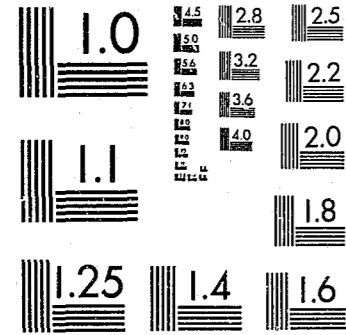


National Criminal Justice Reference Service



This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice.

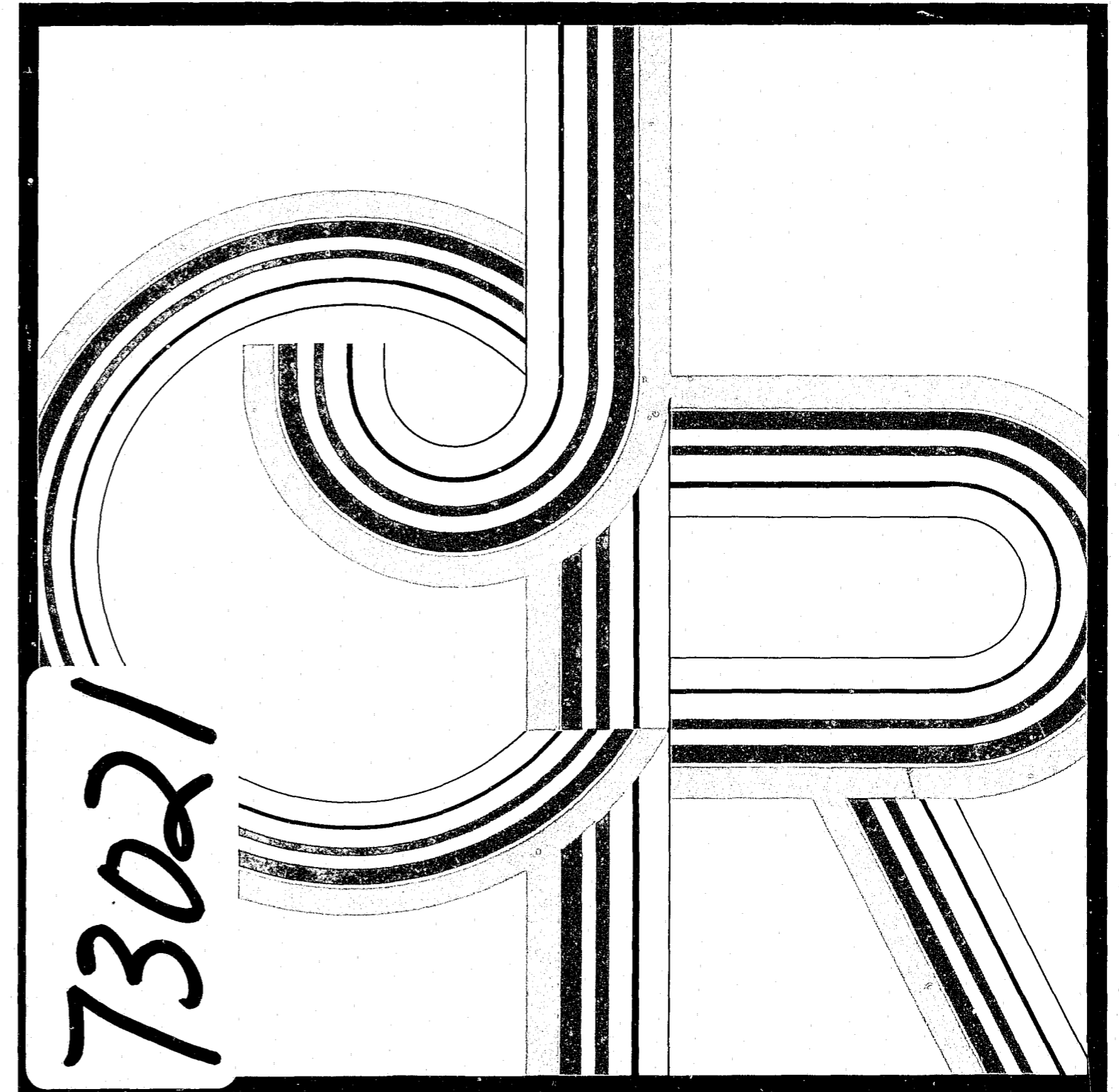
National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

Date Filmed

2/16/81

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Juvenile Offenses Processed by County Courts JUVENILE COURT REPORT—1979



Juvenile Offenses Processed by County Courts

JUVENILE COURT REPORT—1979

NOV 1979
ACQUISITIONS

X
**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

301 Centennial Mall South
Post Office Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(402) 471-2194

Compiled and Written by
Statistical Analysis Center
Michael Peterman
Emilie Brown

Table of Contents

	Page Number
Introduction	1
Juvenile Court Reporting System	2
Referrals	5
Dispositions	13
Age	17
Sex	19
Ethnic Group	21
Other Demographic Characteristics	23
Metropolitan Areas and Balance-of-State Comparison	25
Appendices	28

List of Tables

Number	Title	Page Number
1.	Major Offense Frequencies, 1979	6
2.	Minor Offense Frequencies, 1979	6
3.	Neglect-Dependent Frequencies, 1979	6
4.	Reason Referred, 1979	7
5.	Major Offense Court Referrals, UCR Juvenile Arrests, and Juvenile Population Frequencies, 1974-1979	10
6.	Correlation Coefficients for Relationships Among Major Offense Referrals, UCR Juvenile Arrests, and Juvenile Population, 1975-1979	10
7.	Source of Court Referrals, 1979	11
8.	Number of Prior Referrals by Reason for Re- ferral, 1979	12
9.	Juvenile Court Dispositions, 1979	14
10.	Time Between Date of Referral and Date of Disposition for Referrals, 1979	15
11.	Reason Referred by Age, 1979	17
12.	Disposition by Age, 1979	18
13.	Disposition by Sex, 1979	20
14.	Reason Referred by Ethnic Group, 1979	21
15.	Reason Referred by Living Arrangement, 1979	24
16.	Reason for Referral by Employment and School Status, 1979	24
17.	Dispositions in Douglas, Lancaster, and All Other Counties, 1979	26
18.	Source of Referrals in Douglas, Lancaster, and All Other Counties	27

List of Figures

	Page Number
1. Juvenile Justice System Flow Diagram	3
2. Juvenile Court Statistical Form	4
3. Referral Proportions	7
4. Referral Frequencies, 1974-1979	9
5. Comparison of Rates for Major Court Referrals and UCR Juvenile Arrests, 1974-1979	11
6. Number of Days Between Date of Referral and Date of Disposition for Reason Referred	16
7. Sex Percentages	19
8. Comparison of Ethnic Group Referrals and Juvenile Population Proportions	22
9. Comparison of Referral Frequencies for Douglas, Lancaster and All Other Counties	27

Introduction

The *Juvenile Court Report* presents data collected during calendar year 1979 through the Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR) System concerning young people who were processed by courts with juvenile jurisdiction in the State of Nebraska. These include 90 county courts and the three separate juvenile courts of Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties.

The JCR system was instituted in 1971 by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (hereafter referred to as the Commission). The system is based on the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Juvenile Court Statistics Series begun in 1927. In 1973 this system was assumed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice under a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the parent agency of this Commission. The Center compiles national statistics on juvenile delinquency based on state reporting systems such as the one in Nebraska.

In Nebraska, the Commission uses data obtained through the JCR system as a basis for its function of juvenile planning. The system also proves to be a valuable source of information for any private or public agency or individual dealing with juvenile delinquency or related problems. Readers are reminded that upon request to the Commission specific information collected through the JCR system can be provided. While this report presents a wealth of data describing the characteristics of youth who enter the Nebraska court system, the report does not interpret the information beyond words of caution in the uses of the data.

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 (see Figure 1). 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 two municipal courts in Omaha and Lincoln. 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.

