.00	.81	Health & Human Resources

Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 6,665.43 Youths

Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 2,379.01 Square Miles

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
23RD	Jefferson	209	5892	.50	Health & Human Resources
	Morgan	230	1711	.50	Health & Human Resources
	2	439.00	7,603.00	1.00	Health & Human Resources

Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 7,603 Youths

Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 439 Square Miles

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
24TH	Wayne	508.00	7480	2.0	Health & Human Resources
	1	508.00	7,480	2.0	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,740 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 254 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
25TH	Lincoln	439	4096	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	Boone	503	5295	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	2	942.00	9,391.00	2.00	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 4,695.50 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 471 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
26TH	Upshur	355	3988	1.00	Supreme Court
	Lewis	382	2744	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	2	737.00	6,732.00	2.00	Supreme Court/ Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 3,366 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 368.50 Square Miles*

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
<b>27TH</b>	Wyoming	502.00	6371	1.0	Supreme Court
	1	502.00	6,371	1.0	Supreme Court

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 6,371 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 502 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
<b>28TH</b>	Nicholas	650.00	4744	1.0	Health & Human Resources
	1	650.00	4,744	1.0	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 4,744 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 650 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS (FTE)	AGENCY
<b>29TH</b>	Mason <sup>8</sup>	433	4248	0	Health & Human Resources
	Putnam	346	6604	1.00	Health & Human Resources
	2	779.00	10,852.00	1.00	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 10,852 Youths*  
*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 779 Square Miles*

<sup>8</sup>There is one DHHR JPO position vacant in Mason County with 1 FTE.

## II. The Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia

### JUVENILE PROBATION COVERAGE BY CIRCUIT

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
30TH	Mingo	424.00	7001	1.0	Health & Human Resources
	1	424.00	7,001	1.0	Health & Human Resources

*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 7,001 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 424 Square Miles*

CIRCUIT	COUNTY	SQUARE MILES	YOUTHFUL POPULATION	NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS	AGENCY
31ST	Berkeley	321.00	8268	2.0	Health & Human Resources
	1	321.00	8,268	2.0	Health & Human Resources

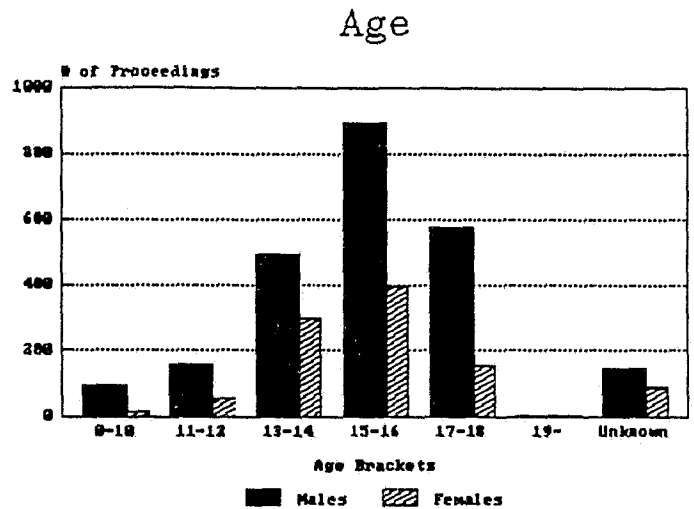
*Coverage by Population: 1 JPO per 8,268 Youths*

*Coverage by Area: 1 JPO per 321 Square Miles*

### III. Characteristics of Juveniles Involved in Delinquency

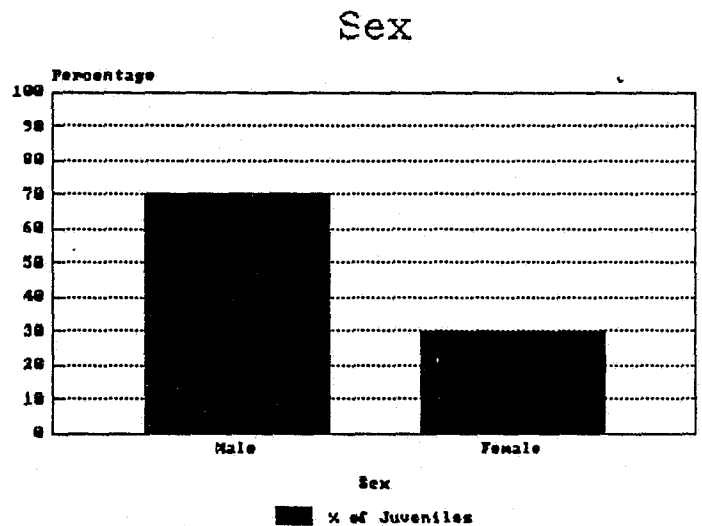
#### AGE

During this reporting period, the most common age grouping of juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings was 15 to 16 years for males and 15 to 16 years for females.



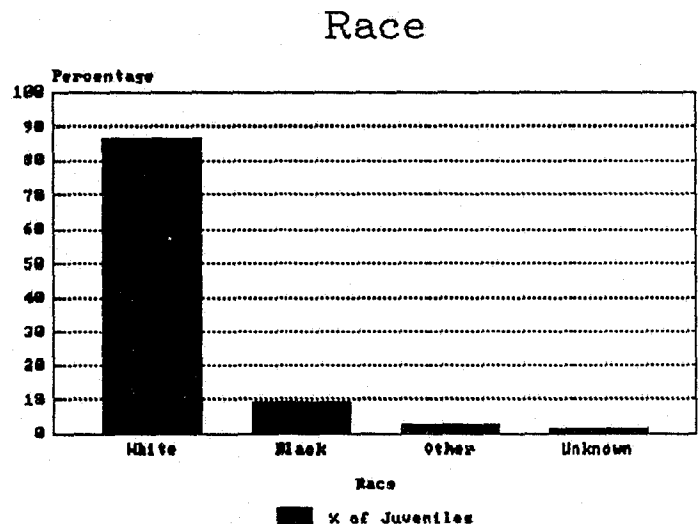
#### SEX

During this reporting period, 70.2% of the juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings were male.



#### RACE

During this reporting period, 86.6% of juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings were white; 9.2% were black; 2.9% were of another race; 1.3% were unknown.

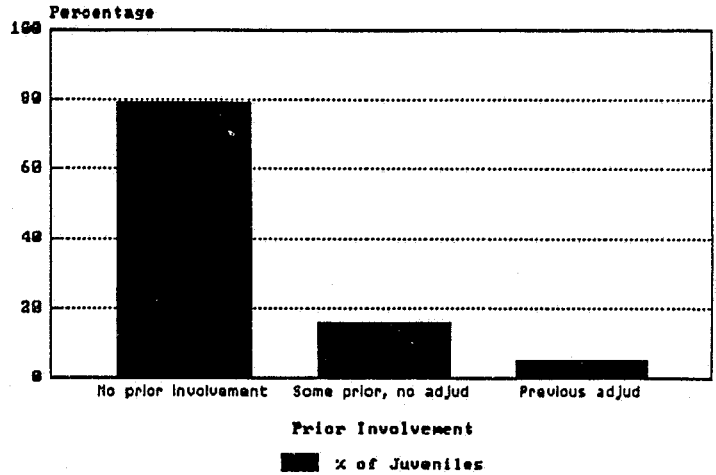


### III. Characteristics of Juveniles Involved in Delinquency

#### CHRONICITY

During this reporting period, **79.2%** of juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings had no prior involvement in juvenile proceedings; **15.9%** had some prior involvement but were not previously adjudicated delinquent; and **4.9%** had previously been adjudicated delinquent.

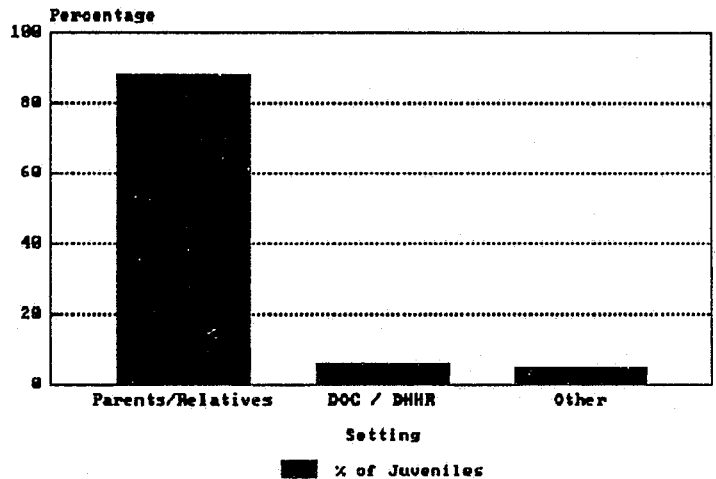
Chronicity



#### LIVING SITUATION

During this reporting period, **89.4%** of juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings were living with parents or relatives at the time the delinquency case was initiated; **6.2%** were already in custody of a state department, such as the Division of Corrections or the Department of Health and Human Resources; and **4.4%** were living in other settings.

Living Situation

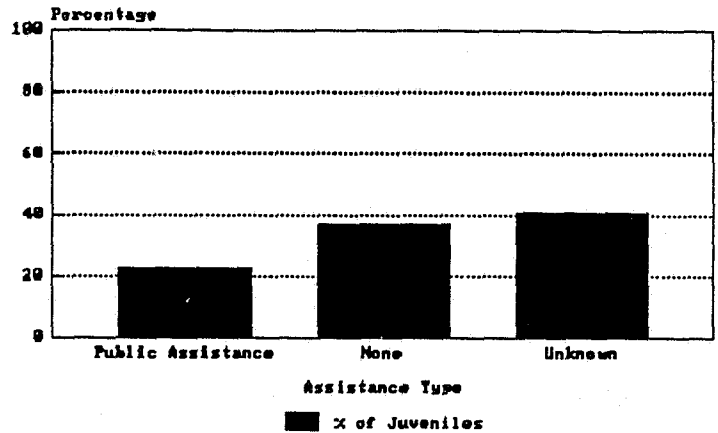


### III. Characteristics of Juveniles Involved in Delinquency

#### FAMILY INCOME BY RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

During this reporting period, **22.8%** of juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings were from families which were receiving some type of public assistance.

