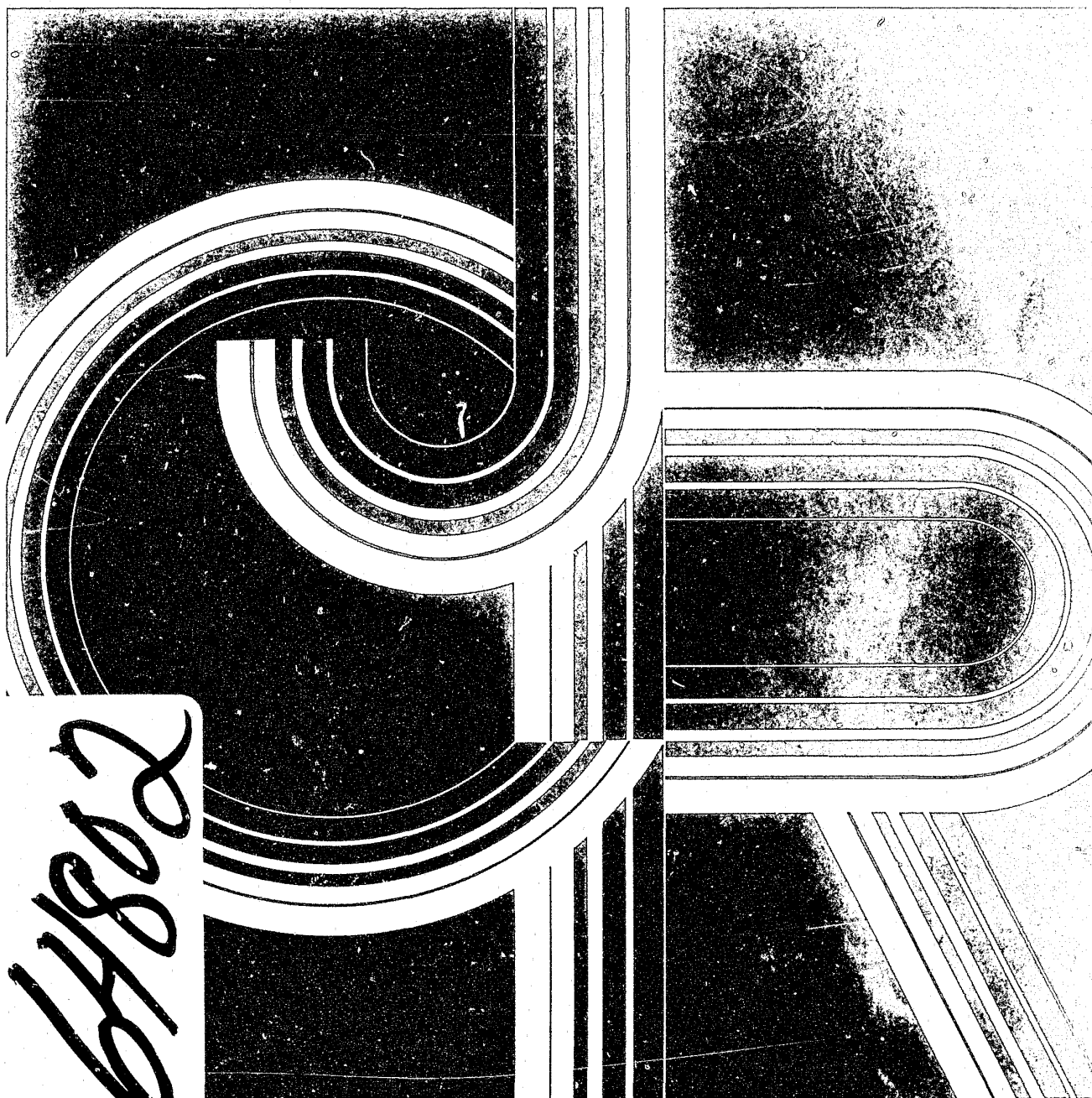


Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Juvenile Offenses Processed by County Courts

JUVENILE COURT REPORT—1978



64802

Juvenile Offenses Processed by County Courts

JUVENILE COURT REPORT—1978

NCJRS

FEB 11 1980

ACQUISITION

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

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Introduction

The Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR) System was created in 1971 by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (hereafter referred to as the Commission). The primary purpose of the JCR System is to collect and analyze data on juveniles entering the Nebraska Court System. It is from this data that the *Juvenile Court Report* is compiled.

The *Juvenile Court Report* provides a data base for juvenile planning in the Commission's Comprehensive Plan. This year's report summarizes juvenile court data collected during the 1978 calendar year from courts with juvenile jurisdiction in the State of Nebraska. This includes 90 county courts and the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties.

Beyond the use of the *Juvenile Court Report* by the Commission, it also proves to be a valuable source of information for any private or public agency or individual dealing with juvenile delinquency and related problems. The *Juvenile Court Report* contains several statistical analyses of variables of demographic and sociological interest.

Since 1974 the method of collecting juvenile court data has been fairly uniform and complete resulting in the beginnings of a long-term data base. Such a data base will yield valuable information concerning trends and the effectiveness of juvenile delinquency prevention and control programs.

The many associate county judges, court clerks, probation officers, and other court personnel deserve recognition for their time and effort exerted in reporting consistently. Without their cooperation this publication would not be possible.

Juvenile Court Reporting System

One of the primary purposes of this publication is to provide information that accurately reflects the level of juvenile crime occurring in the State of Nebraska. In this report, the particular measure used to estimate the degree of juvenile crime is the flow of juveniles through the Nebraska Court System. The sources of the data are the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties and the county courts in the remaining 90 counties. The district courts of Nebraska do not report to the Commission nor do the municipal courts. District court cases would involve mainly older juveniles appearing for serious offenses and the number of such cases is small compared to the volume of cases handled in county courts. The Commission does not collect data on traffic offenses which comprise the bulk of juvenile referrals to municipal court along with violations of ordinances.

The 93 courts report cases disposed of to the Commission monthly. For each individual juvenile disposition, the court fills out a Juvenile Court Statistical Form shown in Figure 1. The following sections of the form are required information on all cases: A. Court Code, B. Child's Number, E. Age at Time of Referral, F. Sex, G. Ethnic Group, H. Date of Referral, L. Reason Referred, M. Manner of Handling, N. Date of Disposition, and O. Disposition. The remainder of the form is optional information, however, the courts are encouraged to include as much of the information as they possibly can. If there were no juvenile case dispositions during the month, the court submits a "No Report" card for that month.

All of the data received from the courts is entered into the computer and stored. At the end of the year, a magnetic tape is constructed which contains all of the juvenile court data for that year. By accessing a data tape for a given year, juvenile court information is available for performing summary totals, crosstabulations, and statistical analyses.

At this time, the Commission has juvenile court data from all counties from 1974 through 1977 and some partial data from 1973. The data used in making this year's *Juvenile Court Report* is lacking information from Custer County which failed to report to the Commission in 1978.