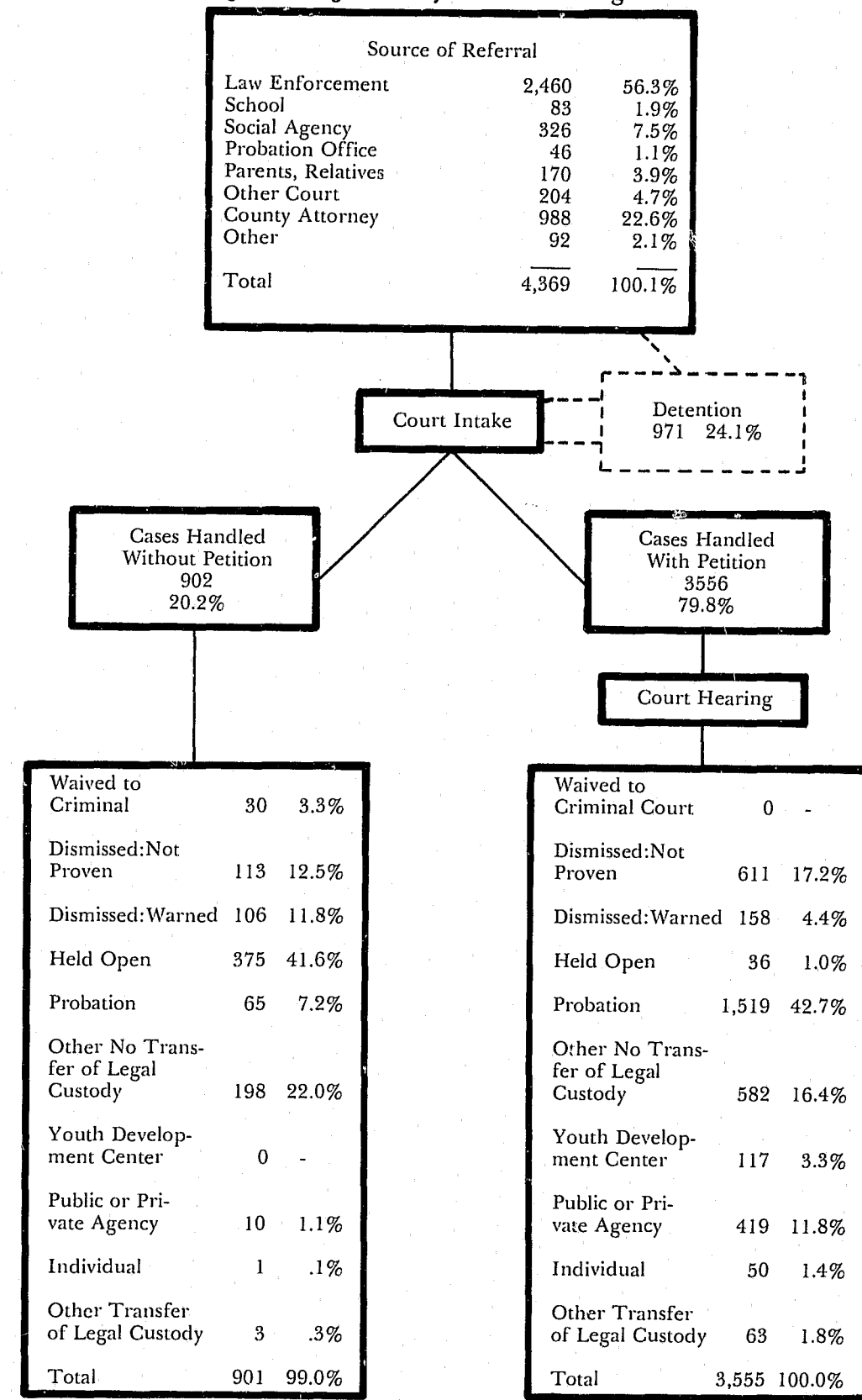
The 93 courts report cases disposed of to the Commission monthly. For each individual juvenile disposition, the court fills out a Juvenile Court Statistical Form shown in Figure 2. The following sections of the form are required information on all cases: A. Court Code, E. Age at Time of Referral, F. 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.

Data were collected during calendar year 1979 on a revised Juvenile Court Statistical Form. Most of the revisions made on the form were minor and had no effect on the substance of information gathered through the system. The most significant change occurred in Section L., Reason Referred. Here, the offense categories were modified to conform with the new categories defined in the revised "Nebraska Criminal Code."

All of the data received from the courts are entered into the computer at the State Data Processing Center. Magnetic tapes which contain all of the juvenile court data are constructed on a quarterly basis. These tapes are sent to Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, where they can be analyzed on the Michigan Terminal System (MTS). By connecting with MTS through a remote terminal hook-up at the Commission, cumulative juvenile court information including data from the most recent quarter is constantly accessible. Summary totals, crosstabulations, and statistical analyses can be performed using the sophisticated software available on MTS.

At this time, the Commission has juvenile court data from all counties from 1974 through 1977 and some partial data from 1973. The system is lacking data from Custer County which failed to report to the Commission in 1978 and 1979.

FIGURE 1
Juvenile Justice System Flow Diagram*



*Does not include unknown cases for respective categories.

FIGURE 2

Juvenile Court Statistical Form

A. County _____ **Court Code** _____

B. Child's Number _____

C. Census tract of residence (Douglas County only) _____

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 Oriental 6 Other _____

H. Date of Referral _____ mo _____ day _____ yr

I. Referred By
 1 Law enforcement agency _____
 2 School _____
 3 Social agency _____
 4 Probation officer _____
 5 Parents or relatives _____
 6 Other court _____
 7 County Attorney _____
 8 Other _____

J. Prior court referrals
 This calendar year: 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more _____
 In prior years: 0 1 2 3 4 5 or more _____

K. Care pending disposition
 0. No detention or shelter care overnight
 Detention or shelter care overnight or longer in:
 1. Jail or police station with separate facilities _____
 2. Jail or police station with no separate facilities _____
 3. Detention home _____
 4. Foster or group home _____
 5. Other _____

L. Reason Referred (Enter only one code) _____

Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults (excluding traffic)

01 Murder	15 Theft; value over \$300 but less than \$1,000
02 Manslaughter	16 Theft; value less than \$300
03 Assault; 1st & 2nd degree	17 Theft; value less than \$100
04 Assault; 3rd degree	18 Criminal Mischief; Felony
05 Sexual Assault; 1st degree	19 Criminal Mischief; Misdemeanor
06 Sexual Assault; 2nd degree	20 Criminal Trespass
07 Robbery	21 Forgery; Felony
08 Violation of Drug Laws; Felony	22 Forgery; Misdemeanor
09 Violation of Drug Laws; Misdemeanor	23 Weapons Offenses; Felony
10 Arson; Felony	24 Weapons Offenses; Misdemeanor
11 Arson; Misdemeanor	25 Driving While Intoxicated; 3rd offense
12 Burglary	26 Disturbing the Peace
13 Unauthorized Use of a Propelled Vehicle	27 Other Felony _____
14 Theft; value over \$1,000	28 Other Misdemeanor _____

Offenses applicable only to juveniles (excluding traffic)

31. Running away	34. Ungovernable behavior
32. Truancy	35. Possessing or drinking liquor
33. Violation of curfew	39. Other _____
Nonoffenses	52. Dependent
51. Neglect	

M. Manner of handling
 1 Without petition _____
 2 With petition _____

N. Date of disposition _____ mo _____ day _____ yr

O. Disposition (Enter only one code) _____

00 Waived to criminal court;
 Complaint not substantiated
 01 Dismissed; Not proved or found not involved
 Complaint substantiated
 No transfer of legal custody
 11 Dismissed; Warned, counseled
 12 Hold open without further action
 13 Formal probation
 14 Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision
 15 Runaway returned
 16 Fine or restitution
 17 Other _____
 Transfer of legal custody to:
 21 Youth Development Center - Kearney or Geneva
 22 Public agency or department (including court or jail)
 23 Private agency or institution (Specify) _____
 24 Individual (Specify relationship) _____
 29 Other _____