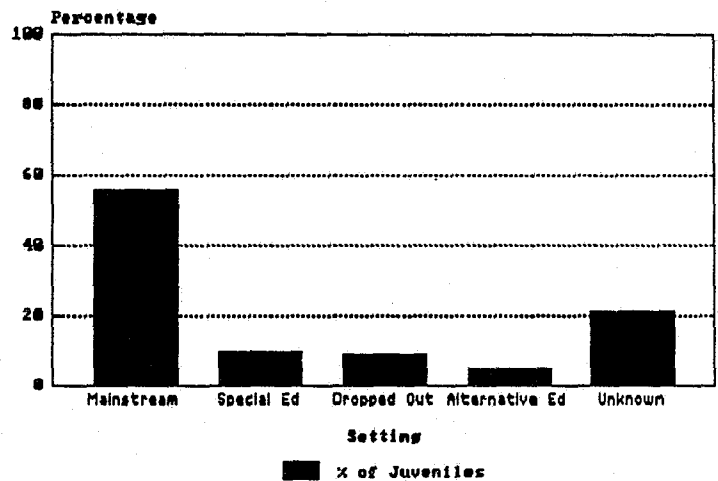
Family Income by Receipt of Public Assistance



#### EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT

During this reporting period, **55.9%** of juveniles involved in delinquency proceedings were mainstream students within a school setting; **9.5%** were special education students; **8.6%** had dropped out of school at the time the case was initiated; and **4.5%** were students of an alternative school or an adult basic education program.

Educational Placement



## IV. Delinquency Cases by County

During the reporting period, 3,170 juvenile delinquency cases were handled statewide. This represents 10.61 cases for every one thousand youth between ten and twenty years old living in West Virginia. Refer to subsequent sections of this report for data regarding how these cases were disposed.

BARBOUR	0	MINERAL	86
BERKELEY	136	MINGO	75
BOONE	56	MONONGALIA	32
BRAXTON	2	MONROE	14
BROOKE	88	MORGAN	5
CABELL	229	NICHOLAS	80
CALHOUN	0	OHIO	73
CLAY	2	PENDLETON	1
DODDRIDGE	0	PLEASANTS	7
FAYETTE	88	POCAHONTAS	0
GILMER	0	PRESTON	4
GRANT	9	PUTNAM	0
GREENBRIER	36	RALEIGH	308
HAMPSHIRE	12	RANDOLPH	56
HANCOCK	71	RITCHIE	1
HARDY	4	ROANE	0
HARRISON	0	SUMMERS	5
JACKSON	0	TAYLOR	6
JEFFERSON	30	TUCKER	5
KANAWHA	945	TYLER	5
LEWIS	29	UPSHUR	33
LINCOLN	29	WAYNE	62
LOGAN	68	WEBSTER	12
MCDOWELL	0	WETZEL	8
MARION	0	WIRT	0
MARSHALL	79	WOOD	112
MASON	0	WYOMING	13
MERCER	254	TOTALS	3170



## V. Juvenile Delinquency Offenses

### TOTAL OFFENSES

During the reporting period, of the 3,170 cases reported, a total of 4,338 offenses were contained within the cases.

The offense category most commonly reported for cases involving male juveniles was "IV. Less Serious Property and Similar Offenses (Misdemeanors)."

The offense category most commonly reported for cases involving female juveniles was "VIII. Status Offenses."

Offense category "IV" includes 13 specific offenses ranked by seriousness between 62 and 74 on the JJDB reporters scale, with first degree murder ranked number 1 by seriousness.

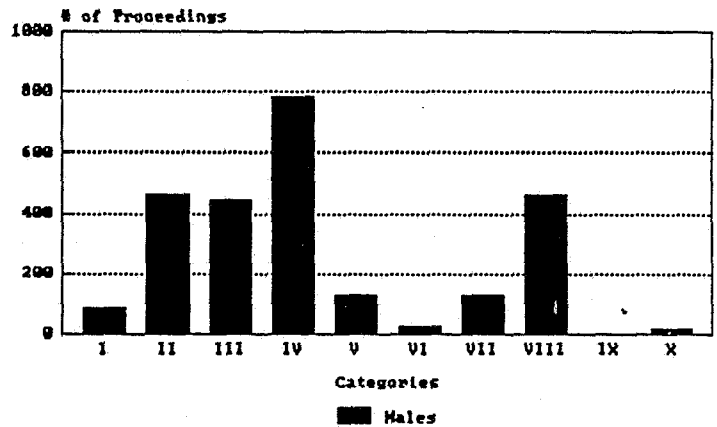
The offense seriousness rank is based upon the penalty for the criminal offense under state law.

Offense category "VIII" includes 7 specific offenses ranked between 92 and 98 on the JJDB reporters scale. Refer to the next section of this report for additional data regarding offenses.

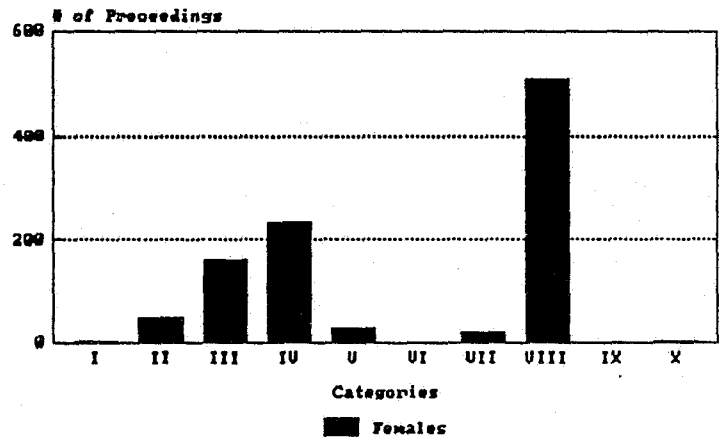
**JJDB OFFENSE CODE CATEGORIES:**

- I. Serious personal and other similar offenses (felonies)
- II. Serious property and other similar offenses (felonies)
- III. Less serious personal and similar offenses (misdemeanors)
- IV. Less serious property and similar offenses (misdemeanors)
- V. Crimes against the peace, public justice, morality, escape, and weapons
- VI. Possession of controlled substances
- VII. Alcoholic liquors
- VIII. Status offenses
- IX. Natural resources violations
- X. Routine traffic offenses
- XI. Termination of informal adjustment
- XII. Termination of improvement period

Total Offenses  
Males



Total Offenses  
Females



## V. Juvenile Delinquency Offenses

### THE MOST COMMON OFFENSES

During the reporting period, the most common offense contained within all delinquency cases was "Incorrigible (runaway)." The following chart ranks offenses from the 25 most commonly reported. It also indicates the offense rank by seriousness as well as the appropriate data base code and statute citation numbers. Refer to Appendix A of this report for a breakdown of offenses reported by each county.

OFFENSE	TOTAL REPORTED	JJDB CODE	W.VA. CODE CITATION	SERIOUSNESS RANK
Incorrigible (runaway)	554	8933	§49-1-4	95
Battery	376	3472	§61-2-9(c)	46
Shoplifting, 1st Offense	325	4732	§61-3A-3(a)	73
Destruction of Property	318	4622	§61-3-30	62
Incorrigible (excluding runaway)	265	8923	§49-1-4	94
Grand Larceny	128	2311	§61-3-13(a)	29
Break and/or Enter (not dwelling)	127	2301	§61-3-12	28
Petit Larceny	121	4632	§61-3-13(b)	63
Public Intoxication	121	7882	§60-6-9	89
Trespassing	116	4712	§61-3B-1 et seq	71
Truancy	112	8943	§49-1-4	96
Unlawful Simple Assault	91	3562	§61-2-9(b)	55
Grand Larceny (Auto)	90	2321	§61-3-13(a)	30
Burglary, Daytime Not Forced	64	2291	§61-3-11(b)	27
Burglary, Night-time or Daytime Forced	59	2271	§61-3-11(a)	25
Unlawful Taking of Vehicle (joyriding)	58	4682	§17A-8-4	68
Obstructing Officer	51	5792	§61-5-17	80
Violation of Probation/Parole	51	8903	§49-1-4	92
Disorderly Conduct	43	5832	Municipal Ordinance	84
Other Less Serious Personal Offenses (misdemeanors)	38	3002		61
Other Less Serious Property Offenses (misdemeanors)	34	4002		74
Brandishing Deadly Weapon	33	3492	§61-7-11	48
Other DUI Offenses	31	3572	§17C-5-2(d)	56
Other Crimes Against the Peace	30	5002		85
Receiving/Transferring Stolen Goods	28	4642	§61-3-18	64

## V. Juvenile Delinquency Offenses

### SERIOUS OFFENSES BY COUNTY

#### CATEGORY I – PERSONAL AND SIMILAR OFFENSES

Within the offense ranking of JJDB reporting, Category I offenses are the most serious. These offenses involve acts which, if committed, have the potential to cause or have caused personal injury or death to a victim and are felonies when handled under criminal jurisdiction of the court. This category includes first degree murder, aggravated robbery, manufacture and delivery of drugs and 19 other specific offenses.

#### CATEGORY II – PROPERTY AND SIMILAR OFFENSES

Within the offense ranking of JJDB reporting, Category II offenses is the second most serious category of offenses. These offenses involve acts which, if committed, have the potential to cause or have caused property damage or loss and are felonies when handled under the criminal jurisdiction of the court. This category includes first degree arson, night-time burglary, grand larceny, and 14 other specific offenses.