Figure 1

JCS 0175

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice

Juvenile Court Statistical Form

A. Court Code

B. Child's number

C. Address _____
 Census tract of residence

D. Date of birth
 mo day yr

E. Age at time of referral

F. Sex: 1 Male 2 Female

G. Ethnic group: 1 White 2 Black 3 Indian 4 Mexican-American 5 Other

H. Date of referral
 mo day yr

I. Referred by

- Law enforcement agency
- School
- Social agency
- Probation officer
- Parents or relatives
- Other court
- Other source (specify) _____

J. Prior delinquency referrals

(excluding traffic)

This calendar year 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more referrals

In prior years 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more referrals

K. Care pending disposition

0 No detention or shelter care overnight

Detention or shelter care overnight or longer in:

- Jail or police station
- Detention home
- Foster or group home
- Other (specify) _____

L. Reason referred

Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults (excluding traffic)

- Murder and non-negligent manslaughter
- Manslaughter by negligence
- Forcible rape
- Robbery—Purse snatching by force
- Robbery—All except purse snatching
- Assault—Aggravated
- Assault—All except aggravated
- Burglary—breaking or entering
- Auto theft—Unauthorized use
- Auto theft—All except unauthorized use
- Larceny—Shoplifting
- Larceny—All except shoplifting
- Weapons carrying—possessing, etc.
- Sex offenses (except forcible rape)
- Violation of drug laws—Narcotic
- Violation of drug laws—All except narcotic
- Drunkenness
- Disorderly conduct
- Vandalism
- Forgery
- Buying, receiving or possessing stolen property
- Arson
- Other (specify) _____

Offenses applicable to juveniles only (excluding traffic)

- Running away
- Truancy
- Violation of curfew
- Other than delinquency
- Neglect
- Dependent
- Special proceedings (adoption, consent to marry, etc.)
- Specify _____
- Un governable behavior
- Possessing or drinking liquor
- Other (specify) _____

M. Manner of handling

- Without petition
- With petition

N. Date of disposition
 mo day yr

O. Disposition

00 Waived to criminal court

Complaint not substantiated

- Dismissed—not proved or found not involved
- Dismissed—warrant counseling
- Hold open without further action
- Formal probation
- Referred to another agency—individual for service or supervision
- Runaway returned to _____
- Other (specify) _____
- Final restitution _____

Complaint substantiated

No transfer of legal custody

- Dismissed—warrant counseling
- Hold open without further action
- Formal probation
- Referred to another agency—individual for service or supervision
- Runaway returned to _____
- Other (specify) _____
- Final restitution _____

Transfer of legal custody to

- Youth Development Center—Kearney or Geneva
- Other public institution (specify) _____
- Public agency or department (including court and jail) (specify) _____
- Private agency or institution (specify) _____
- Ind. judicial (specify relationship) _____
- Other (specify) _____
- Inapplicable—Special proceedings

Q. Diagnostic services

	Need for diagnostic services		
	Indicated and Provided	Indicated but not available	Not indicated
Psychological	1	2	3 <input type="text"/>
Psychiatric	1	2	3 <input type="text"/>
Medical	1	2	3 <input type="text"/>
Social	1	2	3 <input type="text"/>

W. Marital status of natural parents

01 Parents married and living together

One or both parents dead

- Both dead
- Father dead
- Mother dead

Parents separated

- Divorced or legally separated
- Father deserted mother
- Mother deserted father
- Other reason (specify) _____

Parents not married to each other

- Other status (specify) _____

S. School attainment

Grade completed (00-12)

T. Employment and school status

	Employment and school status	
	Out of school	In school
Not employed	1	5
Employed		
full time	2	6
part time	3	7
Preschool	4	

V. Living arrangement of child

In own home with:

- both parents
- mother and step father
- father and step mother
- mother only
- father only

Outside own home:

- with relatives
- foster or group home
- in institution
- independent arrangement
- Other (specify) _____

X. Family annual income at referral

1 Receiving public assistance

Not receiving public assistance

- Under \$3000
- \$3000 to \$4 999
- \$5000 to \$9 999
- \$10 000 and over
- Unknown

U. Length of residence of child in the county

0 Not currently a resident

- Under one year
- One year or more

Z. Counsel

- Court appointed
- Retained
- Public defender
- Not represented
- Other _____

ZZ. Occupation of parent or guardian

- Professional or technical
- Managerial or administrative
- Sales workers
- Craftsmen or other skilled laborer
- Clerical
- Service workers or other unskilled laborers

Additional Space for Court Use

Referrals

A juvenile can be referred to juvenile court if it appears that he or she fits into any one of the four categories described in Section 43-201 of the *Nebraska Revised Statutes* listed below:

- (1) Dependent child shall mean any child under the age of eighteen years, who is homeless or destitute, or without proper support through no fault of his parent, guardian or custodian.
- (2) Neglected child shall mean any child under the age of eighteen years (a) who is abandoned by his parent, guardian, or custodian; (b) who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of his parent, guardian, or custodian; (c) whose parent, guardian, or custodian neglects or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, or other care necessary for the health, morals, or well being of such child; (d) whose parent, guardian, or custodian neglects or refuses to provide special care made necessary by the mental condition of the child; or (e) who is in a situation or engages in an occupation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to the health or morals of such child.
- (3) Delinquent child shall mean any child under the age of eighteen years who has violated any law of the state or any city or village ordinance.
- (4) A child in need of special supervision shall mean any child under the age of eighteen years (a) who, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his parent, guardian, or custodian; (b) who is habitually truant from school or home; or (c) who reports himself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself or others.

On the JCS form (see Figure 1) neglect and dependent referrals are coded under section L as responses 51 and 52 respectively. Delinquency referrals are broken down in responses 01 to 29 consisting of a number of selected offense descriptions. These will be referred to as major offenses. Responses 31 through 39 correspond to possible reasons a child may be referred as in need of special supervision. In terms of offenses, these responses are referred to as minor or status offenses and are applicable only to juveniles.

In 1978 there were 4,351 juvenile court referrals reported to the Commission. Of these, 2,896 were for major offenses, comprising 66.6% of all referrals. Minor offense referrals numbered 962 for 22.1% of the total and the combined neglect-dependent referral frequency of 493 accounted for 11.3%. Appendix A gives a complete listing of these three categories, separated by sex, for all Nebraska counties with the exception of Custer County which did not

report in 1978. Appendix C gives a similar listing for the 18 planning regions.

The fact that major offense referrals are approximately three times the frequency of minor offense referrals does not necessarily indicate that this ratio exists in the juvenile population. The major offenses are usually considered more serious since they are infractions of state or local laws while the minor offenses are offenses only because of juvenile status. Major and minor offenders are therefore most likely to be treated differently before the court stage is ever reached. Many minor offenders are handled directly by the police or diverted to various social agencies and programs and never appear in juvenile court.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 give breakdowns on the reason referred for major, minor, and neglect-dependent referrals respectively. Under major offenses, combining the two larceny categories and neglecting the "other" category, the most frequent referrals were for larceny, burglary, and vandalism in that order. These three offenses combined account for 56.9% of all major offense referrals. Of the minor offenses possession or drinking of alcoholic beverages was most prevalent, accounting for 44.5% of the total.

The change in referral frequencies from 1977 is indicated in Tables 1, 2 and 3 as a percentage of the 1977 values. Of the major offenses (Table 1) referrals were down with the exception of murder (none in 1977), forcible rape (unchanged), drunkenness (up 15.9%), and the "other" category (up 1.5%). Total major offense referrals were down 17.3% from the 1977 total of 3,502. Caution should be used in interpreting these statistics. For example, some of the offense categories such as manslaughter, purse snatching, and arson have high percentage changes; however, the frequencies are relatively small so that it only takes a difference of one or two referrals to result in a relatively large percentage change. These changes are most likely not that significant.

Table 2 shows total minor offense referrals down 18.6% from 1977. All categories are down with the exception of the "other" category.

Neglect-dependent referrals increased 15.2% as seen in Table 3. The bulk of this increase resulted from the 21.3% climb in neglect referrals as compared to the 0.8% increase in dependent referrals. Neglect referrals were also more frequent than dependent referrals constituting 73.8% of the total.