P. Diagnostic Services

	NEED FOR DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES		
	Indicated and provided	Indicated but not available	Not indicated
Psychological	1	2	3
Psychiatric	1	2	3
Medical	1	2	3
Social	1	2	3

Q. School attainment
 Grade completed (00-12) _____

R. Employment and school status

	Out of School		In School	
	1	5	6	7
Not employed	1	5		
Employed			6	7
Full time	2			
Part time	3			
Preschool	4			

S. Length of residence of child in county
 0 Not currently a resident _____
 1 Under one year _____
 2 One year or more _____

T. Living arrangement of child in home with _____

01 Both parents
 02 Mother and stepfather
 03 Father and stepmother
 04 Mother only
 05 Father only
 Outside own home with
 06 Relatives
 07 Foster or group home
 08 Institution
 09 Independent arrangement
 10 Other _____
 11 Unknown

U. Marital status of natural parents _____

01 Parents married and living together
 One or both parents dead
 02 Both dead
 03 Father dead
 04 Mother dead
 Parents separated
 05 Divorced or legally separated
 06 Father deserted mother
 07 Mother deserted father
 08 Other reason (Specify) _____
 09 Parents not married to each other
 10 Other _____
 11 Unknown

V. Combined family annual income _____

1. Receiving public assistance
 Not receiving public assistance
 2. Under \$5,000
 3. \$5,000 to \$9,999
 4. \$10,000 to \$24,999
 5. \$25,000 and over
 6. Unknown

W. Counsel _____

1. Court appointed
 2. Retained
 3. Public defender
 4. Not represented
 5. Other _____

X. Occupation of primary parent or guardian _____

01 Professional or technical
 02 Managerial or administrative
 03 Farmer or rancher
 04 Sales worker
 05 Craftsman or other skilled laborer
 06 Clerical
 07 Service workers or other unskilled laborers
 08 Unemployed
 09 Unknown

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; or (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 departs himself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself or others.

After a case comes to the court's attention, a decision is made whether to handle the case unofficially (without petition) or officially (with petition). Most cases handled without petition are generally disposed of by the court intake staff by one of several options. Many of these options are the same as those for cases handled with petition. If it is decided to file a petition (similar to a "complaint" in an adult case) with the clerk of the court, the procedure is most often performed by the County Attorney. After a petition is filed, a hearing is conducted for the juvenile by a judge; no jury is present. The hearing proceeds in an informal manner, applying the rules of evidence used by district courts in civil trials without a jury. The judge will decide the case with one of many disposition options.

For purposes of this report, referrals to juvenile court are classified into three categories: major offenses, minor offenses and neglect-dependent cases. Major offenses are coded on the Juvenile Court Statistical Form (see Figure 2)

under section L. as responses 01 through 28. The major offense referrals are typically regarded as "delinquency" offenses. Minor offense referrals are coded in categories 31 through 39. Minor offenses are often referred to as "status" offenses and represent offenses applicable only to individuals under the age of eighteen. Neglect-dependent cases are coded in responses 51 and 52.

In 1979 there were 4,458 juvenile court referrals reported to the Commission. Of these, 3,556 (79.8%) were handled with petition, while 902 (20.2%) were handled without petition. Referrals for major offense categories accounted for 64.2% or 2,862 of the total number of referrals. Minor offense referrals numbered 1,045 (23.4% of the total) and there were 551 neglect-dependency cases (12.4% of the total). Tables 1, 2, and 3 give breakdowns on the reasons for referral for major, minor and neglect-dependent cases, respectively.

The fact that major offense referrals are nearly 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.

The most frequent referrals for major offenses in 1979 were theft under \$100, burglary, and misdemeanor criminal mischief (vandalism) in that order. These three offenses combined account for 46.2% of the major offenses.

Major offenses can also be broken down by offense type using three broad, conventional categories of offenses against persons, offenses against property, and victimless offenses (see Table 4). Offenses against persons which include murder, manslaughter, assaults, sexual assaults and robbery comprised only 8.5% of the major offense referrals and 5.4% of all referrals. These offenses are usually considered as the "violent crimes."

Offenses against property constituted the largest proportion of both major and total referrals, 71.4% and 45.9% respectively. Offenses considered as property crimes are arson, burglary, unauthorized use of a propelled vehicle, theft, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass.

Forgery, weapons offenses, driving while intoxicated; 3rd offense, disturbing the peace, and violation of drug laws are among the victimless offenses. Victimless offenses accounted for 9.5% of major offense referrals and 6.1% of the total referrals.

Table 1
Major Offense Frequencies, 1979

Offense Type	Frequency	Percent
Manslaughter	5	.2
Assault 1 and 2	23	.8
Assault 3	136	4.7
Sex Assault 1	9	.3
Sex Assault 2	13	.4
Robbery	56	1.9
Drug Laws (Felony)	24	.8
Drug Laws (Misdemeanor)	131	4.6
Arson (Felony)	13	.4
Arson (Misdemeanor)	25	.9
Burglary	381	13.3
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	150	5.2
Theft over \$1,000	65	2.3
Theft: Value over \$300, less than \$1,000	137	4.8
Theft under \$300	169	5.9
Theft under \$100	612	21.4
Criminal Mischief (Felony)	46	1.6
Criminal Mischief (Misdemeanor)	329	11.5
Trespassing	117	4.1
Forgery (Felony)	13	.4
Forgery (Misdemeanor)	50	1.7
Weapon Offenses (Felony)	5	.2
Weapon Ofenses (Misdemeanor)	9	.3
Driving While Intoxicated: 3rd Offense	5	.2
Disturbing the Peace	36	1.3
Other Felony	35	1.2
Other Misdemeanor	268	9.4
Total	2,862	99.8*

Table 2
Minor Offense Frequencies, 1979

Offense Type	Frequency	Percent
Running Away	124	11.9
Truancy	139	13.3
Curfew Violation	32	3.1
Ungovernable Behavior	253	24.2
Possessing or drinking liquor	383	36.6
Other	114	10.9
Total	1,045	100.0