The following chart indicates the number of Category I and Category II offenses reported by county.

COUNTY	CATEGORY I	CATEGORY II	COUNTY	CATEGORY I	CATEGORY II
BARBOUR	0	0	MINERAL	8	19
BERKELEY	4	17	MINGO	10	15
BOONE	2	37	MONONGALIA	2	2
BRAXTON	0	0	MONROE	0	4
BROOKE	3	4	MORGAN	0	0
CABELL	7	24	NICHOLAS	3	11
CALHOUN	0	0	OHIO	5	6
CLAY	0	0	PENDLETON	0	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	PLEASANTS	0	10
FAYETTE	4	12	POCAHONTAS	0	0
GILMER	0	0	PRESTON	0	3
GRANT	1	4	PUTNAM	0	0
GREENBRIER	2	5	RALEIGH	10	36
HAMPSHIRE	0	12	RANDOLPH	2	12
HANCOCK	1	6	RITCHIE	0	0
HARDY	0	4	ROANE	0	0
HARRISON	0	0	SUMMERS	0	2
JACKSON	0	0	TAYLOR	0	1
JEFFERSON	2	3	TUCKER	0	5
KANAWHA	19	109	TYLER	1	2
LEWIS	0	51	UPSHUR	0	12
LINCOLN	1	9	WAYNE	1	11
LOGAN	2	6	WEBSTER	0	0
MCDOWELL	0	0	WETZEL	0	0
MARION	0	0	WIRT	0	0
MARSHALL	0	14	WOOD	2	21
MASON	0	0	WYOMING	0	4
MERCER	7	42	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>535</b>

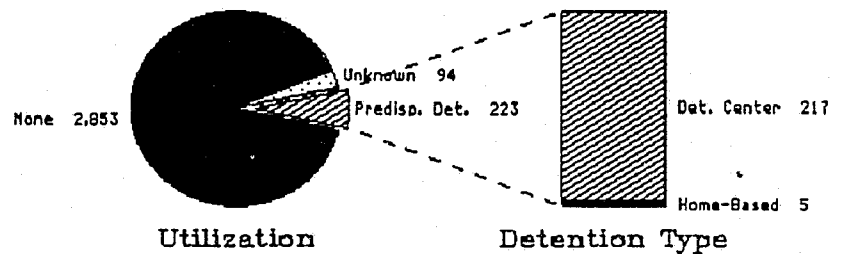
## VI. Secured Predisposition Detention

### UTILIZATION BY TOTAL CASES

Of the 3,170 juvenile cases which were reported to the JJDB, 2,853 or 90%, were processed without the use of any form of predisposition detention. The subject children of these cases either remained in their own homes pending further court proceedings or resided in another nonsecured setting, such as with a relative or in an emergency shelter.

Of the children who were committed to some type of detention to await court proceedings, home-based or electronic monitoring was reported to have been used in 5 cases; commitment to one of the five secure juvenile detention centers was reported in 217 cases; and commitment to a county jail was reported in 1 case. Whether or not secure detention was utilized was unknown in 94 cases.

### Utilization by Total Cases



*There are 5 juvenile detention centers in West Virginia. The centers are located in Parkersburg (Wood County), Martinsburg (Berkeley County), Wheeling (Ohio County), Princeton (Mercer County), and Dunbar (Kanawha County).*

## VI. Secured Predisposition Detention

### RESIDENTIAL DETENTION RATE BY COUNTY

*Secure residential detention rates among counties are analyzed by three different methods:*

**A. Number of Different Youth Committed.** -- This method counts the number of individual youths committed to secure detention by county and adjusts the detention rate based upon each county's youthful population. Youthful population refers to the number of people in the county between the ages of 10 and 20 years old. The same child is counted one time only, even if the child is committed to secure detention on more than one occasion during the reporting period.

COUNTY	YOUTH COMMITTED	POPULATION	RATE PER 1,000	COUNTY	YOUTH COMMITTED	POPULATION	RATE PER 1,000
BARBOUR	0	2673	0	MINERAL	3	4488	.67
BERKELEY	3	8268	.36	MINGO	6	7001	.86
BOONE	3	5295	.57	MONONGALIA	0	11679	0
BRAXTON	0	2293	0	MONROE	2	2011	.99
BROOKE	0	4469	0	MORGAN	0	1711	0
CABELL	26	14584	1.78	NICHOLAS	3	4744	.63
CALHOUN	0	1311	0	OHIO	4	8114	.49
CLAY	0	2218	0	PENDLETON	0	1109	0
DODDRIDGE	0	1256	0	PLEASANTS	0	1293	0
FAYETTE	7	9182	.76	POCAHONTAS	0	1393	0
GILMER	0	1226	0	PRESTON	0	5096	0
GRANT	3	1835	1.63	PUTNAM	0	6604	0
GREENBRIER	1	5567	.18	RALEIGH	14	13633	1.03
HAMPSHIRE	0	2748	0	RANDOLPH	11	4184	2.63
HANCOCK	1	5576	.18	RITCHIE	0	1637	0
HARDY	0	1542	0	ROANE	0	2202	0
HARRISON	0	10843	0	SUMMERS	0	2103	0
JACKSON	0	4005	0	TAYLOR	0	2768	0
JEFFERSON	0	5892	0	TUCKER	2	1281	1.56
KANAWHA	35	30171	1.16	TYLER	1	1864	.54
LEWIS	5	2744	1.82	UPSHUR	3	3988	.75
LINCOLN	1	4096	.24	WAYNE	2	7480	.27
LOGAN	0	8712	0	WEBSTER	1	2144	.47
MCDOWELL	0	11140	0	WETZEL	1	3492	.29
MARION	0	9562	0	WIRT	0	912	0
MARSHALL	3	5829	.51	WOOD	9	13771	.65
MASON	0	4248	0	WYOMING	0	6371	0
MERCER	7	8361	.84	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>298,719</b>	<b>.53</b>

## VI. Secured Predisposition Detention

## RESIDENTIAL DETENTION RATE BY COUNTY

**B. Number of Total Commitments.** - This method counts the number of different commitments to detention by county. The same child is counted more than once if that child is committed by court order to secure detention on more than one occasion during the reporting period. This method does not duplicate the count if a child is committed to detention one time based upon more than one charge or petition. Transfers between centers for the purpose of adjusting center populations is not counted as more than one commitment. Commitments by county are reported directly to the JJDB by juvenile detention centers.

COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	POPULATION	RATE PER 1,000	COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	POPULATION	RATE PER 1,000
BARBOUR	0	2673	0	MINERAL	6	4488	1.34
BERKELEY	9	8268	1.09	MINGO	6	7001	.86
BOONE	7	5295	1.32	MCONGALIA	4	11679	.34
BRAXTON <sup>9</sup>	0	2293	0	MONROE	0	2011	0
BROOKE	4	4469	.90	MORGAN	0	1711	0
CABELL	34	14584	2.33	NICHOLAS	3	4744	.63
CALHOUN	0	1311	0	OHIO	24	8114	2.96
CLAY	3	2218	1.35	PENDLETON	0	1109	0
DODDRIDGE	0	1256	0	PLEASANTS	0	1293	0
FAYETTE	8	9182	.87	POCAHONTAS	2	1393	1.44
GILMER	0	1226	0	PRESTON	0	5096	0
GRANT	3	1835	1.63	PUTNAM	5	6604	.76
GREENBRIER	9	5567	1.62	RALEIGH	23	13633	1.69
HAMPSHIRE	0	2748	0	RANDOLPH	0	4184	0
HANCOCK	0	5576	0	RITCHIE	3	1637	1.83
HARDY	1	1542	.65	ROANE	3	2202	1.36
HARRISON	12	10843	1.11	SUMMERS	2	2103	.95
JACKSON	15	4005	3.75	TAYLOR	0	2768	0
JEFFERSON	9	5892	1.53	TUCKER	3	1281	2.34
KANAWHA	103	30171	3.41	TYLER	1	1864	.54
LEWIS	3	2744	1.09	UPSHUR	4	3988	1.00
LINCOLN	4	4096	.98	WAYNE	2	7480	.27
LOGAN	6	8712	.69	WEBSTER	1	2144	.47
MCDOWELL	12	8361	1.44	WETZEL	5	3492	1.43
MARION	10	9562	1.05	WIRT	1	912	1.10
MARSHALL	19	5829	3.26	WOOD	97	13771	7.04
MASON	1	4248	.24	WYOMING	4	6371	.63
MERCER	22	11140	1.97	TOTAL	493	298,719	1.65

<sup>9</sup>Braxton County's rate of committing juveniles to detention published in the "Aspects" report November 13, 1990, was incorrect. The correct rate per 1000 was 3.489 as opposed to 6.542.

## VI. Secured Predisposition Detention

### RESIDENTIAL DETENTION RATE BY COUNTY

C. Detention Rate by Total Cases. -- This table indicates the proportion of the total cases within a county in which secure residential juvenile detention is utilized by county. The same juvenile may be the subject of more than one delinquency case during the reporting period and may be committed to detention on more than one occasion.

COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	TOTAL CASES	RATE PER 1,000	COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	TOTAL CASES	RATE PER 1,000
BARBOUR	0	0	0	MINERAL	6	86	69.77
BERKELEY	9	136	66.18	MINGO	6	75	80
BOONE	7	56	125	MONONGALIA	4	32	125
BRAXTON	0	2	0	MONROE	0	14	0
BROOKE	4	88	45.45	MORGAN	0	5	0
CABELL	34	229	148.47	NICHOLAS	3	80	37.50
CALHOUN	0	0	0	OHIO	24	73	328.77
CLAY	3	2	---	PENDLETON	0	1	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	PLEASANTS	0	7	0
FAYETTE	8	88	90.91	POCAHONTAS	2	0	---
GILMER	0	0	0	PRESTON	0	4	0
GRANT	3	9	333.33	PUTNAM	5	0	---
GREENBRIER	9	36	250	RALEIGH	23	308	74.68
HAMPSHIRE	0	12	0	RANDOLPH	0	56	0
HANCOCK	0	71	0	RITCHIE	3	1	---
HARDY	1	4	250	ROANE	3	0	---
HARRISON	12	0	---	SUMMERS	2	5	400
JACKSON	15	0	---	TAYLOR	0	6	0
JEFFERSON	9	30	300	TUCKER	3	5	600
KANAWHA	103	945	109	TYLER	1	5	200
LEWIS	3	29	103.45	UPSHUR	4	33	121.21
LINCOLN	4	29	137.93	WAYNE	2	62	32.26
LOGAN	6	68	88.24	WEBSTER	1	12	83.33
MCDOWELL	12	0	---	WETZEL	5	8	625
MARION	10	0	---	WIRT	1	0	---
MARSHALL	19	79	240.51	WOOD	97	112	866.07
MASON	1	0	---	WYOMING	4	13	307.69
MERCER	22	254	86.61	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>155.52</b>

## VI. Secured Predisposition Detention

### OTHER METHODS UTILIZED FOR JUVENILE DETENTION BY COUNTY

#### Home-based/Electronic Monitoring and County Jails

Of youth detained pending court proceedings, the most common means of detention is through commitment to secure juvenile detention centers as previously described.

In addition, juveniles may be detained through supervision while living in a nonsecure setting, such as their own home, with or without the use of electronic monitoring. Commitments to county jails generally utilized for adults can be utilized in some circumstances.

The following table indicates the number of instances in which these options were utilized in each county during the reporting period. In some cases, more than one type of detention may have been utilized for a child awaiting further court proceedings.

COUNTY	HOME-BASED/ ELECTRONIC MONITORING	COUNTY JAIL	TOTAL	COUNTY	HOME-BASED/ ELECTRONIC MONITORING	COUNTY JAIL	TOTAL
BARBOUR	0	0	0	MINERAL	0	0	0
BERKELEY	0	0	0	MINGO	0	0	0
BOONE	0	0	0	MONONGALIA	0	0	0
BRAXTON	0	0	0	MONROE	0	0	0
BROOKE	0	0	0	MORGAN	0	0	0
CABELL	0	0	0	NICHOLAS	0	0	0
CALHOUN	0	0	0	OHIO	0	0	0
CLAY	0	0	0	PENDLETON	0	0	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	PLEASANTS	0	0	0
FAYETTE	0	0	0	POCAHONTAS	0	0	0
GILMER	0	0	0	PRESTON	0	0	0
GRANT	0	0	0	PUTNAM	0	0	0
GREENBRIER	0	0	0	RALEIGH	3	0	3
HAMPSHIRE	0	0	0	RANDOLPH	0	0	0
HANCOCK	0	0	0	RITCHIE	0	0	0
HARDY	0	0	0	ROANE	0	0	0
HARRISON	0	0	0	SUMMERS	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	TAYLOR	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	0	0	0	TUCKER	0	0	0
KANAWHA	2	1	3	TYLER	0	0	0
LEWIS	0	0	0	UPSHUR	0	0	0
LINCOLN	0	0	0	WAYNE	0	0	0
LOGAN	0	0	0	WEBSTER	0	0	0
MCDOWELL	0	0	0	WETZEL	0	0	0
MARION	0	0	0	WIRT	0	0	0
MARSHALL	0	0	0	WOOD	0	0	0
MASON	0	0	0	WYOMING	0	0	0
MERCER	0	0	0	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>



## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### INFORMAL AND FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN BY COUNTY

Public officials may respond to an allegation that a child is delinquent by taking either informal or formal action. An informal action is one that diverts the child from the formal court process while at the same time considers the interest of the child, the victim (if any), and the public. A formal action is one in which a juvenile delinquency petition has been filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office and involves circuit court hearings for the purpose of protecting the interests of the child and the public. Refer to previous sections of this report for a discussion of the different types of informal and formal actions.

Utilizing informal actions to dispose of delinquency cases is much less expensive than utilizing formal actions and may be as effective a response to delinquency as formal actions for some children. However, if it appears that public safety requires a child's commitment to a secure setting or if the child is uncooperative or unsuccessful in resolving the alleged delinquency informally, a petition may be filed and the case disposed of by the court. County practices vary when responding to delinquency cases. The following chart indicates the number and percentage of delinquency cases in each county that are disposed of through informal and formal actions.

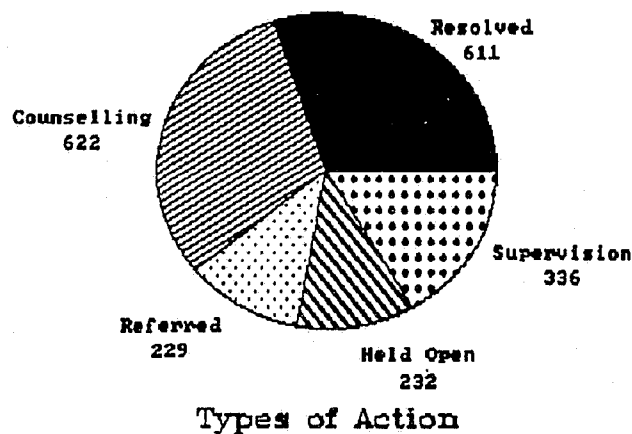
COUNTY	TOTAL CASES	INFORMALLY DISPOSED %	FORMALLY DISPOSED %	COUNTY	TOTAL CASES	INFORMALLY DISPOSED %	FORMALLY DISPOSED %
BARBOUR	0	0.00%	0.00%	MINERAL	86	6%	94%
BERKELEY	136	63%	37%	MINGO	75	20%	80%
BOONE	56	18%	82%	MONONGALIA	32	100%	0.00%
BRAXTON	2	50%	50%	MONROE	14	0.00%	100%
BROOKE	88	82%	18%	MORGAN	5	20%	80%
CABELL	229	31%	69%	NICHOLAS	80	43%	57%
CALHOUN	0	0.00%	0.00%	OHIO	73	70%	30%
CLAY	2	50%	50%	PENDLETON	1	0.00%	100%
DODDRIDGE	0	0.00%	0.00%	PLEASANTS	7	0.00%	100%
FAYETTE	88	77%	23%	POCAHONTAS	0	0.00%	0.00%
GILMER	0	0.00%	0.00%	PRESTON	4	0.00%	100%
GRANT	9	44%	56%	PUTNAM	0	0.00%	0.00%
GREENBRIER	36	25%	75%	RALEIGH	308	92%	8%
HAMPSHIRE	12	58%	42%	RANDOLPH	56	46%	54%
HANCOCK	71	80%	20%	RITCHIE	1	100%	0.00%
HARDY	4	0.00%	100%	ROANE	0	0.00%	0.00%
HARRISON	0	0.00%	0.00%	SUMMERS	5	20%	80%
JACKSON	0	0.00%	0.00%	TAYLOR	6	17%	83%
JEFFERSON	30	53%	47%	TUCKER	5	40%	60%
KANAWHA	945	72%	28%	TYLER	5	0.00%	100%
LEWIS	29	41%	59%	UPSHUR	33	61%	39%
LINCOLN	29	52%	48%	WAYNE	62	32%	68%
LOGAN	68	32%	68%	WEBSTER	12	33%	67%
MCDOWELL	0	0.00%	0.00%	WETZEL	8	0.00%	100%
MARION	0	0.00%	0.00%	WIRT	0	0.00%	0.00%
MARSHALL	79	37%	63%	WOOD	112	79%	21%
MASON	0	0.00%	0.00%	WYOMING	13	23%	77%
MERCER	254	79%	21%	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3170</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>38%</b>

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### TYPES OF INFORMAL ACTIONS MOST COMMONLY TAKEN

Five types of informal actions may be taken by officials to dispose of delinquency cases. The following graph illustrates which types of informal actions were most commonly taken during the reporting period.

### Types of Informal Actions Most Commonly Taken



#### INFORMAL

- 30%--Resolved after discussion with the affected parties. This is similar to a formal case being dismissed because it is not in the best interests of the child and public to proceed. Such a case usually involves a minor offense and/or a situation in which the assertion of parental discipline is most appropriate;
- 31%--A public official, such as a probation officer, counselling the child or parent(s) on one or more occasion and closing the delinquency case;
- 11%--The public official referring the child (or parents) to a community agency for counselling or social services and closes the delinquency case;
- 11%--Held open without further action (unless the child gets into trouble again). This is similar to a child being granted an improvement period by the circuit court;
- 17%--Informal supervision, which is very similar to and is often termed (informal) probation. The maximum period is six months. Refer to the section of this report entitled Probation Entries for further information on this topic.

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### UNSUCCESSFUL INFORMAL ADJUSTMENTS

The success or failure of a child whose delinquency case was disposed through informal means depends upon various factors, i.e., community resources, probation officer caseload, the child's attitude, and other factors. The following table lists the number of youths whose delinquency cases were informally adjusted, but the adjustments were unsuccessful. This includes cases in which the state proceeded on the original charge because the child failed to comply with the terms/conditions of the informal adjustment; and, cases in which a child on an informal adjustment status was adjudicated delinquent based upon a new offense during the reporting period.