The major, minor, and neglect-dependent referral trends for the past five years are depicted in Figure 2. In 1975 there was a 23.6% increase in major offense referrals followed by decreases for the next three years. The mean (average) value of major offense referral frequencies for

Table 1
Major Offense Frequencies, 1978

Offense Type	Frequency	Percent	% Change 1977
Murder	1	<.1	(none in '77)
Manslaughter	2	.1	-50.0
Forcible Rape	3	.1	0.0
Purse Snatching	2	.1	-60.0
Robbery	36	1.2	-56.6
Aggravated Assault	32	1.1	-22.0
Other Assault	75	2.6	-37.5
Burglary	631	21.8	- 6.0
Auto Theft: Joyriding	154	5.3	-17.2
Auto Theft: Other	63	2.2	-28.4
Larceny: Shoplifting	310	10.7	-11.7
Larceny: Other	400	13.8	-21.9
Carrying, Possessing Weapons	21	.7	-27.6
Sex Offenses, Except Forcible Rape	16	.6	-38.5
Drug Violation: Narcotic	37	1.3	-51.9
Drug Violation: Non-Narcotic	194	6.7	-21.5
Drunkenness	51	1.8	+15.9
Disorderly Conduct	30	1.0	-37.5
Vandalism	307	10.6	-12.8
Forgery	59	2.0	-16.9
Buy, Receive, Possess Stolen Property	64	2.2	-45.8
Arson	9	.3	-57.1
Other	399	13.8	+ 1.5
Total	2896	100.0	-17.3

Table 2
Minor Offense Frequencies, 1978

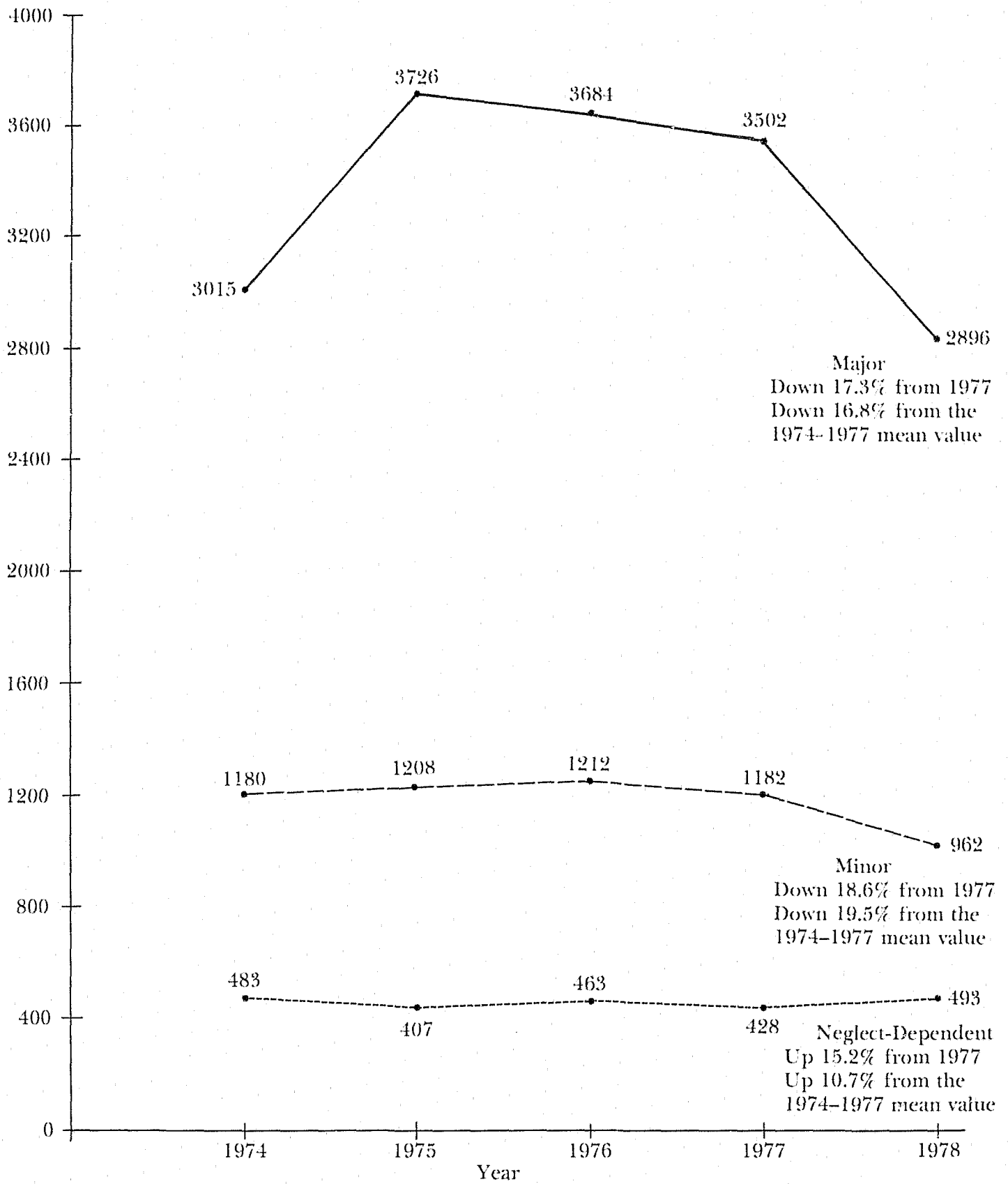
Offense Type	Frequency	Percent	% Change 1977
Running Away	99	10.3	-38.5
Truancy	119	12.4	-26.1
Curfew Violation	30	3.1	-21.1
Ungovernable Behavior	221	23.0	- 1.8
Possess/Drink Liquor	428	44.5	-23.7
Other	65	6.8	+80.6
Total	962	100.1*	-18.6

Table 3
Neglect/Dependent Frequencies, 1978

	Frequency	Percent	% Change 1977
Neglect	364	73.8	+21.3
Dependent	129	26.2	+ 0.8
Total	493	100.0	+15.2

*Percent Totals may differ from 100 due to rounding error.

Figure 2
Referral Frequencies, 1974-1978



the period 1974 through 1977 is about 3,482. The 1978 decrease of 16.8% from the mean value is a statistically significant change from that mean ($t = 3.59$, $df = 3$, significance = .05). The 1978 decrease places major offense referrals 3.9% below the 1974 value of 3,015.

Minor offense referrals remained fairly stable from 1974 through 1977 with a maximum fluctuation of 1.4% either side of the mean value of about 1,196 referrals. However, the 1978 decrease of 19.5% from the mean is very significant statistically ($t = 27.73$, $df = 3$, significance = .001). This possibly reflects the recent trend toward keeping the status offender out of juvenile court by diversion to social agencies and programs.

Neglect-dependent referrals, with a mean frequency of about 445 for the 1974-1977 period, show a maximum fluctuation of 8.6% during that period. The 1978 increase of 10.7% from the mean is not statistically significant given this variation ($t = 2.80$, $df = 3$, significance = .05). This increase, therefore, is not appreciable and neglect-dependent referrals can probably be expected to remain stable.

The major offense referrals can be further broken down by offense type using the three broad categories of offenses against persons, offenses against property, and victimless offenses. Offenses against persons include murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, assault, and sex offenses other than forcible rape. Included in offenses against property are burglary, auto theft, larceny, vandalism, buying, receiving, or possessing stolen property, and arson. Weapons offenses, drug violations, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and forgery are listed as victimless offenses. It should be remembered that these are broad, conventional categories in which there is more than likely some overlap.

The "other" major offense response is not included in any of these three categories due to its unknown nature. It does, however, represent 13.8% of all major referrals and must be kept in mind when using this data because of its uncertainty.

The frequencies and percentages for this breakdown of major offenses plus minor and neglect-dependent referrals appear in Figure 3 and Table 4. Offenses against property account for an overwhelming majority of the referrals, constituting 44.5% of total referrals and 66.9% of major offense referrals.

The second largest category of major offense referrals is the "other" category. As mentioned above, this unfortunately represents a fairly large percentage of the referrals of which little is known.

Victimless offenses is the third largest major offense referral category followed by offenses against persons. The latter, which are usually considered crimes of violence, represent a fairly small fraction of referrals. Only 3.8% of total referrals and 5.8% of the major offense referrals were offenses against persons.

It is informative to compare the trend in juvenile court

activity to other variables outside of the Juvenile Court System. The variables chosen for this analysis were juvenile population and juvenile arrests compared to major offense court referrals for the period 1974-1978.

Nebraska school enrollment data supplied by the Nebraska Department of Education was used as an estimate of juvenile population. This data collected September 30 of every school year provides a quite accurate estimate for the age group 5-18 years with some error for ages 16-18 due to drop-outs. When looking at only major offense referrals, which involve very few preschoolers, this age group is a good measure of the offender population.