Table 3
Neglect/Dependent Frequencies, 1979

	Frequency	Percent
Neglect	412	74.8
Dependency	139	25.2
Total	551	100.0

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

FIGURE 3
Referral Proportions, 1979

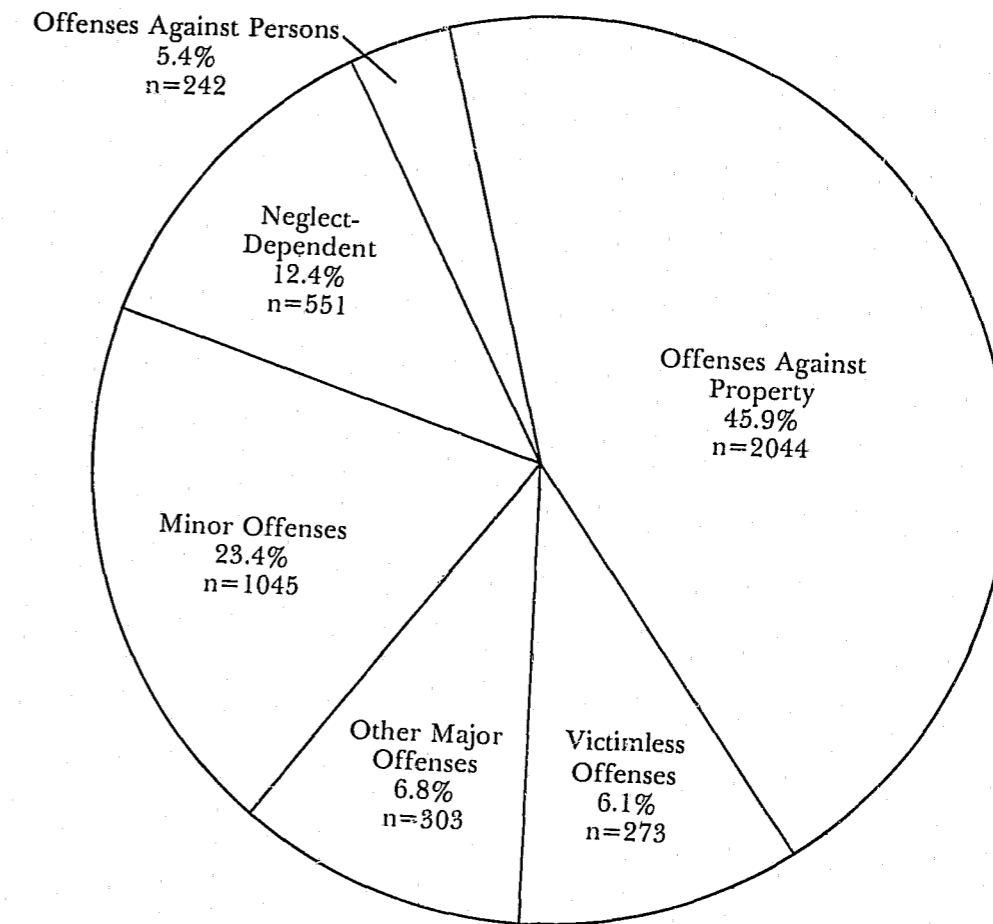


Table 4
Reason Referred, 1979

Reason Referred	Frequency	Percent of Total	Percent of Major
Total Major Offenses	2,862	64.2	100.0
a. Offenses Against Persons	242	5.4	8.5
b. Offenses Against Property	2,044	45.9	71.4
c. Victimless Offenses	273	6.1	9.5
d. Other Major Offenses	303	6.8	10.6
Minor Offenses	1,045	23.4	
Neglect-Dependent	551	12.4	
Total	4,458	100.0	

Major offenses of an unknown nature were classified as "other major offenses" and were 10.6% of the major offenses.

The major, minor, and neglect-dependent referral trends since 1974 are depicted in Figure 4. Major offense referrals in 1979 decreased slightly from 1978 by 1.2%. Although this decrease is not as substantial as the 17.3% decrease from 1977 to 1978, it continues a pattern of steady declines in the number of major referrals since 1975. The striking increase of 23.6% from 1974 to 1975 most likely reflects an improvement in reporting practices by the courts to the Commission since the complete implementation of the JCR program in 1974.

Minor offense referrals increased by 8.6% from 1978 to 1979. These referrals remained fairly stable from 1974 to 1977. A significant decrease of 18.6% occurred in 1978 possibly reflecting the recent trend toward keeping the status offender out of the juvenile court by diversion to social agencies and programs. Even though 1979 minor referrals increased 8.6% from the previous year, the number of referrals is still 9.03% lower than the average number (1,149) of referrals for the previous five year period. This suggests that diversion of status offenders from the courts is a continuing practice.

Neglect-dependent referrals have remained fairly constant since 1974. Percentage differences from year to year appear substantial due to the relatively low frequencies of neglect-dependent referrals. However, in 1979 these referrals were up 11.8% over the 1978 number and 21.2% over the mean value (455) of neglect-dependent referrals from 1974 to 1978. An upward trend in neglect-dependent referrals is suggested.

In gauging the level of activity in the juvenile justice system, comparisons of juvenile court data to juvenile arrest data and juvenile population information are useful. Juvenile arrest data were obtained through the Nebraska *Uniform Crime Report* (UCR) published by the Commission. Only arrests for offenses in the major referral category were considered. (A breakdown of UCR arrest data is given in Appendix B for the years 1974-1979). Nebraska school enrollment data supplied by the Nebraska Department of Education were used as an estimate of juvenile population. These data collected September 30 of every school year provide an accurate estimate for the age group 5-18 years with some error for ages 16-18 due to drop-outs. When looking only at major offense referrals, which involve very few preschoolers, this age group is a good measure of the offender population.

The frequencies and percentage changes for major court referrals, UCR juvenile arrests, and juvenile population are given in Table 5 for the years 1974-1979.

A simple correlation analysis was done on this data in order to discover any relationships existing among these

three variables. Correlation analysis indicates that two or more variables vary together either positively or negatively. As previously mentioned, the substantial increase in major referrals from 1974 to 1975 most likely indicates improvement in reporting practices for 1975 compared to 1974, the first year that the program was completely instituted in all the county and separate juvenile courts. Assuming that the 1974 value for major offense referrals is spurious, 1974 data were not included in these analyses.

Positive correlations were found to be statistically significant for all relationships among the variables: UCR arrest data and major offense referrals, UCR arrest data and juvenile population, and major offense referrals and juvenile population. Refer to Table 6 for the correlation coefficients and the respective levels of significance.

These significant relationships simply mean that both the number of juveniles being arrested for major offenses and the number referred to juvenile court for these offenses have been declining over the past few years. A major factor in these decreases is possibly the decline in juvenile population.

Another way to look at the relationships among juvenile court referrals, juvenile arrest data, and juvenile population is to compare the rates of major court referrals and juvenile arrests for these offenses. Figure 5 shows rates per 1,000 juvenile population (based for school enrollment data) for major court referrals and arrests since 1974. Again, a simple correlation analysis bears out a statistically significant relationship (refer to Table 6) between these rates. While the arrest rate for major juvenile offenses is over three times higher than the juvenile court referral rate for major offenses, the significant correlation indicates that these rates are varying closely together in the same direction and degree.

Although juvenile arrests for major offenses and major court referrals are significantly related, not all major court referrals come from law enforcement agencies. In 1979 law enforcement agencies accounted for 70.4% (see Table 7) of major court referrals. Twenty percent of the juveniles arrested for major offenses in 1979 appeared in court. In 1978 this figure was 23.3% indicating that there has been a slight decrease in the number of juveniles arrested that actually reach juvenile court.

Table 7 also includes the source of referrals for all juvenile court referrals. Law enforcement agencies made the most referrals for major (70.4%), minor (44.2%), and total referrals (56.3%). County attorneys followed, referring 20.8% of the major offenses, 22.5% of the minor, and 22.6% of the total referrals. The pattern of the source of referrals for neglect-dependent cases is much different. Law enforcement agencies constituted only 6.6% of these referrals. Social agencies referred the majority of neglect-dependent cases (52.2%). County attorneys also ranked second in the number of neglect-dependent referrals