COUNTY	TOTAL INFORMAL ACTIONS	TOTAL UNSUCCESSFUL*	SUCCESS %	COUNTY	TOTAL INFORMAL ACTIONS	TOTAL UNSUCCESSFUL*	SUCCESS %
BARBOUR	0			MINERAL	5		
BERKELEY	86			MINGO	15		
BOONE	10			MONONGALIA	32		
BRAXTON	1			MONROE	0		
BROOKE	72			MORGAN	1		
CABELL	70			NICHOLAS	34		
CALHOUN	0			OHIO	51		
CLAY	1			PENDLETON	0		
DODDRIDGE	0			PLEASANTS	0		
FAYETTE	68			POCAHONTAS	0		
GILMER	0			PRESTON	0		
GRANT	4			PUTNAM	0		
GREENBRIER	9			RALEIGH	282		
HAMPSHIRE	7			RANDOLPH	26		
HANCOCK	57			RITCHIE	1		
HARDY	0			ROANE	0		
HARRISON	0			SUMMERS	1		
JACKSON	0			TAYLOR	1		
JEFFERSON	16			TUCKER	2		
KANAWHA	690			TYLER	0		
LEWIS	12			UPSHUR	20		
LINCOLN	15			WAYNE	20		
LOGAN	22			WEBSTER	4		
MCDOWELL	0			WETZEL	0		
MARION	0			WIRT	0		
MARSHALL	29			WOOD	88		
MASON	0			WYOMING	3		
MERCER	201			<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1946</b>		

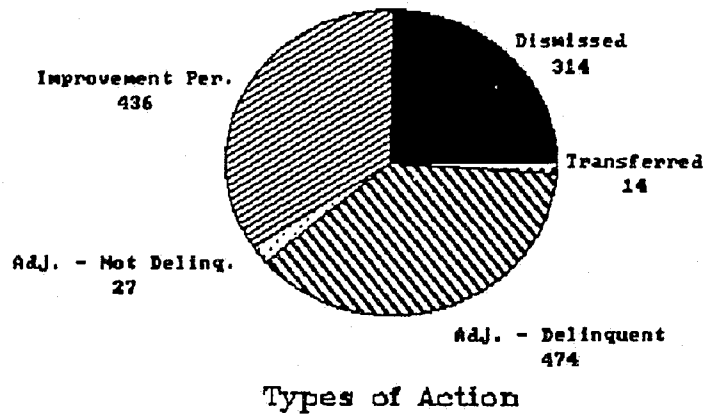
\*data available next reporting period

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### TYPES OF FORMAL ACTIONS MOST COMMONLY TAKEN

After a formal juvenile delinquency petition has been filed in circuit court, one of five types of action occurs. The type of action is dependent upon the outcome of formal hearings, during which the child is represented by an attorney. The following graph illustrates the types of actions most commonly taken during the reporting period after the delinquency petition is filed in court.

### Types of Formal Actions Most Commonly Taken



#### FORMAL

- 25%--The Circuit Court dismissed the petition because it is not in the best interests of the child and public to proceed.
- 34%--The Circuit Court granted the child an improvement period up to a maximum term of one year. If the terms of the improvement period are fulfilled, the delinquency petition was later dismissed without the child ever being adjudicated delinquent.
- 2%--The child was adjudicated not delinquent (not guilty of the charges) based upon the findings of an adjudicatory hearing, which might have included the use of a jury.
- 38%--The child was adjudicated delinquent.
- 1%--Upon demand of the child or in very serious cases, such as those involving violent offenses (felonies), the juvenile was transferred to the adult criminal jurisdiction of the court for trial as if the juvenile were an adult. Transfer is intended to be used only in exceptional cases.

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### YOUTH ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT

The following table indicates the number of youths adjudicated delinquent in each county and the county's rate of adjudicating youth delinquent per 1,000 youthful population. The same child may have been adjudicated delinquent, based upon more than one charge during the reporting period. Various factors affect a county's rate of adjudication in addition to the size of the county's youthful population and the degree of its juvenile crime problem. For example, a high adjudication rate may be an indicator of a poor informal adjustment program, a lack of community resources/social services, problems related to the local bar association, a need for a public defender office, or other reasons.

COUNTY	DEL. ADJ.	POP.	RATE PER 1,000	COUNTY	DEL. ADJ.	POP.	RATE PER 1,000
BARBOUR	0	2673	0	MINERAL	44	4488	9.80
BERKELEY	3	8268	.36	MINGO	13	7001	1.86
BOONE	23	5295	4.34	MONONGALIA	0	11679	0
BRAXTON	0	2293	0	MONROE	5	2011	2.49
BROOKE	9	4469	2.01	MORGAN	0	1711	0
CABELL	103	14584	7.06	NICHOLAS	5	4744	1.05
CALHOUN	0	1311	0	OHIO	10	8114	1.23
CLAY	0	2218	0	PENDLETON	0	1109	0
DODDRIDGE	0	1256	0	PLEASANTS	6	1293	4.64
FAYETTE	10	9182	1.09	POCAHONTAS	0	1393	0
GILMER	0	1226	0	PRESTON	0	5096	0
GRANT	5	1835	0	PUTNAM	0	6604	0
GREENBRIER	9	5567	1.62	RALEIGH	15	13633	1.10
HAMPSHIRE	2	2748	.73	RANDOLPH	19	4184	4.54
HANCOCK	7	5576	1.26	RITCHIE	0	1637	0
HARDY	1	1542	.65	ROANE	0	2202	0
HARRISON	0	10843	0	SUMMERS	0	2103	0
JACKSON	0	4005	0	TAYLOR	0	2768	0
JEFFERSON	2	5892	.34	TUCKER	3	1281	2.34
KANAWHA	95	30171	3.15	TYLER	2	1864	1.07
LEWIS	10	2744	3.64	UPSHUR	11	3988	2.76
LINCOLN	7	4096	1.71	WAYNE	2	7480	.27
LOGAN	9	8712	1.03	WEBSTER	0	2144	0
MCDOWELL	0	8361	0	WETZEL	0	3492	0
MARION	0	9562	0	WIRT	0	912	0
MARSHALL	8	5829	1.37	WOOD	18	13771	1.31
MASON	0	4248	0	WYOMING	7	6371	1.10
MERCER	7	11140	.63	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>298,719</b>	<b>1.59</b>

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### TRANSFERS TO CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

A child may be considered by a court to be treated as if she/he was an adult if probable cause is found and (1) the child is charged with a very serious offense, such as murder or first degree sexual assault; or (2) the child is charged with a violent offense and has a previous adjudication for a crime of violence; or (3) the child is charged with a felony type offense and has two previous adjudications for felony type offenses; or (4) the child is 16 years old and charged with a violent offense; or (5) the child is 16 years old and charged with a felony type offense and has a previous adjudication for a felony type offense.

If a prosecutor moves the court to transfer a case to criminal jurisdiction, the court is required to conduct a transfer hearing. Transfer is required to be the exception and not the rule in handling delinquency cases.

The following table lists the number of delinquency cases disposed in each county by transferring the case to criminal court (adult court). Some caution should be exercised in interpreting the data because, although unusual, a child charged with a less serious offense may also be transferred to criminal court if over 16 years old and she/he demands the transfer. Such is likely to occur only in instances in which the disposition of the offense is likely to be less coercive for a child when treated as an adult.

For example, a child who is charged with first offense trespassing may be concerned that an out-of-home commitment to a child welfare setting may last for almost two years under juvenile jurisdiction. In order to significantly reduce the potential penalty for the offense, this child may demand a transfer from juvenile court to adult court. Upon conviction for simple trespassing, the maximum penalty under criminal jurisdiction is a fine not more than one hundred dollars. State law protects children committed to correctional facilities from being committed to terms longer than an adult would be sentenced for the same offense. However, the same protection is not afforded to children committed to child welfare facilities.

Discharge from child welfare facilities is commonly dependent upon program completion and familial factors. Occasionally, children are discharged from one facility to be admitted to another facility instead of going home. For these reasons, a child may decide to demand transfer to criminal jurisdiction. Therefore, the following data may include less serious cases, as well as being an indicator of very serious cases.

COUNTY	TRANSFERS	COUNTY	TRANSFERS	COUNTY	TRANSFERS	COUNTY	TRANSFERS
BARBOUR	0	HANCOCK	0	MINERAL	4	RITCHIE	0
BERKELEY	0	HARDY	0	MINGO	0	ROANE	0
BOONE	0	HARRISON	0	MONONGALIA	0	SUMMERS	0
BRAXTON	0	JACKSON	0	MONROE	0	TAYLOR	0
BROOKE	0	JEFFERSON	0	MORGAN	0	TUCKER	0
CABELL	2	KANAWHA	0	NICHOLAS	0	TYLER	0
CALHOUN	0	LEWIS	0	OHIO	0	UPSHUR	0
CLAY	0	LINCOLN	0	PENDLETON	0	WAYNE	2
DODDRIDGE	0	LOGAN	0	PLEASANTS	0	WEBSTER	0
FAYETTE	0	MCDOWELL	0	POCAHONTAS	0	WETZEL	0
GILMER	0	MARION	0	PRESTON	0	WIRT	0
GRANT	0	MARSHALL	0	PUTNAM	0	WOOD	0
GREENBRIER	0	MASON	0	RALEIGH	0	WYOMING	0
HAMPSHIRE	0	MERCER	1	RANDOLPH	0	TOTALS	9

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### IMPROVEMENT PERIODS GRANTED AND TERMINATED

Except for a circuit court dismissing a juvenile delinquency case, granting the child who is the subject of the case an improvement period is the least restrictive formal disposition of the case. An improvement period is granted without an adjudication of delinquency. Therefore, the child avoids a negative label and avoids the risk of an out-of-home commitment. In addition, the state saves some prosecutorial, defense, and court costs, although not nearly as much as when a case is informally adjusted. The following table indicates the number of improvement periods granted and the number terminated because they were unsuccessful.