Juvenile arrest data was obtained through the Nebraska *Uniform Crime Report* (UCR) published by the Commission. Since the comparison was made to only major offense referrals, the arrest categories concerning liquor laws, curfew violations, and runaways were omitted since these constitute minor offenses. A breakdown of UCR arrest data is given in Appendix B for the years 1974-1978.

The frequencies for major offense court referrals, UCR juvenile arrests, and juvenile population are given in Table 5 for the years 1974-1978.

A simple correlational analysis was done on this data in order to discover any relationships existing between these three variables. It was found that UCR arrest data was highly correlated to juvenile population ($r = .9907$, $df = 3$, significance = .01).

In order to get a clearer picture of what this means the data appears graphically in Figure 4. The variables were plotted as percentage changes relative to the initial 1974 frequencies in order to get all variables on the same scale.

The correlation between population and UCR arrests is seen in the graphs for these two variables as both decrease steadily throughout the five year period. As population drops so does the number of juvenile arrests made. Arrests, however, drop at a slightly faster rate than population. In 1974 36 out of 1,000 juveniles in the population were arrested for major offenses compared to 30 out of 1,000 in, 1978.

The analysis failed to show any significant correlation between major offense court referrals and population ($r = .3250$, $df = 3$, significance = .05).

Looking at the graph of major offense referrals in Figure 4, the most striking feature is the 23.6% increase from 1974 to 1975. This most likely accounts for the negative results in the analysis. Since all other years show decreases, it is possible that the 23.6% increase is not accurate. 1974 was the first year that all 93 courts reported to the Commission but reporting might not have been as complete during the first year. If the 1974 value had actually been higher than the 1975 value, the analysis might have shown a relationship.

Assuming that the 1974 value for major offense court referrals was spurious, a second analysis omitting the 1974 data was done which yielded different results. Population

Figure 3
Referral Proportions, 1978

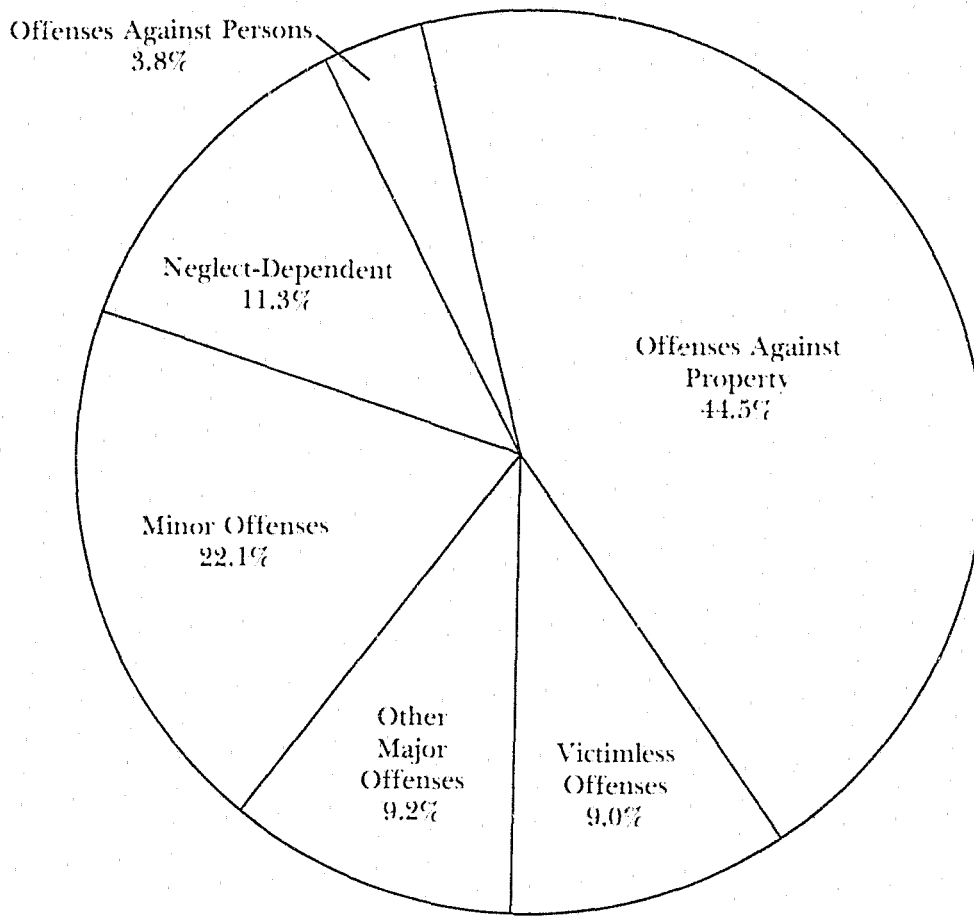
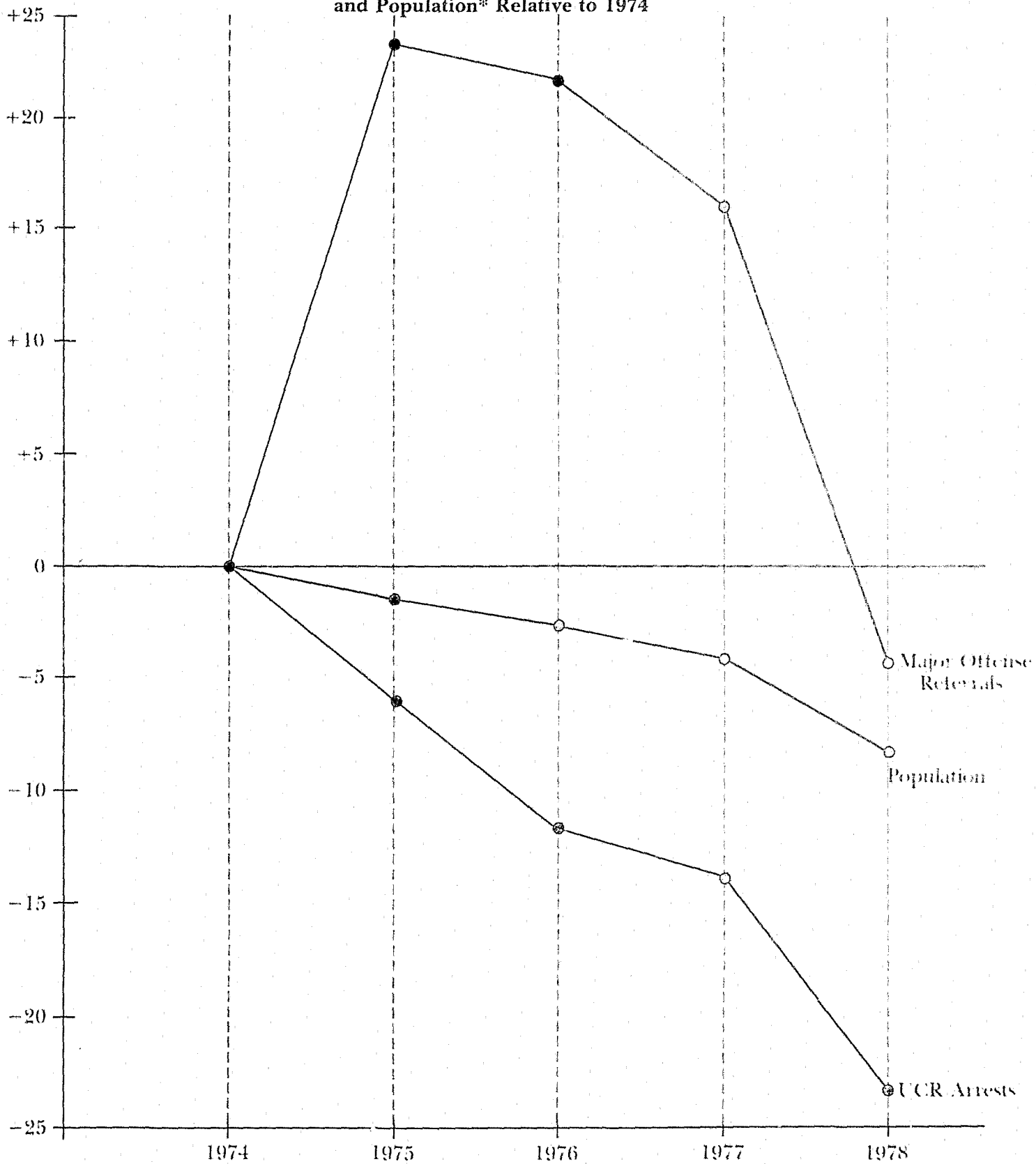