FIGURE 4
Referral Frequencies, 1974-1979

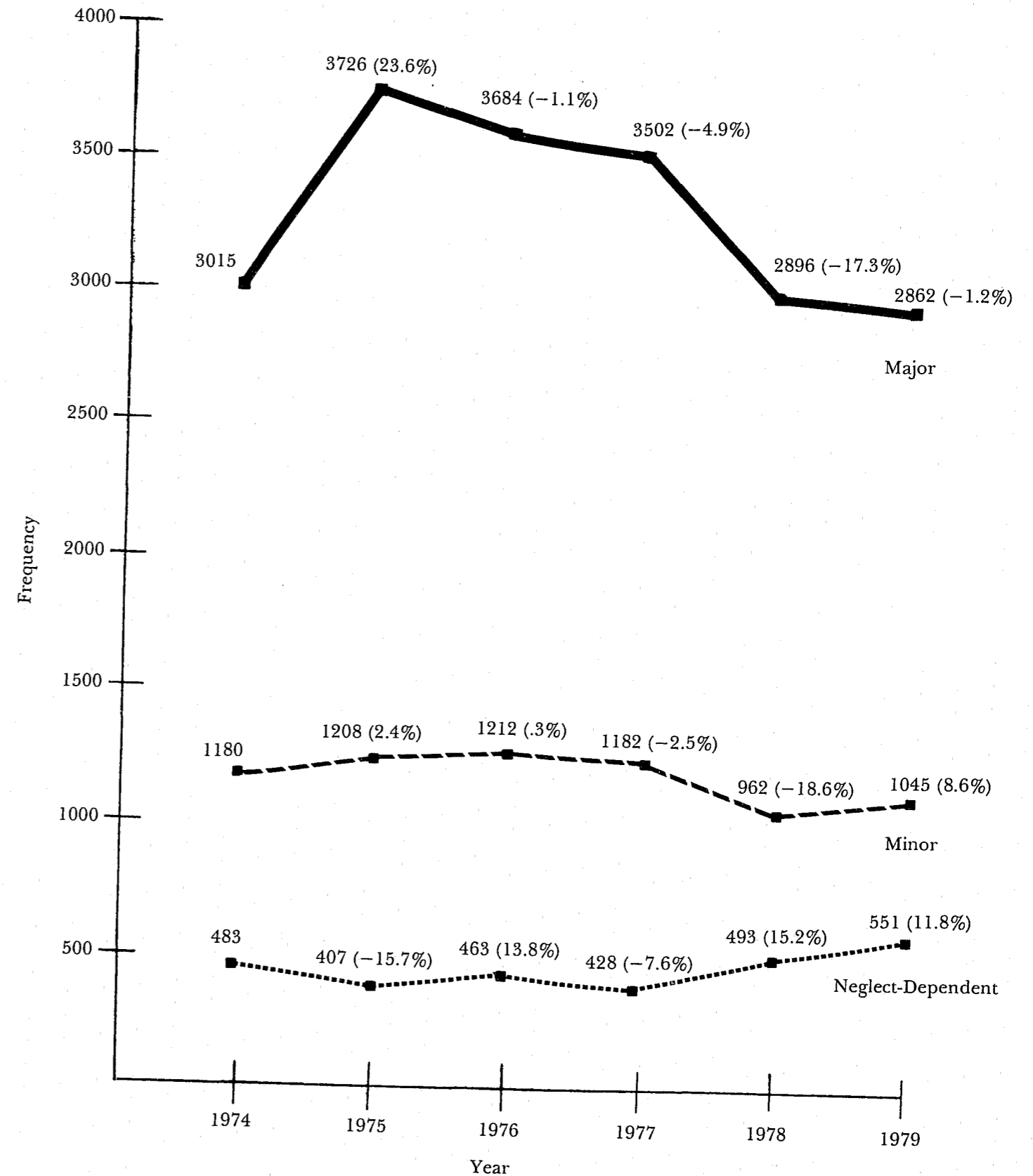


Table 5
Major Offense Court Referrals, UCR
Juvenile Arrests, and Juvenile
Population Frequencies, 1974-1979

	1974	1975	% Change	1976	% Change	1977	% Change	1978	% Change	1979	% Change
Major Offense Court Referrals	3,015	3,725	23.6	3,684	-1.1	3,502	-4.9	2,896	-17.3	2,862	-1.2
UCR Juvenile Arrests	12,891	12,179	-5.5	11,460	-5.9	11,072	-3.4	9,997	-9.7	9,854	-1.4
Juvenile Population	361,545	356,438	-1.4	351,828	-1.3	345,280	-1.9	335,318	-2.9	324,614	-3.2

Table 6
Correlation Coefficients for Relationships Among
Major Offense Referrals, UCR Juvenile Arrests,
and Juvenile Population, 1975-1979

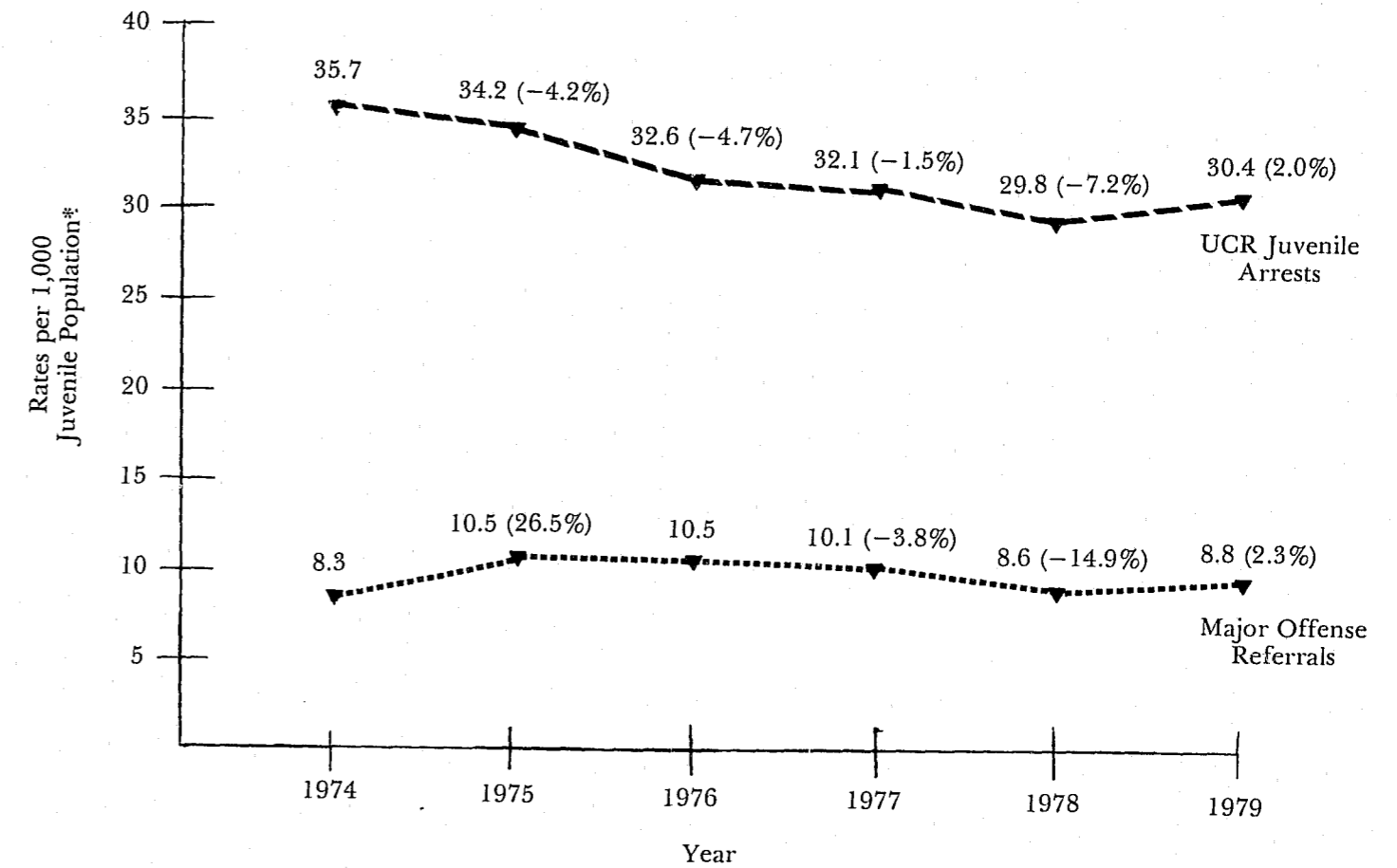
	Correlation Coefficient (Pearson r)	Degrees of Freedom	Level of Significance
Arrests and Major Offense referrals	.97	3	p=.01 (r=.95876)
Arrests and population	.96	3	p=.01 (r=.95876)
Major offense referrals and population	.95	3	p=.02 (r=.9343)
Arrest rates and major offense rates	.94	3	p=.02 (r=.9343)

(32.0%). However, this referral source comprised a much larger proportion of neglect-dependent referrals compared to the relative proportions in the other offense categories.

The number of prior referrals for cases referred to juvenile court can loosely be regarded as a measure of recidivism. In doing so, certain limitations of this data must be considered. Complete information for the number of

prior referrals was not available for 212 cases. For some cases the accuracy of the data may be questionable due to erroneous information supplied by the offender. For total cases, 26.6% of the cases had been referred to juvenile court one or more times prior to the present referral. This figure is notable and probably reflects that the more serious cases are handled at the level of juvenile court, while many "first time" offenders are diverted from the system.

FIGURE 5
Comparison of Rates for Major Court
Referrals and UCR Juvenile Arrests, 1974-1979



*Rates per 1,000 juvenile population (based on school enrollment data).