COUNTY	TOTAL GRANTED	TOTAL UNSUCCESSFUL*	SUCCESS %	COUNTY	TOTAL GRANTED	TOTAL UNSUCCESSFUL*	SUCCESS %
BARBOUR	0			MINERAL	25		
BERKELEY	30			MINGO	19		
BOONE	20			MONONGALIA	0		
BRAXTON	1			MONROE	9		
BROOKE	7			MORGAN	2		
CABELL	13			NICHOLAS	29		
CALHOUN	0			OHIO	10		
CLAY	0			PENDLETON	1		
DODDRIDGE	0			PLEASANTS	0		
FAYETTE	1			POCAHONTAS	0		
GILMER	0			PRESTON	4		
GRANT	0			PUTNAM	0		
GREENBRIER	18			RALEIGH	1		
HAMPSHIRE	3			RANDOLPH	8		
HANCOCK	7			RITCHIE	0		
HARDY	3			ROANE	0		
HARRISON	0			SUMMERS	4		
JACKSON	0			TAYLOR	4		
JEFFERSON	10			TUCKER	0		
KANAWHA	47			TYLER	2		
LEWIS	7			UPSHUR	2		
LINCOLN	7			WAYNE	36		
LOGAN	20			WEBSTER	7		
MCDOWELL	0			WETZEL	6		
MARRON	0			WIRT	0		
MARSHALL	20			WOOD	5		
MASON	0			WYOMING	3		
MERCER	24			<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>415</b>		

\*data available next reporting period

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

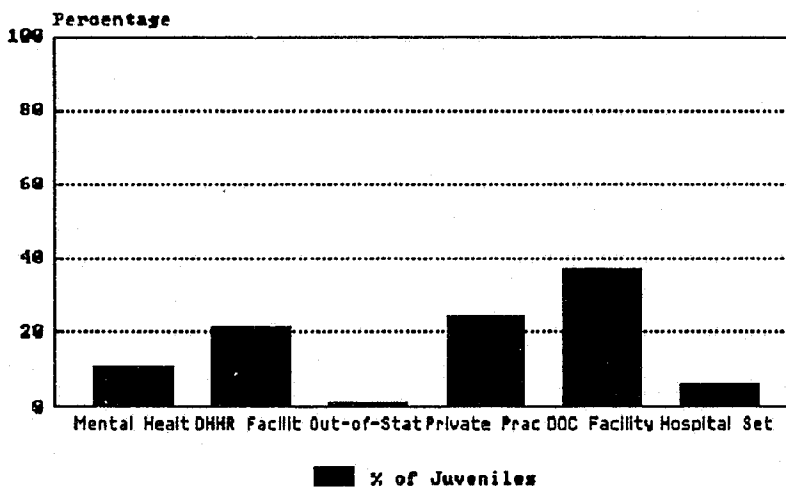
To aid the court in reaching appropriate disposition of juveniles adjudicated delinquent, the court may order a psychological evaluation. The results of such evaluations are not to be made available to the Court until after the adjudicatory hearing.

A psychological evaluation may be conducted by a nonresidential or a residential setting to which the juvenile is committed or placed. Juveniles are entitled to the least restrictive alternative for psychological evaluations.

Nonresidential evaluations, such as those conducted by a mental health center or a private psychologist are less expensive and offer a greater potential to include input from families, schools, and other sources.

Due to the needs of the child or for other reasons, a child may be ordered or placed into a residential setting operated or funded by the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) or the Division of Corrections (DOC). The DOC operates a diagnostic unit as a component of the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth (WVIHY). Occasionally, a child may be committed to an out-of-state setting for evaluation or to a hospital.

### Evaluations by Setting



#### PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED

11%--Mental Health Center  
21%--DHHR In-State Facility  
1%--Out-of-State Facility

24%--Private Practitioner  
37%--DOC Facility  
6%--Hospital Setting



## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### A----UTILIZATION OF MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY COUNTY

Increasingly, the merits of interagency cooperation are being recognized in West Virginia. Utilization or expansion of existing publicly funded services for the purpose of addressing juvenile delinquency has obvious merit over less cost-effective means, such as creating new services or contracting with new providers.

In West Virginia, there are 14 community mental health centers (CMH), for the most part publicly funded with designated catchment areas. Each center has the capability of conducting psychological evaluations. Utilization of a mental health center for nonresidential evaluation is one of the least restrictive/intrusive means available for the court to achieve appropriate disposition of a delinquency case, and is perhaps the most cost effective.

The chart below indicates the total number of psychological evaluations conducted and the number and percentage conducted in community mental health centers.

COUNTY	CMH EVALUATIONS	TOTAL EVALUATIONS	% CMH	COUNTY	CMH EVALUATIONS	TOTAL EVALUATIONS	% CMH
BARBOUR	0	0	0	MINERAL	1	25	4%
BERKELEY	0	5	0	MINGO	2	15	13.33%
BOONE	1	12	8.33%	MONONGALIA	0	0	0
BRAXTON	0	0	0	MONROE	0	5	0
BROOKE	0	2	0	MORGAN	0	0	0
CABELL	1	27	3.70%	NICHOLAS	0	8	0
CALHOUN	0	0	0	OHIO	1	9	11.11%*
CLAY	1	1	100%	PENDLETON	0	0	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	PLEASANTS	0	0	0
FAYETTE	2	6	33.33%	POCAHONTAS	0	0	0
GILMER	0	0	0	PRESTON	0	0	0
GRANT	0	1	0	PUTNAM	0	0	0
GREENBRIER	1	2	50%	RALEIGH	1	12	8.33%
HAMPSHIRE	0	2	0	RANDOLPH	1	9	11.11%
HANCOCK	9	15	60%	RITCHIE	0	0	0
HARDY	0	1	0	ROANE	0	0	0
HARRISON	0	0	0	SUMMERS	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	TAYLOR	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	2	5	40%	TUCKER	0	2	0
KANAWHA	1	52	1.92%	TYLER	0	1	0
LEWIS	0	7	0	UPSHUR	1	5	20%
LINCOLN	0	1	0	WAYNE	2	3	66.67%
LOGAN	0	2	0	WEBSTER	0	1	0
MCDOWELL	0	0	0	WEITZEL	0	0	0
MARION	0	0	0	WIRT	0	0	0
MARSHALL	0	5	0	WOOD	0	10	0
MASON	0	0	0	WYOMING	0	2	0
MERCER	1	7	14.29%	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>11.77%</b>

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

## B----UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE PROVIDERS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS BY COUNTY

Utilization of a private provider to conduct a nonresidential psychological evaluation is also one of the least restrictive/intrusive means available to the court to achieve appropriate disposition of a delinquency case.

The chart below indicates the number and percentage of delinquency cases in which private providers were utilized relative to all cases in which a psychological evaluation was ordered.

COUNTY	PP EVALUATIONS	TOTAL EVALUATIONS	% PP	COUNTY	PP EVALUATIONS	TOTAL EVALUATIONS	% PP
BARBOUR	0	0	0	MINERAL	3	25	12%
BERKELEY	4	5	80%	MINGO	0	15	0
BOONE	2	12	16.67%	MONONGALIA	0	0	0
BRAXTON	0	0	0	MONROE	0	5	0
BROOKE	1	2	50%	MORGAN	0	0	0
CABELL	3	27	11.11%	NICHOLAS	1	8	12.50%
CALHOUN	0	0	0	OHIO	2	9	22.22%
CLAY	0	1	0	PENDLETON	0	0	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	PLEASANTS	0	0	0
FAYETTE	0	6	0	POCAHONTAS	0	0	0
GILMER	0	0	0	PRESTON	0	0	0
GRANT	0	1	0	PUTNAM	0	0	0
GREENBRIER	0	2	0	RALEIGH	1	12	8.33%
HAMPSHIRE	1	2	50%	RANDOLPH	0	9	0
HANCOCK	6	15	40%	RITCHIE	0	0	0
HARDY	0	1	0	ROANE	0	0	0
HARRISON	0	0	0	SUMMERS	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	TAYLOR	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	3	5	60%	TUCKER	0	2	0
KANAWHA	20	52	38.46%	TYLER	1	1	100%
LEWIS	3	7	42.86%	UPSHUR	1	5	20%
LINCOLN	0	1	0	WAYNE	0	3	0
LOGAN	2	2	100%	WEBSTER	0	1	0
MCDOWELL	0	0	0	WETZEL	0	0	0
MARION	0	0	0	WIRT	0	0	0
MARSHALL	2	5	40%	WOOD	4	10	40%
MASON	0	0	0	WYOMING	0	2	0
MERCER	3	7	42.86%	TOTALS	63	260	24%

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### C---UTILIZATION OF WVIHY DIAGNOSTIC UNIT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS BY COUNTY

State law provides that after a juvenile has been adjudicated delinquent for criminal-type behavior, she/he may be committed to the Diagnostic Unit of the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth near Salem for a psychological evaluation. This is a secure unit contained within the fenced perimeter of the WVIHY. The maximum period of confinement during which the evaluation can occur is 30 days.

Utilization of the WVIHY Diagnostic Unit is one of the most restrictive/intrusive means available to the court to achieve a psychological evaluation of the delinquency case.

The chart below indicates the number and percentage of delinquency cases in which the WVIHY Diagnostic Unit was utilized relative to all cases in which a psychological evaluation was ordered.

COUNTY	WVIHY EVALUATIONS	TOTAL EVALUATIONS	% WVIHY	COUNTY	WVIHY EVALUATIONS	TOTAL EVALUATIONS	% WVIHY
BARBOUR	0	0	0	MINERAL	12	25	48%
BERKELEY	0	5	0	MINGO	12	15	80%
BOONE	4	12	33.33%	MONONGALIA	0	0	0
BRAXTON	0	0	0	MONROE	5	5	100%
BROOKE	1	2	50%	MORGAN	0	0	0
CABELL	17	27	62.97%	NICHOLAS	3	8	37.50%
CALHOUN	0	0	0	OHIO	3	9	33.33%
CLAY	0	1	0	PENDLETON	0	0	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	PLEASANTS	0	0	0
FAYETTE	4	6	66.67%	POCAHONTAS	0	0	0
GILMER	0	0	0	PRESTON	0	0	0
GRANT	0	1	0	PUTNAM	0	0	0
GREENBRIER	1	2	50%	RALEIGH	8	12	66.67%
HAMPSHIRE	0	2	0	RANDOLPH	0	9	0
HANCOCK	0	15	0	RITCHIE	0	0	0
HARDY	0	1	0	ROANE	0	0	0
HARRISON	0	0	0	SUMMERS	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	TAYLOR	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	0	5	0	TUCKER	1	2	50%
KANAWHA	9	52	17.31%	TYLER	0	1	0
LEWIS	3	7	42.86%	UPSHUR	1	5	20%
LINCOLN	0	1	0	WAYNE	0	3	0
LOGAN	0	2	0	WEBSTER	0	1	0
MCDOWELL	0	0	0	WETZEL	0	0	0
MARION	0	0	0	WIRT	0	0	0
MARSHALL	3	5	60%	WOOD	4	10	40%
MASON	0	0	0	WYOMING	0	0	0
MERCER	3	7	42.86%	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>36.15%</b>

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### JUVENILES PLACED ON PROBATION\*

During the reporting period, a total of 388 juveniles were placed on informal or formal probation as a disposition of their delinquency case. Of this total, 294 juveniles or 76% were placed on noncustodial probation and in 94 cases (24%) the juvenile was committed to an out-of-home DHHR setting and placed on probation.