Table 4
Reason Referred, 1978

	Frequency	Percent of Total	Percent of Major Off.
Total Major Offenses	2896	66.5	100.0
a. Offenses Against Persons	167	3.8	5.8
b. Offenses Against Property	1938	44.5	66.9
c. Victimless Offenses	392	9.0	13.5
d. Other Major Offenses	399	9.2	13.8
Minor Offenses	962	22.1	
Neglect-Dependent	493	11.3	
Total	4351	99.9*	

*Percent Totals may differ from 100 due to rounding error.

Figure 4
1974-1978 Percentage Changes in Major
Offense Referrals, UCR Juvenile Arrests,
and Population* Relative to 1974



*Population estimates are from school enrollment data.

Table 5
Major Offense Court Referrals, UCR
Juvenile Arrests, and Juvenile
Population Frequencies, 1974-1978

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Major Offense Court Referrals	3015	3726	3684	3502	2896
UCR Juvenile Arrests	12891	12179	11460	11072	9997
Juvenile Population	361545	356438	351828	345280	335318

and UCR arrests are still highly correlated ($r = .9808$, $df = 2$, significance = .01), but now, major offense referrals are significantly correlated to population ($r = .9607$, $df = 2$, significance = .05) and almost significantly correlated to UCR arrests ($r = .9467$, $df = 2$, $r = .9500$ is necessary for significance at the .05 level).

This simply means that both the number of juveniles being arrested for major offenses and the number appearing in court for these offenses have both been decreasing over the past few years. A major factor in these decreases is possibly the decline in juvenile population.

Taking population into account, a small decline in

major offense court activity is still observable. In 1975, 10 out of 1,000 juveniles appeared in juvenile court for major offenses compared to 9 out of 1,000 in 1978.

In terms of the relationship between arrests and court activity it must be remembered that not all court referrals come from law enforcement agencies. In 1978 law enforcement agencies accounted for 80.6% of major offense court referrals. Taking this into account, 23.3% of the juveniles arrested for major offenses in 1978 appeared in court. In 1975 this figure was 26.5% indicating that there has been a slight decline in the number of juveniles arrested that actually reach juvenile court.

Disposition

The Juvenile Court disposition frequencies and percentages, separated into the three main categories of major, minor, and neglect-dependent referrals, are listed in Table 6.

The most frequently reported disposition for a major offense referral was formal probation constituting almost one-half (48.0%) of all major offense dispositions. The next most frequent disposition category was dismissal with complaint substantiated followed by dismissal with complaint not substantiated. These two dismissal categories account for 30.2% of the major offense dispositions.

Of the 2,896 major offense dispositions, 205 resulted in a transfer of legal custody. Approximately one-half of these were to the Youth Development Centers in Kearney and Geneva, Nebraska.

The most frequent minor offense disposition was also formal probation (39.7%) followed by dismissal with complaint substantiated (15.0%).

Of the 962 minor offense dispositions, 14.1% resulted in a transfer of legal custody. The most frequent of these were to a public agency or department.

Of the neglect-dependent referrals, 52.3% resulted in a disposition of transfer of legal custody to a public agency or department. Most likely, these transfers were mainly to the Department of Welfare.

Taking the major, minor, and neglect-dependent categories combined 0.4% were waived to criminal court, 11.0% were dismissed with complaint not substantiated, 73.6% were substantiated complaints with no transfer of legal custody, and 15.0% resulted in a transfer of legal custody.

Only 2.8% of all referrals resulted in a transfer of custody to a Youth Development Center. 61.7% of these were for the offenses of burglary, auto theft, and larceny.

The most frequent disposition for all referrals was formal probation accounting for 41.0% of the total.

Table 6
Juvenile Court Dispositions, 1978

	Major		Minor		Neglect-Dependent	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Waived to criminal court	14	0.5	5	0.5	0	0.0
COMPLAINT NOT SUBSTANTIATED						
Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	354	12.2	71	7.4	52	10.5
COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED						
NO TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY						
Dismissed: warned, counselled	520	18.0	144	15.0	35	7.1
Hold open without further action	40	1.4	10	1.0	11	2.2
Formal probation	1389	48.0	382	39.7	11	2.2
Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision	65	2.2	59	6.1	58	11.8
Runaway returned	2	0.1	5	0.5	0	0.0
Fine or restitution	102	3.5	65	6.8	1	0.2
Other	205	7.1	85	8.8	13	2.6
TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY TO:						
Youth Development Center	107	3.7	13	1.4	0	0.0
Other public institution	13	0.4	21	2.2	7	1.4
Public agency or department	40	1.4	41	4.3	258	52.3
Private agency or institution	17	0.6	35	3.6	12	2.4
Individual	9	0.3	11	1.1	15	3.0
Other	19	0.7	15	1.6	20	4.1
Total	2896	100.1*	962	100.0	493	99.8*

*Percent Totals may differ from 100 due to rounding error.

Age

For convenience, age was broken down into four categories; 11 and under, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-17. The data appears in Table 7.

As would be expected, the great majority of juveniles age 11 and under were referred for neglect-dependent cases. 68.1% of the age 11 and under referrals were neglect-dependent related and this age group accounts for 66.1% of all neglect-dependent referrals.

Only 4.4% of major offense referrals involved juveniles age 11 and under and only 2.7% of the minor offense referral involved this age group. Of the total referrals in 1978, juveniles age 11 and under accounted for 11.0%.

For the remaining three age groups both major and minor offense referrals increase as age increases while neglect-dependent referrals decrease. This can be seen graphically in Figure 5.

Major offense referrals are the most frequent in the oldest three age groups followed by minor offense and neglect-dependent referrals. For all age groups, offenses against property are the most frequent major offense referrals and offenses against persons are the least.

In the 12-13 age group 73.3% of the referrals were for major offenses. Of these, 9.9% were offenses against persons. This is the highest percentage out of all the age groups in this category.

The 14-15 age group had the highest frequency of offenses against persons; however, this was only 6.5% of this age group's major offense referrals. The 12-13 age group, as stated above, had a higher percentage.