Table 7
Source of Court Referrals, 1979

Source of Referral	Major		Minor		Neglect/Dependent		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Law Enforcement	1,975	70.4	449	44.2	36	6.6	2,460	56.3
School	7	.2	71	7.0	5	.9	83	1.9
Social Agency	0	--	24	2.4	302	55.2	326	7.5
Probation Office	7	.2	32	3.2	7	1.3	46	1.1
Parents, Relative	6	.2	151	14.9	13	2.4	170	3.9
Other Court	163	5.8	34	3.3	7	1.3	204	4.7
County Attorney	585	20.8	228	22.5	175	32.0	988	22.6
Other	64	2.3	26	2.6	2	.4	92	2.1
TOTAL**	2,807	99.9*	1,015	100.1*	547	100.1*	4,369	100.1*

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

**Missing observations=89

Table 8
Number of Prior Referrals by Reason for Referral, 1979

	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more	Total
Total Major Offenses	1,851	436	202	99	40	102	2,730
a. Offenses Against Persons	143	38	20	12	5	13	231
b. Offenses Against Property	1,341	310	148	65	26	64	1,954
c. Victimless Offenses	175	49	14	12	4	10	264
d. Other Major Offenses	192	39	20	10	5	15	281
Minor Offenses	790	106	46	16	13	10	981
Neglect-Dependent	476	50	3	3	0	3	535
TOTAL*	3,117	592	251	118	53	115	4,246
% of Total	73.4%	13.9%	5.9%	2.8%	1.3%	2.7%	100.0%

*Complete information for number of prior referrals was not available for 212 cases.

Dispositions

The Juvenile Court disposition frequencies and percentages, separated into the three main categories of major, minor, and neglect-dependent referrals, are listed in Table 9.

The most frequently reported disposition of a major offense referral was formal probation constituting 42.7% of all major offense dispositions. The next most frequently reported disposition was dismissal with complaint not substantiated followed by held open without further action. This represents a change from 1978 in which the second and third most frequently reported major offense dispositions were dismissal with complaint substantiated and dismissal with complaint not substantiated respectively.

7.2% of the major offense dispositions 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 (33.4%) followed by dismissal with complaint not substantiated (10.7%).

Of the 1,044 minor offense dispositions, 13.6% resulted in a transfer of legal custody. The most frequent of these were to a public agency or department.

Of the neglect-dependent referrals, 42.8% resulted in a 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 referrals combined, 0.7% were waived to criminal court, 16.2% were dismissed with complaint not substantiated, 68.0% were substantiated complaints with no transfer of legal custody, and 14.9% resulted in a transfer of legal custody.

Only 2.6% of all referrals resulted in a transfer of custody to a Youth Development Center. 44.0% of these were for burglary and theft offenses.

The differences in time, in days, between the date of referral and date of disposition are listed in Table 10 by offense. A graphic representation of this data appears in Figure 6.

5.2% of all referrals were disposed of on the same day as they were referred. This was the largest percentage for any single day. 21.3% were disposed of within 10 days of referral and 42.1% were disposed of within 30 days. 21.1% of the dispositions fell within the range of 51-100 days after referral. 18.7% occurred after 100 days.

The mean and median values for this timespan are 69.1 and 38.6 days respectively. In this instance the median is most likely a better measure of central tendency due to the skewness of the distribution.

**Table 9
Juvenile Court Dispositions, 1979**

Disposition	Major		Minor		Neglect/Dependent		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Waived to Criminal Court	9	.3	21	2.0	0	--	30	.7
<i>Complaint Not Substantiated</i>								
Dismissed: Not Proven or found not involved	527	18.4	112	10.7	85	15.4	724	16.2
<i>Complaint Sustantiated</i>								
No transfer of legal custody.								
Dismissed: warned, counseled	167	5.8	78	7.5	19	3.4	264	5.9
Hold open without further action	326	11.4	78	7.5	7	1.3	411	9.2
Formal Probation	1,222	42.7	349	33.4	13	2.4	1,584	35.5
Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision	106	3.7	92	8.8	85	15.4	283	6.3
Runaway returned	4	.1	24	2.3	0	--	28	.6
Fine or restitution	88	3.1	50	4.8	0	--	138	3.1
Other	205	7.2	98	9.4	28	5.1	331	7.4
Transfer of Legal Custody to:								
Youth Development Center	102	3.6	15	1.4	0	--	117	2.6
Public Agency or Department	35	1.2	57	5.5	236	42.8	328	7.4
Private agency or Institution	40	1.4	34	3.3	27	4.9	101	2.3
Individual	6	.2	14	1.3	31	5.6	51	1.1
Other	24	.8	22	2.1	20	3.6	66	1.5
TOTAL*	2,861	99.9**	1,044	100.0	551	99.9**	4,456	99.8**

*Does not include 2 unknown cases.

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

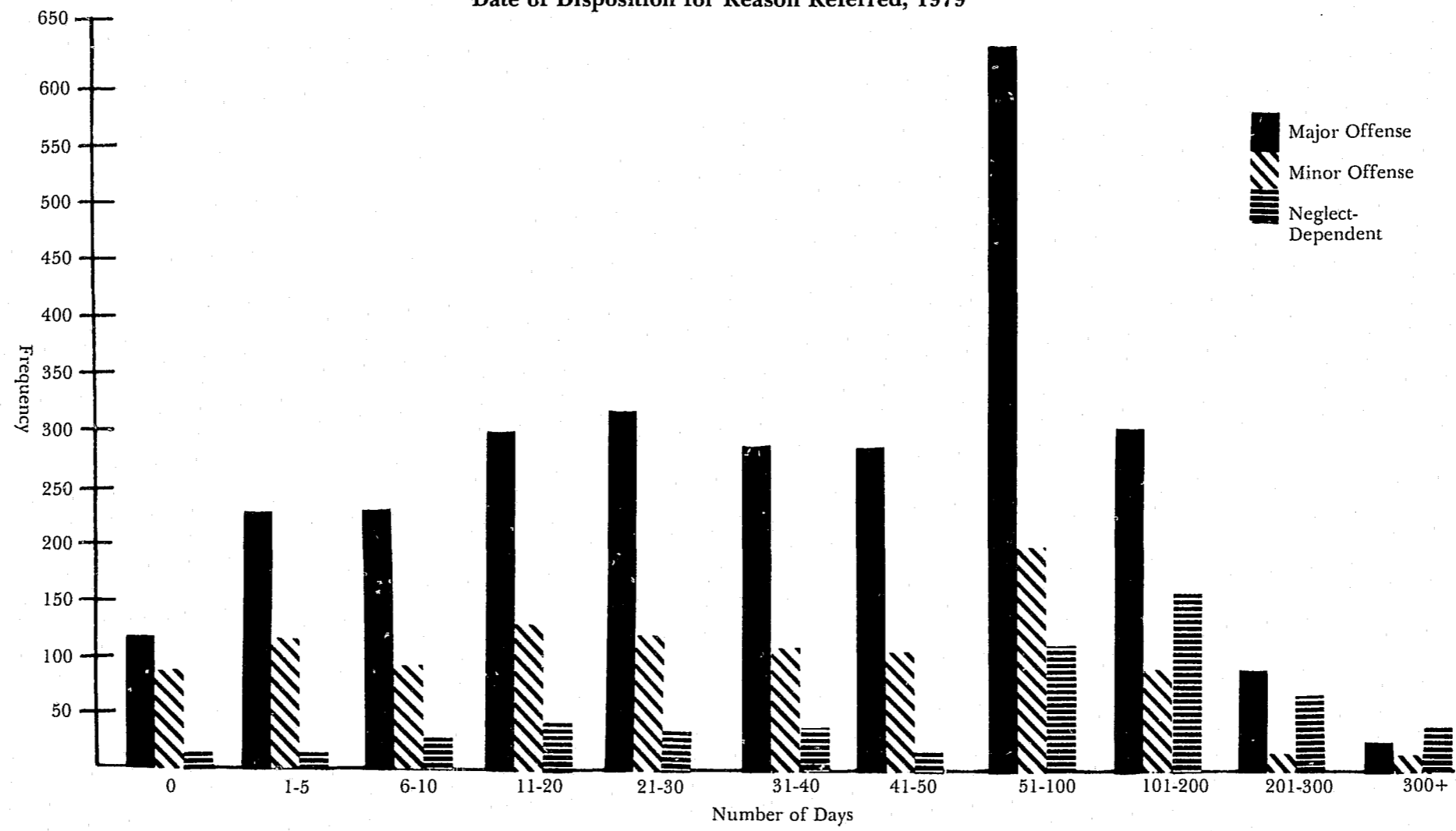
**Table 10
Time Between Date of Referral and Date of Disposition for Referrals, 1979***