The chart below indicates the total number of juveniles from each county who were added to juvenile probation caseloads. Not included in these totals are children committed to a DOC facility and later released on parole. Refer to the section of this report entitled "Division of Corrections Commitments" for a county listing. With some exception, all children committed to DOC are placed on some level of parole supervision and may be considered added to juvenile caseloads.

COUNTY	INFORMAL	FORMAL	TOTAL	COUNTY	INFORMAL	FORMAL	TOTAL
BARBOUR	0	0	0	MINERAL	42	5	47
BERKELEY	1	0	1	MINGO	7	3	10
BOONE	0	0	0	MONONGALIA	5	0	5
BRAXTON	0	1	1	MONROE	1	1	2
BROOKE	9	0	9	MORGAN	0	0	0
CABELL	66	18	82	NICHOLAS	3	0	3
CALHOUN	0	0	0	OHIO	2	1	3
CLAY	1	0	1	PENDLETON	0	0	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	PLEASANTS	6	0	6
FAYETTE	7	1	8	POCAHONTAS	0	0	0
GILMER	0	0	0	PRESTON	0	0	0
GRANT	2	0	2	PUTNAM	0	0	0
GREENBRIER	8	2	10	RALEIGH	4	3	7
HAMPSHIRE	0	1	1	RANDOLPH	7	1	8
HANCOCK	4	1	5	RITCHIE	0	0	0
HARDY	0	1	1	ROANE	0	0	0
HARRISON	0	0	0	SUMMERS	0	0	0
JACKSON	0	0	0	TAYLOR	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	0	0	0	TUCKER	0	0	0
KANAWHA	48	32	80	TYLER	3	0	3
LEWIS	0	6	6	UPSHUR	7	4	11
LINCOLN	0	0	0	WAYNE	1	0	1
LOGAN	0	0	0	WEBSTER	4	2	6
MCDOWELL	0	0	0	WETZEL	1	0	1
MARION	0	0	0	WIRT	0	0	0
MARSHALL	28	2	30	WOOD	4	11	15
MASON	0	0	0	WYOMING	7	0	7
MERCER	16	0	16	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>388</b>

\*Data which measures current caseloads of juvenile probation officers is currently not reported to the JJDB. The data in this table indicates additions to existing caseloads pursuant to dispositional orders. In some cases a child already on probation may be ordered to continue probation pursuant to a subsequent case. These cases are included, as such is also an indicator of increased JPO workload.

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### JUVENILE PROBATION ACTIVITY BY TOTAL CASES

Activity of juvenile probation officers can best be analyzed by an examination of the total juvenile delinquency activity of a county, divided by the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) officers employed.

This is because the role of probation officers is much broader and much more involved than supervising juveniles who have been placed upon their caseloads.

The chart below indicates total juvenile delinquency activity per officer in each county.

COUNTY	CASES	OFFICERS (FTE)	ACTIVITY QUOTIENT	COUNTY	CASES	OFFICERS (FTE)	ACTIVITY QUOTIENT
BARBOUR	0	.50	0	MINERAL	61	1.0	61.00
BERKELEY	167	2.00	83.50	MINGO	67	1.0	67.00
BOONE	86	1.00	86.00	MONONGALIA	30	1.4	21.43
BRAXTON	2	.58	3.45	MONROE	16	.25	64.00
BROOKE	95	.65	146.15	MORGAN	4	.50	8.00
CABELL	226	5.00	45.20	NICHOLAS	86	1.0	86.00
CALHOUN	0	.50	0	OHIO	83	1.0	83.00
CLAY	2	.58	3.45	PENDLETON	1	.27	3.70
DODDRIDGE	0	.33	0	PLEASANTS	11	.33	33.33
FAYETTE	102	1.0	102.00	POCAHONTAS	0	0	0
GILMER	0	.58	0	PRESTON	8	.30	26.67
GRANT	10	.50	20.00	PUTNAM	0	1.0	0
GREENBRIER	40	1.0	40.00	RALEIGH	342	2.0	171.00
HAMPSHIRE	16	.27	59.26	RANDOLPH	67	.20	335.00
HANCOCK	78	.70	111.43	RITCHIE	2	.33	6.06
HARDY	4	.27	14.81	ROANE	0	.50	0
HARRISON	0	1.0	0	SUMMERS	8	1.0	8.00
JACKSON	0	1.0	0	TAYLOR	6	.50	12.00
JEFFERSON	22	.50	44.00	TUCKER	7	1.0	7.00
KANAWHA	971	10.0	97.10	TYLER	6	.50	12.00
LEWIS	68	1.0	68.00	UPSHUR	50	1.0	50.00
LINCOLN	35	1.0	35.00	WAYNE	73	2.0	36.50
LOGAN	80	2.0	40.00	WEBSTER	14	1.25	11.20
MCDOWELL	0	1.0	0	WETZEL	5	.50	10.00
MARION	0	1.5	0	WIRT	0	.50	0
MARSHALL	86	2.0	43.00	WOOD	127	4.0	31.75
MASON	0	0	0	WYOMING	16	1.0	16.00
MERCER	273	2.0	136.50	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>62.81</b>	<b>50.47</b>

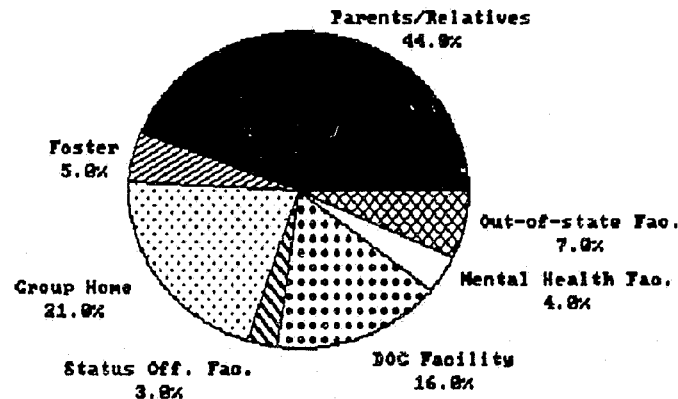
## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### GENERAL UTILIZATION OF COMMITMENT SETTINGS

More children involved in delinquency cases return home upon disposition of the case than go to any other setting.

The following graph illustrates general utilization of settings by total cases. In some situations the same child may be the subject of more than one case.

### Commitment Settings by Type



### COMMITMENT SETTINGS

44%--Parents/Relatives Home	16%--DOC Facility
5%--Foster/Specialized Foster Home	4%--Mental Health Facility
21%--Group Home	7%--Out-of-State Facility
3%--Status Offender Facility	

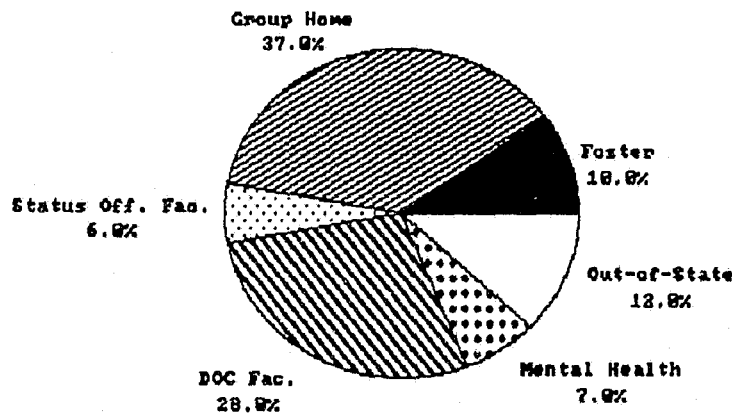
## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### TYPES OF OUT-OF-HOME COMMITMENT SETTINGS UTILIZED

Of those children ordered to out-of-home settings pursuant to delinquency proceedings, several different types of settings are utilized. The most common type of setting utilized during the reporting period was the "Group Home." The following graph illustrates utilization of out-of-home commitments by type of setting. In some situations, the same child may be the subject of more than one case.

Unlike commitments to short-term detention settings, the data presented on commitments to long-term settings does not include a report on different youth committed. This is because, due to the JJDB having a six-month reporting period, there is insignificant disparity between total commitments to and different youth committed to long-term settings.

Out-Of-Home Settings  
by Type



### OUT-OF-HOME COMMITMENTS

10%--Foster/Specialized Foster Home  
37%--Group Home  
6%--Status Offender Facility

28%--DOC Facility  
7%--Mental Health Facility  
12%--Out-of-State Facility

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### COMMITMENTS TO DHHR CUSTODY

Most out-of-home commitments of children are made to the Department of Health and Human Resources. During the reporting period, 102 children were committed to DHHR pursuant to delinquency proceedings. This does not include juveniles committed to DHHR custody pursuant to child abuse/neglect proceedings or mental health proceedings.