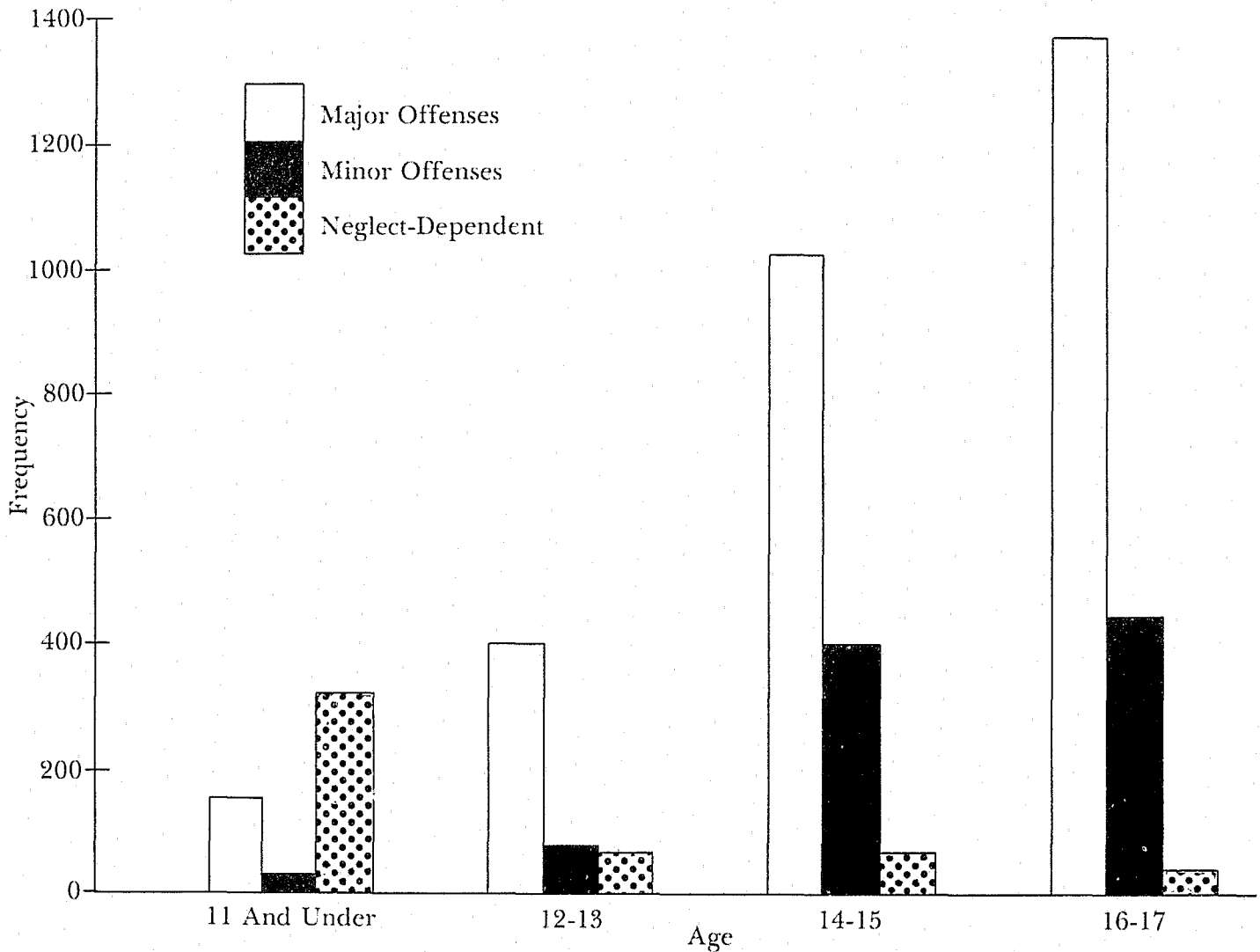
The 16-17 age group had the highest frequencies in all categories except offenses against persons and neglect-dependent referrals. 47.0% of all major offense referrals involved these ages. Out of the 1,880 referrals for this age group, 72.4% were for major offenses. Of these, 59.8% were offenses against property, 4.2% were offenses against persons, and 19.6% were victimless offenses. Compared to other age groups, these are the smallest percentages for offenses against property and persons, but, the largest percentage for victimless offenses.

Of the 4,351 total referrals, the 11 and under age group accounted for 11.0%, the 12-13 group 12.1%, the 14-15 group 33.7% and the 16-17 group 43.2%.

Table 7
Reason Referred by Age, 1978

	11 And Under	12-13	14-15	16-17	Total
Total Major Offenses	127	385	1022	1362	2896
a. Offenses Against Persons	6	38	66	57	167
b. Offenses Against Property	104	281	739	814	1938
c. Victimless Offenses	4	20	101	267	392
d. Other Major Offenses	13	46	116	224	399
Minor Offenses	26	75	382	479	962
Neglect-Dependent	326	65	63	39	493
Total	479	525	1467	1880	4351

Figure 5
Age Group Referral Frequencies, 1978



Sex

The percentage breakdown of juvenile court referrals by sex is displayed in Figure 6. Of the 4,351 total referrals, 3,298 were males and 1,053 were females. This yields percentages of 75.8% and 24.2% respectively.

Males account for an 86.2% majority of the major offense referrals. This is a male to female ratio of over six to one.

The minor offense referrals are more evenly distributed between the sexes. Males, with 565 minor referrals, account for 58.7% and females, with 397, account for 41.3%. This is approximately a three to two male to female ratio.

Neglect-dependent referrals is the only category in which females outnumber males. Of the 493 neglect-dependent referrals reported, 236 (47.9%) were males and 257 (52.1%) were females.

The frequencies and percentages of offense types within the sexes are listed in Table 8. Females had approximately equal numbers of major and minor offense referrals. Major offenses accounted for 37.9% of total female referrals and minor offenses accounted for 37.7%. Males, on the other hand, were far more likely to be referred for a major offense than a minor one. Of the total male referrals, 75.7% were for major offenses compared to only 17.1% for minor offenses.

There was also a large difference between males and females in the neglect-dependent referral category. Only 7.2% of all male referrals were neglect-dependent related compared to 24.4% for females.

Since the populations of male and female juveniles are approximately equal, these differences in referral frequencies and percentages indicate significant sex differences.

In summary, approximately three times as many males were referred to juvenile court in 1978. Also, the higher percentage of major offense referrals for males indicates a tendency for males to be referred for more serious offenses.

Additional information for individual counties is given in Appendix A.