Referral	Number of Days											Total
	0	1-5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-100	101-200	201-300	301+	
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5
Assault: 1st and 2nd degree	0	1	0	2	2	4	4	5	4	1	0	23
Assault: 3rd degree	0	8	8	17	7	17	17	34	20	5	3	136
Sexual Assault:												
1st degree	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	9
2nd degree	0	0	1	1	2	5	0	3	1	0	0	13
Robbery	1	3	1	3	4	1	4	18	18	0	0	55
Violation of Drug Laws: Felony	0	1	2	1	2	3	3	6	5	0	1	24
Violation of Drug Laws: Misdemeanor	9	18	11	18	17	17	11	18	6	2	4	131
Arson: Felony	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	0	5	0	0	13
Arson: Misdemeanor	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	9	5	3	0	25
Burglary	12	15	9	19	28	29	45	120	74	18	7	376
Unauthorized Use of a Propelled Vehicle	6	9	13	11	26	16	20	36	11	1	1	150
Theft: Value Over \$1,000	2	3	3	2	6	9	8	22	8	1	1	65
Theft: Over \$300, Less \$1,000	3	6	8	12	13	15	18	40	10	10	2	137
Theft: Less \$300	6	10	14	16	12	21	26	32	21	5	5	168
Theft: Less \$100	24	58	49	88	81	73	60	120	41	12	3	609
Criminal Mischief:												
Felony	0	3	4	0	3	4	3	20	8	1	0	46
Misdemeanor	25	23	35	40	53	25	24	57	34	4	6	326
Trespass	6	15	7	22	16	9	11	13	11	3	3	116
Forgery: Felony	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	4	2	0	0	13
Forgery: Misdemeanor	1	2	5	5	4	5	2	18	6	0	1	49
Weapons Offense:												
Felony	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	5
Misdemeanor	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	9
Driving While Intoxicated: 3rd Offense	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	5
Disturbing the Peace	5	6	5	4	7	1	2	3	2	0	0	35
Other Misdemeanor	0	5	1	4	4	1	5	10	3	0	2	35
Other Felony	26	42	52	25	25	14	14	36	18	12	3	267
TOTAL MAJOR	128	231	230	298	318	278	284	635	316	81	46	2,845
% of Total	4.5	8.1	8.1	10.5	11.2	9.8	10.0	22.3	11.1	2.8	1.6	100.0
Running Away	13	27	15	15	10	9	14	12	3	1	4	123
Truancy	8	19	8	24	8	17	10	26	13	2	3	138
Violation of Curfew	3	1	0	5	2	4	3	7	2	3	2	32
Ungovernable Behavior	20	15	12	26	27	20	27	59	30	6	10	252
Possessing or Drinking Liquor	44	45	49	45	53	35	27	58	12	5	5	379
Other	5	4	10	9	12	13	10	34	13	2	2	114
TOTAL MINOR	93	111	94	124	112	98	91	196	73	19	27	1,038
% of Total	9.0	10.7	9.1	11.9	10.8	9.4	8.8	18.9	7.0	1.8	2.6	100.0
Neglect Dependent	7	7	22	27	24	17	16	82	109	48	51	410
TOTAL NEGLECT	3	8	10	14	4	12	8	22	38	12	8	139
—DEPENDENT	10	15	32	41	28	29	24	104	147	60	59	549
% of Total	1.8	2.7	5.8	7.5	5.1	5.3	4.4	18.9	26.8	10.9	10.7	99.9**

* Information was not complete for 26 cases.

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

FIGURE 6
Number of Days Between Date of Referral and
Date of Disposition for Reason Referred, 1979



Age

For convenience age was broken down into four categories: 11 and under, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-17. The data for these categories separated by major, minor, and neglect-dependent referrals appears in Table 11.

The 11 and under age group constituted 12.8% of all referrals. A substantial majority, 67.1%, of the referrals in this age group were neglect/dependent related and this age group accounted for 69.3% of all neglect-dependent referrals.

Only 4.8% of the major offense referrals and 4.7% of the minor offense referrals involved juveniles 11 years of age and younger. The percentage of major offense referrals is not significantly different from the 1978 value of 4.4%. However, the minor offense percentage represents a 74.1% increase over the 1978 value of 2.7%. It is difficult to determine if this is a significant increase due to the small size of the absolute frequencies.

Major offense referrals were the most frequent in the oldest three age groups followed by minor offenses and neglect-dependent referrals. The 12-13 age group had a larger percentage of neglect-dependent referrals at 10.0% of the referrals for that age group compared to only 3.4% and 3.6% for the 14-15 and 16-17 age groups respectively.

The distribution of major, minor, and neglect-dependent referrals within the 14-15 and 16-17 age groups were virtually indistinguishable indicating that over the

range of 14 through 17 years the types of referrals were fairly constant.

The 16-17 age group accounted for most of the total referrals for all ages with 40.0%, followed by the 14-15 age group with 36.0%, the 11 and under group with 12.8% and the 12-13 group with 11.2%.

The disposition frequencies and percentages for the four age groups are listed in Table 12. The differences in dispositions between the age groups reflect the differences in types of referrals stated above.

For the 11 and under age group the most frequent disposition was transfer of legal custody to a public agency or department. The majority of these referrals were neglect-dependent related in which custody of the child was transferred to the Department of Welfare or other social service agencies. 43.2% of all dispositions in this age group involved a transfer of custody of some kind compared to 15.0%, 11.7%, and 8.6% for the 12-13, 14-15, and 16-17 age groups respectively.

The most frequent disposition among the older three age groups was formal probation. Approximately 40% of the referrals involving these three age groups received a disposition of formal probation with the percentage increasing as age increased. As stated above there was an increased tendency not to transfer legal custody as age increased.

Table 11
Reason Referred by Age, 1979

Age	Major		Minor		Neglect/Dependent		Total	
	Frequency	% Frequency	Frequency	% Frequency	Frequency	% Frequency	Frequency	%
11 and under	138	4.8	49	4.7	382	69.3	569	12.8
12-13	356	12.4	92	8.8	50	9.1	498	11.2
14-15	1,121	39.2	431	41.2	55	10.0	1,607	36.0
16-17	1,247	43.6	473	45.3	64	11.6	1,784	40.0
	2,862	100.0	1,045	100.0	551	100.0	4,458	100.0

Table 12
Disposition by Age, 1979

Disposition	11 and Under		12-13		14-15		16-17		Total	
	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%
Waived to Criminal Court	0		0		4	.2	26	1.5	30	.7
<i>Complaint Not Substantiated</i> Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	102	17.9	97	19.5	267	16.6	258	14.5	724	16.2
<i>Complaint Substantiated</i> No Transfer to Legal Custody Dismissed: warned, counselled	32	5.6	41	8.2	94	5.8	97	5.4	264	5.9
Hold open without further action	37	6.5	45	9.0	146	9.1	183	10.3	411	9.2
Formal probation	53	9.3	156	31.3	626	39.0	749	42.0	1,584	35.5
Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision	64	11.2	38	7.6	98	6.1	83	4.7	283	6.3
Runaway returned	0		1	.2	15	.9	12	.7	28	.6
Fine or restitution	0		6	1.2	42	2.6	90	5.0	138	3.1
Other	34	6.0	39	7.8	126	7.8	132	7.4	331	7.4
Transfer Legal Custody to:										
Youth Development Center	0		4	.8	56	3.5	57	3.2	117	2.6
Public Agency or Department	180	31.6	33	6.6	57	3.5	58	3.3	328	7.4
Private Agency or Department	23	4.0	21	4.2	42	2.6	15	.8	101	2.3
Individual	26	4.6	5	1.0	11	.7	9	.5	51	1.1
Other	17	3.0	12	2.4	22	1.4	15	.8	66	1.5
TOTAL*	568	99.7**	498	99.8**	1,606	99.8**	1,784	100.1**	4,456	99.8**

* Does not include 2 unknown cases.