The chart below indicates the counties from which the commitments to DHHR custody were ordered. Refer to the section of this report entitled "Commitment Settings" for a discussion of the types of commitments ordered.

COUNTY	DHHR COMMITMENTS	COUNTY	DHHR COMMITMENTS
BARBOUR	0	MINERAL	7
BERKELEY	0	MINGO	1
BOONE	0	MONONGALIA	0
BRAXTON	0	MONROE	1
BROOKE	0	MORGAN	0
CABELL	23	NICHOLAS	0
CALHOUN	0	OHIO	5
CLAY	0	PENDLETON	0
DODDRIDGE	0	PLEASANTS	0
FAYETTE	2	POCAHONTAS	0
GILMER	0	PRESTON	0
GRANT	2	PUTNAM	0
GREENBRIER	2	RALEIGH	4
HAMPSHIRE	2	RANDOLPH	10
HANCOCK	0	RITCHIE	0
HARDY	1	ROANE	0
HARRISON	0	SUMMERS	0
JACKSON	0	TAYLOR	0
JEFFERSON	1	TUCKER	1
KANAWHA	22	TYLER	0
LEWIS	6	UPSHUR	1
LINCOLN	0	WAYNE	2
LOGAN	1	WEBSTER	0
MCDOWELL	0	WETZEL	0
MARION	0	WIRT	0
MARSHALL	0	WOOD	4
MASON	0	WYOMING	0
MERCER	0	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102</b>



## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### COMMITMENTS TO DOC CUSTODY

A dispositional order may commit a child into the custody of the Division of Corrections. During the reporting period, 53 children were committed to the West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth or the Davis Center, both operated by DOC.

A commitment to DOC custody is generally regarded as the most restrictive disposition of a delinquency case.

However, some DHHR facilities are similar in restrictiveness to Davis Center. Out-of-state facilities may be more restrictive in some situations for some children, in part because of geographical considerations. In addition, some mental health facilities are as secure as DOC facilities.

The chart below indicates the number of commitments to DOC facilities by county.

COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	COUNTY	COMMITMENTS
BARBOUR	0	MINERAL	8
BERKELEY	1	MINGO	1
BOONE	4	MONONGALIA	0
BRAXTON	0	MONROE	1
BROOKE	0	MORGAN	0
CABELL	7	NICHOLAS	0
CALHOUN	0	OHIO	0
CLAY	0	PENDLETON	0
DODDRIDGE	0	PLEASANTS	0
FAYETTE	1	POCAHONTAS	0
GILMER	0	PRESTON	0
GRANT	1	PUTNAM	0
GREENBRIER	0	RALEIGH	6
HAMPSHIRE	0	RANDOLPH	0
HANCOCK	0	RITCHIE	0
HARDY	0	ROANE	0
HARRISON	0	SUMMERS	0
JACKSON	0	TAYLOR	0
JEFFERSON	0	TUCKER	2
KANAWHA	10	TYLER	1
LEWIS	2	UPSHUR	3
LINCOLN	0	WAYNE	0
LOGAN	0	WEBSTER	0
MCDOWELL	0	WEITZEL	0
MARION	0	WIRT	0
MARSHALL	0	WOOD	2
MASON	0	WYOMING	0
MERCER	3	TOTALS	53

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### COMMITMENTS TO OUT-OF-STATE FACILITIES

In some cases, a juvenile may be committed by a delinquency disposition to a facility located in another state.

Out-of-state commitments of juveniles have been a controversial topic for a number of years. On one hand, some professionals believe that there is a lack of specialized services for juveniles within the state and that out-of-state commitments are occasionally required in order for the children to receive appropriate services. Additionally, in some parts of the state, out-of-state placements are geographically closer to the child's home than in-state settings. On the other hand, some professionals believe that out-of-state commitment is the most restrictive and perhaps the most punitive disposition of a delinquency case. Cost effectiveness is also an issue as some out-of-state commitments are very expensive.

A lack of monitoring of child care practices and the failure to have a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of out-of-state providers are common criticisms raised with regard to utilization of an out-of-state facility.

The chart below indicates the number of juveniles committed to out-of-state facilities during the reporting period. This does not include children placed pursuant to mental health proceedings absent a delinquency charge; children placed pursuant to abuse/neglect proceedings; or children who are already in DHHR custody and placed in an out-of-state facility without court involvement.

COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	COUNTY	COMMITMENTS
BARBOUR	0	MINERAL	0
BERKELEY	1	MINGO	2
BOONE	0	MONONGALIA	0
BRAXTON	0	MONROE	0
BROOKE	0	MORGAN	0
CABELL	0	NICHOLAS	0
CALHOUN	0	OHIO	0
CLAY	0	PENDLETON	0
DODDRIDGE	0	PLEASANTS	0
FAYETTE	1	POCAHONTAS	0
GILMER	0	PRESTON	0
GRANT	0	PUTNAM	0
GREENBRIER	0	RALEIGH	1
HAMPSHIRE	0	RANDOLPH	0
HANCOCK	3	RITCHIE	0
HARDY	0	ROANE	0
HARRISON	0	SUMMERS	0
JACKSON	0	TAYLOR	0
JEFFERSON	0	TUCKER	0
KANAWHA	9	TYLER	0
LEWIS	1	UPSHUR	1
LINCOLN	0	WAYNE	0
LOGAN	0	WEBSTER	0
MCDOWELL	0	WETZEL	0
MARION	0	WIRT	0
MARSHALL	0	WOOD	3
MASON	0	WYOMING	0
MERCER	1	TOTALS	23

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS INVOLVING CHILDREN CHARGED WITH DELINQUENCY

If a child who is charged with delinquency is suspected of being mentally ill, mentally retarded, or addicted to alcohol or other drugs, the court or another party can initiate mental health proceedings. If an examination ordered through mental health proceedings concludes with a recommendation that the child receive mental health treatment, the delinquency case can be held pending further disposition.

For example, if a child is charged with burglary and also found to need substance abuse treatment, the child maybe ordered to treatment.

Following completion of the treatment program, the child may be returned to court to face the delinquency charge. However, if a child is found to be incompetent or not likely to achieve competency within a reasonable period of time, the delinquency case is dismissed.

The chart below indicates the number of delinquency cases in which the child is committed to a mental health facility through mental health proceedings during the reporting period. This data does not include mental health commitments of children who have not been charged with delinquency.

COUNTY	COMMITMENTS	COUNTY	COMMITMENTS
BARBOUR	0	MINERAL	0
BERKELEY	1	MINGO	0
BOONE	0	MONONGALIA	0
BRAXTON	0	MONROE	0
BROOKE	0	MORGAN	0
CABELL	0	NICHOLAS	0
CALHOUN	0	OHIO	1
CLAY	0	PENDLETON	0
DODDRIDGE	0	PLEASANTS	0
FAYETTE	0	POCAHONTAS	0
GILMER	0	PRESTON	0
GRANT	0	PUTNAM	0
GREENBRIER	0	RALEIGH	0
HAMPSHIRE	0	RANDOLPH	3
HANCOCK	0	RITCHIE	0
HARDY	0	ROANE	0
HARRISON	0	SUMMERS	0
JACKSON	0	TAYLOR	0
JEFFERSON	0	TUCKER	0
KANAWHA	1	TYLER	0
LEWIS	0	UPSHUR	1
LINCOLN	0	WAYNE	0
LOGAN	7	WEBSTER	0
MCDOWELL	0	WEITZEL	0
MARION	0	WIRT	0
MARSHALL	0	WOOD	0
MASON	0	WYOMING	0
MERCER	0	TOTALS	14

## VII. Responding to Juvenile Delinquency

### MOST COMMONLY UTILIZED OUT-OF-HOME COMMITMENT SETTINGS

The chart below lists the ten most commonly utilized specific out-of-home settings to which juveniles were committed during the reporting period. In some situations the same child may have been committed to more than one setting during the reporting period.

SETTING	COMMITMENTS
West Virginia Industrial Home for Youth	44
Other Group Homes	34
West Virginia Children's Home	29
Abraxas Foundation	25
Davis Center	11
Olympic Center, Preston	11
Davis-Stuart, Inc.	8
Other Mental Health Facilities	7
Pressley Ridge School at Grant Garden	6
Burlington United Methodist Home for Children and Youth, Inc.	4

## CONCLUSION

The Juvenile Justice Data Base is a recently established computerized information system. As such, it has on-going development needs and options. This report provides the best data that has ever been available regarding juvenile delinquency in West Virginia. However, the comprehensiveness of data published through the Juvenile Justice Data Base will continue to improve as the system matures.

For a number of reasons, not all counties were full participants in the JJDB system during the period of time covered by this report. This was primarily due to vacancies/turnover in juvenile probation offices. Also, a few cases from prosecuting attorney offices in participating counties may not have been submitted, primarily due to the JJDB being a new data collection system. Corrective actions are being taken by JJDB staff and reporters to ensure complete and on-going participation by all counties.

Some topics that the JJDB has the general capability of reporting are not included in this report. Topics such as caseload (time involved in processing cases) and recidivism were omitted because a six-month period of study as covered in this report does not provide reliable indicators.

Also, due to this being the first JJDB report, trends could not be included. Increases and decreases in various activities will be included in subsequent JJDB reports.

This report and subsequent JJDB reports are published for the purpose of providing data upon which policy issues affecting youth can be considered. It is the position of the Juvenile Justice Committee and the Juvenile Justice Data Base Development Committee that the data contained in these reports will have a positive impact upon troubled/troubling youth and will assist communities in exploring cost-effective strategies to address juvenile delinquency.

The data contained in this report shows that only a small percentage of West Virginia children are involved in delinquency cases. The vast majority of children who are involved in delinquency cases are not serious offenders. For those children who have delinquency-related problems, a broad range of community-based resources is required in order to effectively address their needs.

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*Forms received after January 15, 1991, will be included in the JJDB annual report.*