Figure 6
Sex Percentages, 1978

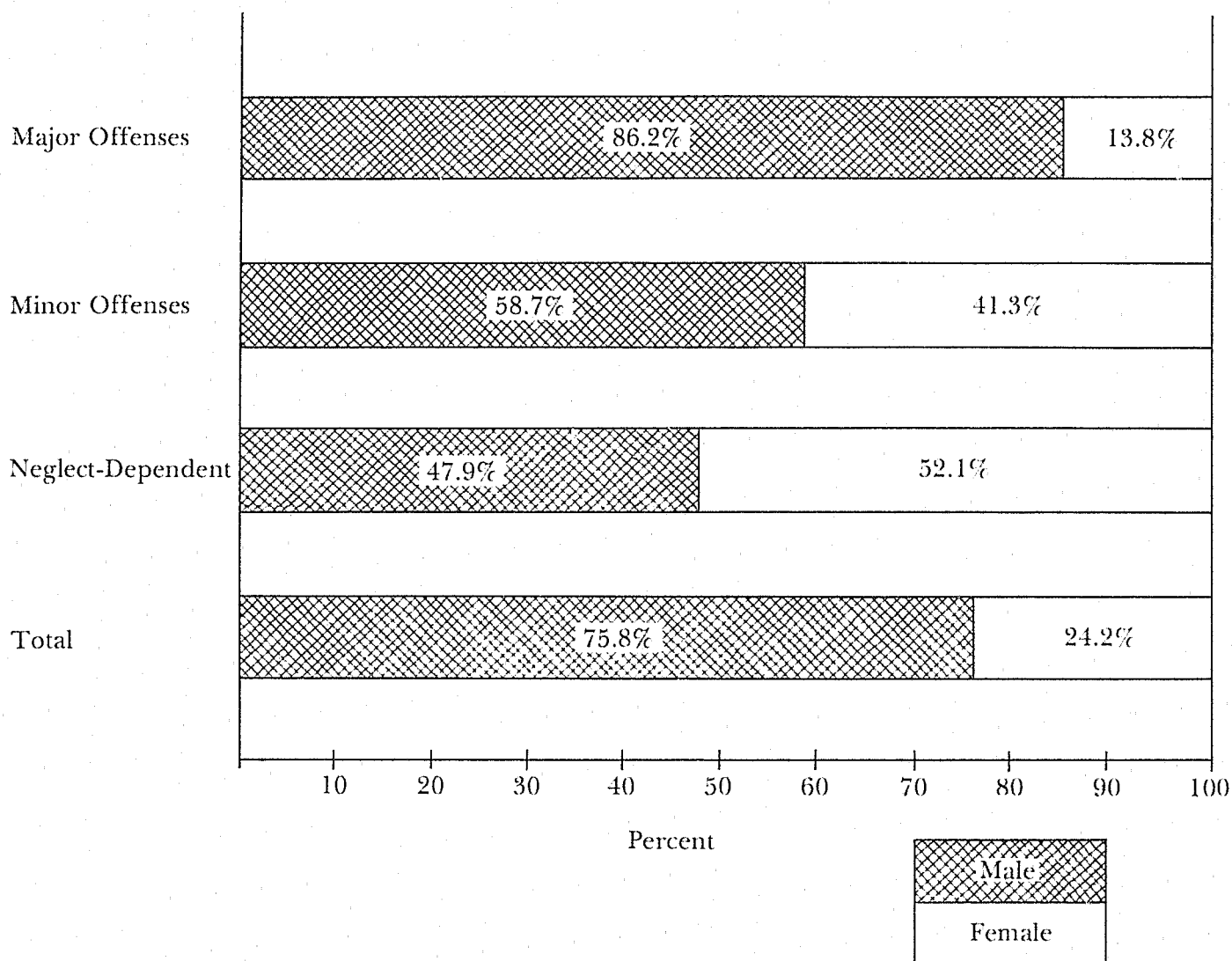


Table 8
Reason Referred by Sex, 1978

	Male		Female	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Total Major Offenses	2497	75.7	399	37.9
a. Offenses Against Persons	140	4.2	27	2.6
b. Offenses Against Property	1705	51.7	233	22.1
c. Victimless Offenses	323	9.8	69	6.6
d. Other Major Offenses	329	10.0	70	6.6
Minor Offenses	565	17.1	397	37.7
Neglect-Dependent	236	7.2	257	24.4
Total	3298	100.0	1053	100.0

Ethnic Group

Ethnic group, or race, data collected by the Commission includes the categories; white, black, Mexican-American, American Indian, and "other". The total referral proportions for these groups appear in Figure 7, and the frequencies for all referral types are listed in Table 9.

Whites account for 85.1% of all referrals and blacks account for 8.3%. The other remaining categories total 6.6%. These percentages differ significantly from the actual proportion of these groups in the juvenile population. According to the most recent data supplied by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research for ages 0-17, whites constitute 95.7%, blacks 3.5%, and the remaining minorities 0.8% of this age group. It is impossible to determine using only juvenile court data why this discrepancy exists since many variables are probably involved.

Of the 359 blacks referred to juvenile court, 339 or 94.4% come from the more highly urban areas of Douglas and Lancaster counties.

For all ethnic groups, major offense referrals were the most frequent. 72.4% of black referrals were for major offenses, followed by whites with 66.5%.

Blacks had very few minor offense referrals. Only 7.5% of black referrals were for minor offenses compared to 23.6% for whites.

All of the non-white categories had high neglect-dependent referral percentages compared to whites. 20.1% of black referrals, 16.6% of Mexican-American referrals, 21.4% of American Indian referrals, and 19.4% "other" referrals were neglect-dependent related. The figure for whites was only 9.9%.

Figure 7
Ethnic Group Referral Proportions, 1978

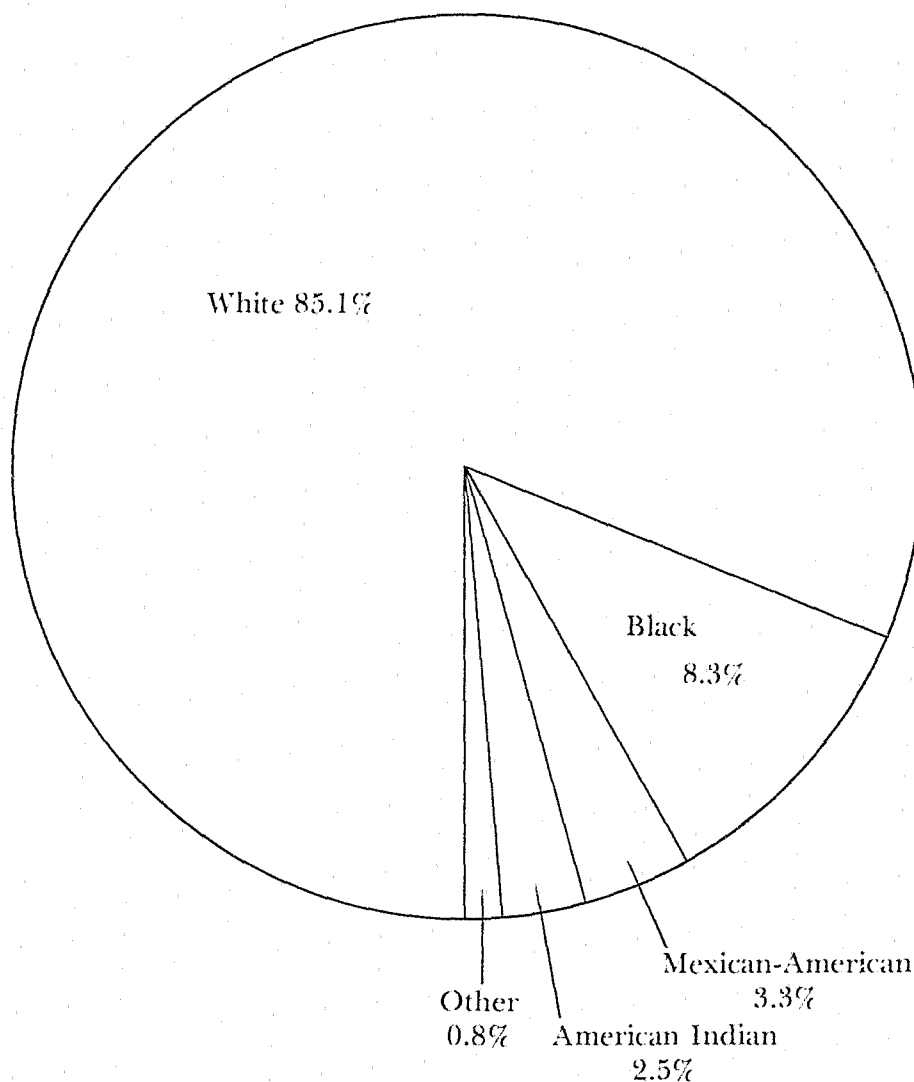


Table 9
Reason Referred by Ethnic Group, 1978

	White	Black	Mex-Amer	Indian	Other	Total
Total Major Offenses	2463	260	93	63	17	2896
a. Offenses Against Persons	114	43	8	2	0	167
b. Offenses Against Property	1626	189	70	39	14	1938
c. Victimless Offenses	350	15	9	15	3	392
d. Other Major Offenses	373	13	6	7	0	399
Minor Offenses	874	27	28	21	12	962
Neglect-Dependent	367	72	24	23	7	493
Total	3704	359	145	107	36	4351

Appendix A
Referrals by County and Sex

	Male				Female				Total Cases
	Major	Minor	Neglect-Dependent	Total Male	Major	Minor	Neglect-Dependent	Total Female	
Adams	26	3	0	29	12	5	0	17	46
Antelope	3	0	4	7	1	0	4	5	12
Arthur	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Banner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boone	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	5
Box Butte	16	1	1	18	2	0	2	4	22
Boyd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	3	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Buffalo	17	6	0	23	2	5	2	9	32
Burt	5	2	0	7	2	2	0	4	11
Butler	27	2	0	29	4	4	1	9	38
Cass	54	18	3	75	2	9	3	14	89
Cedar	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	11
Chase	13	0	0	13	3	0	3	6	19
Cherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Cheyenne	25	5	0	30	0	7	0	7	37
Clay	24	1	2	27	6	0	1	7	34
Colfax	24	11	1	36	1	3	0	4	40
Cuming	15	1	1	17	0	0	0	0	17
Custer	Did not report in 1978								
Dakota	13	6	2	21	3	4	0	7	28
Dawes	21	4	3	28	1	1	0	2	30
Dawson	45	18	2	65	7	11	2	20	85
Deuel	18	3	0	21	0	0	0	0	21
Dixon	5	2	0	7	0	0	1	1	8
Dodge	70	12	18	100	12	9	24	45	145
Douglas	604	29	118	751	51	59	122	232	983
Dundy	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fillmore	11	20	0	31	0	2	0	2	33
Franklin	3	1	1	5	0	1	0	1	6
Frontier	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	3
Furnas	6	5	2	13	3	0	0	3	16
Gage	12	5	2	19	1	6	3	10	29
Garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield	5	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Gosper	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greeley	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Hall	97	54	16	167	29	34	12	75	242
Hamilton	8	0	0	8	1	2	0	3	11
Harlan	1	1	4	6	0	0	6	6	12
Hayes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hitchcock	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Holt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix A (Continued)

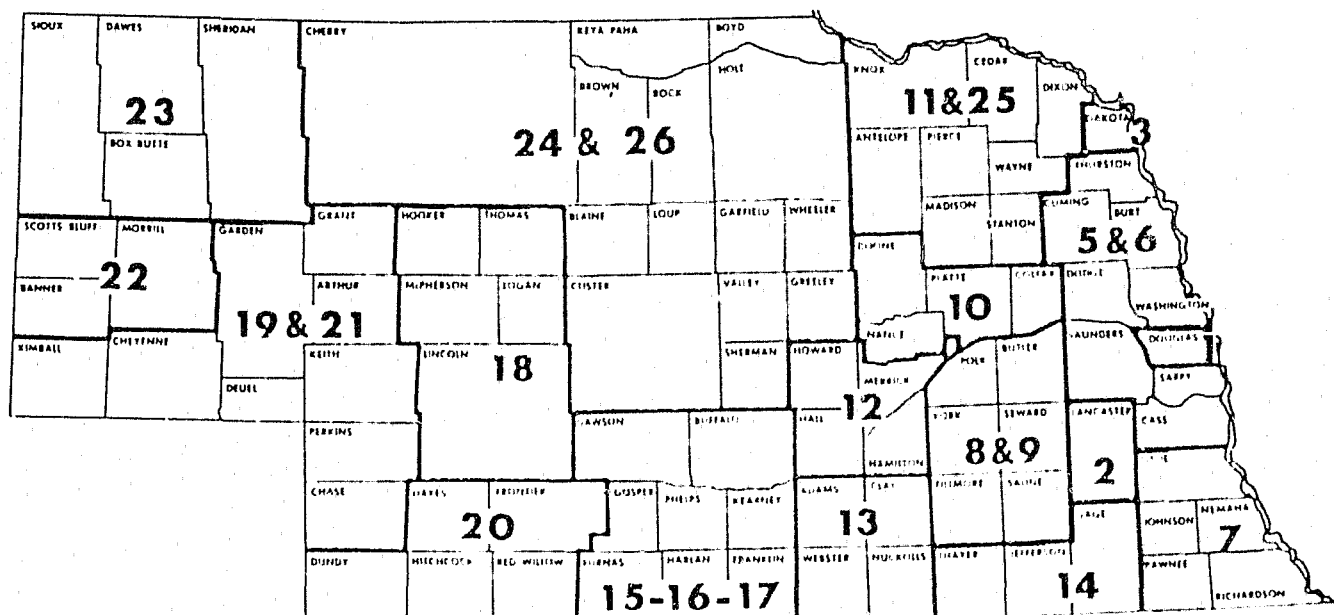
	Male				Female				Total Cases
	Major	Minor	Neglect-Dependent	Total Male	Major	Minor	Neglect-Dependent	Total Female	
Howard	0	33	1	34	0	12	2	14	48
Jefferson	8	3	0	11	1	3	0	4	15
Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kearney	6	0	3	9	1	0	0	1	10
Keith	9	1	0	10	1	5	0	6	16
Keya Paha	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	3
Kimball	6	4	0	10	0	1	1	2	12
Knox	10	11	0	21	1	1	0	2	23
Lancaster	583	90	2	675	116	76	5	197	872
Lincoln	38	13	0	51	3	4	0	7	58
Logan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loup	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Madison	26	4	6	36	4	3	6	13	49
McPherson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merrick	7	3	0	10	0	1	0	1	11
Morrill	9	1	0	10	2	0	1	3	13
Nance	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Nemaha	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	4
Nuckolls	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Otoe	35	20	0	55	4	3	0	7	62
Pawnee	4	0	0	4	0	2	0	2	6
Perkins	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Phelps	12	5	0	17	0	1	0	1	18
Pierce	5	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Platte	41	18	0	59	8	7	0	15	74
Polk	13	9	0	22	0	2	0	2	24
Red Willow	32	6	5	43	2	5	4	11	54
Richardson	22	3	3	28	6	1	1	8	36
Rock	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Saline	24	8	1	33	7	6	3	16	49
Sarpy	105	39	1	145	32	22	0	54	199
Saunders	20	1	1	22	3	1	4	8	30
Scotts Bluff	111	34	18	163	44	31	20	95	258
Seward	28	10	6	44	3	5	6	14	58
Sheridan	16	7	3	26	1	10	7	18	44
Sherman	8	0	0	8	0	2	0	2	10
Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stanton	12	1	3	16	0	3	2	5	21
Thayer	12	1	0	13	2	3	0	5	18
Thomas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	12	3	0	15	3	0	0	3	18
Valley	4	4	0	8	1	4	0	5	13
Washington	20	2	1	23	4	0	2	6	29
Wayne	5	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
Webster	4	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Wheeler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
York	37	10	2	49	4	16	4	24	73
State Total	2497	565	236	3298	399	397	257	1053	4351

Appendix B
Uniform Crime Report Juvenile Arrest Data, 1974-1978

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Murder, Manslaughter	9	6	2	8	4
Death by Negligence	2	1	2	1	2
Forcible Rape	23	36	30	18	13
Robbery	213	210	158	127	102
Felony Assault	160	163	137	106	90
Burglary	1279	1175	1120	1181	1048
Larceny-Theft	4023	4056	3765	3562	3349
Motor Vehicle Theft	657	527	467	454	458
Misdemeanor Assault	571	440	500	451	317
Arson	115	50	65	44	31
Forgery, Counterfeiting	76	104	82	103	86
Fraud	123	137	116	97	116
Embezzlement	4	1	1	4	6
Stolen Property-Buy, etc.	203	182	200	209	185
Vandalism	1424	1248	1384	1105	834
Weapons Offenses	75	77	68	60	58
Prostitution, Comm. Vice	26	14	28	15	6
Sex Offenses	112	72	86	38	57
Drug Abuse Violations	1162	1064	1038	918	716
Gambling	8	0	3	0	0
Offenses Against Fam., Children	3	11	3	10	7
Driving Under the Influence	172	209	259	290	302
Liquor Laws	1405	1549	1564	1757	1585
Drunkenness-Intoxication	261	323	256	318	323
Disorderly Conduct	725	692	568	460	509
Vagrancy	16	9	4	6	8
All Other Offenses	1248	1173	1056	1408	1268
Suspicion	201	199	62	79	72
Curfew, Loitering Violations	633	466	658	712	462
Runaways	1260	1070	590	551	523
Total	16189	15264	14272	14092	12567

Appendix C Referrals by Region

Region	Major	Minor	Neglect-Dependent	Total
1	655	88	240	983
2	699	166	7	872
3	16	10	2	28
5&6	359	121	58	538
7	74	30	4	108
8&9	158	94	23	275
10	80	41	1	122
11&25	83	30	26	139
12	142	139	31	312
13	78	10	3	91
14	36	21	5	62
15,16&17	105	54	22	181
18	41	17	0	58
19&21	76	26	5	107
20	41	12	10	63
22	166	66	39	271
23	57	23	16	96
24&26	30	14	1	45
Total	2896	962	493	4351



END