**Percents may differ from 100 due to rounding error.

Sex

The percentage breakdown of juvenile court referrals by sex is displayed in Figure 7. Of the 4458 total referrals, 3280 were males and 1178 were females. This corresponds to percentages of 73.6% and 26.4% respectively.

Males accounted for an 84.0% majority of the major offense referrals. This is a male to female ratio of over five to one. The same ratio in 1978 was over six to one indicating both a decrease in the male and an increase in the female tendency to be referred for a major offense.

The minor offense referrals were more evenly distributed between the sexes. Males with 613 minor referrals accounted for 58.7% and females with 432 accounted for 41.3%. This is approximately a three to two male to female ratio.

Neglect-dependent referrals is the only category in which females outnumbered males. Of the 551 neglect-dependent referrals reported, 262 (47.5%) were males and 289 (52.5%) were females.

Females had roughly equal percentages of major and minor offense referrals. Major offenses accounted for 38.8% of total female referrals and minor offenses accounted for 36.7%.

Males, contrary to females, were far more likely to be

referred for a major offense than a minor one. Of the total male referrals, 73.4% were for major offenses compared to only 18.7% for minor offenses.

There was also a large difference between males and females in the neglect-dependent referral category. Only 8.0% of all male referrals were neglect-dependent related compared to 24.5% for females.

The disposition frequencies and percentages separated by sex are listed in Table 13. The most frequent disposition for both males and females was formal probation followed by dismissal with complaint not substantiated.

Males were much more likely to be put on formal probation than females. 39.3% of all male referrals were disposed of by formal probation compared to only 25.0% for females.

Females were more likely to receive a disposition resulting in a transfer of legal custody than males. 21.8% of female dispositions involved a transfer of legal custody compared to 12.4% for males. For females, the majority of these were transfer to a public institution other than a Youth Development Center. The probability that a female would be sent to a YDC was one-half the probability for a male.

FIGURE 7
Sex Percentages, 1979

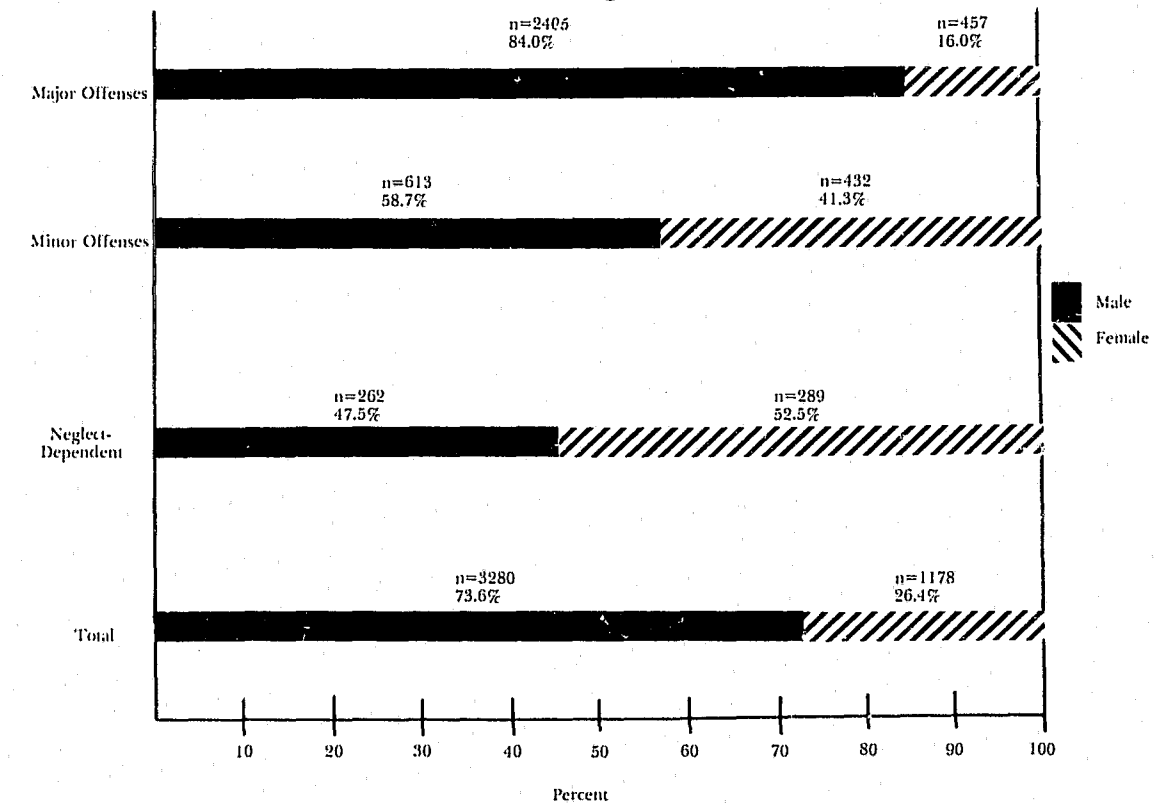


Table 13
Disposition by Sex, 1979

Disposition	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%
Waived to Criminal Court	24	.7	6	.5	30	.7
<i>Complaint Not Substantiated</i>						
Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	543	16.6	181	15.4	724	16.2
<i>Complaint Substantiated</i>						
No transfer of Legal Custody						
Dismissed: warned, counselled	174	5.3	90	7.6	264	5.9
Hold open without further action	311	9.5	100	8.5	411	9.2
Formal probation	1,290	39.3	294	25.0	1,584	35.5
Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision	183	5.6	100	8.5	283	6.3
Runaway returned	11	.3	17	1.4	28	.6
Fine or restitution	118	3.6	20	1.7	138	3.1
Other	217	6.6	114	9.7	331	7.4
Transfer of Legal Custody to:						
Youth Development Center	99	3.0	18	1.5	117	2.6
Other public institution	175	5.3	153	13.0	328	7.4
Private agency or institution	65	2.0	36	3.1	101	2.3
Individual	28	.9	23	2.0	51	1.1
Other	40	1.2	26	2.2	66	1.5
TOTAL*	3,278	99.9**	1,178	100.1**	4,456	99.8**

* Does not include 2 unknown cases.

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

Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group, or race, data collected by the Commission include the categories: White, black, Native American, Hispanic, oriental and "other". The referral frequencies and percentages for these groups are listed in Table 14.

Whites accounted for 84.7% of all juvenile court referrals, blacks 7.8%, Native Americans 2.3%, Hispanics 2.8% and "other" 2.4%. As an estimate of the actual proportion of these groups in the juvenile population, school enrollment data was obtained from the Department of Education. These figures show 92.3% of the juvenile population as being white, 4.5% black, 0.8% Native American, 1.8% Hispanic, and 0.6% "other".

The relationship between percentage of juvenile population and percentage of juvenile referrals is shown graphically in Figure 8. Orientals are not depicted since they accounted for less than 0.1% of the total referrals. Whites were the only group to have a larger percentage of the juvenile population than of the total referrals. For all other groups the percentage of juveniles appearing in court was higher than the percentage of juveniles of that group in the population.

88.9% of all black referrals came from the more highly urban areas of Douglas and Lancaster Counties. 68.9% of Native American referrals and 76.8% of Hispanic referrals came from counties other than Douglas and Lancaster. For whites, 44.8% of the referrals were from Douglas and Lancaster Counties and 55.2% from other counties. Douglas and Lancaster Counties account for 37.7% of the juvenile population.

For all ethnic groups, major offense referrals were most frequent. 75.1% of black referrals were for major offenses followed by Native Americans with 68.0%, Hispanics with 65.5%, and whites with 63.5%.

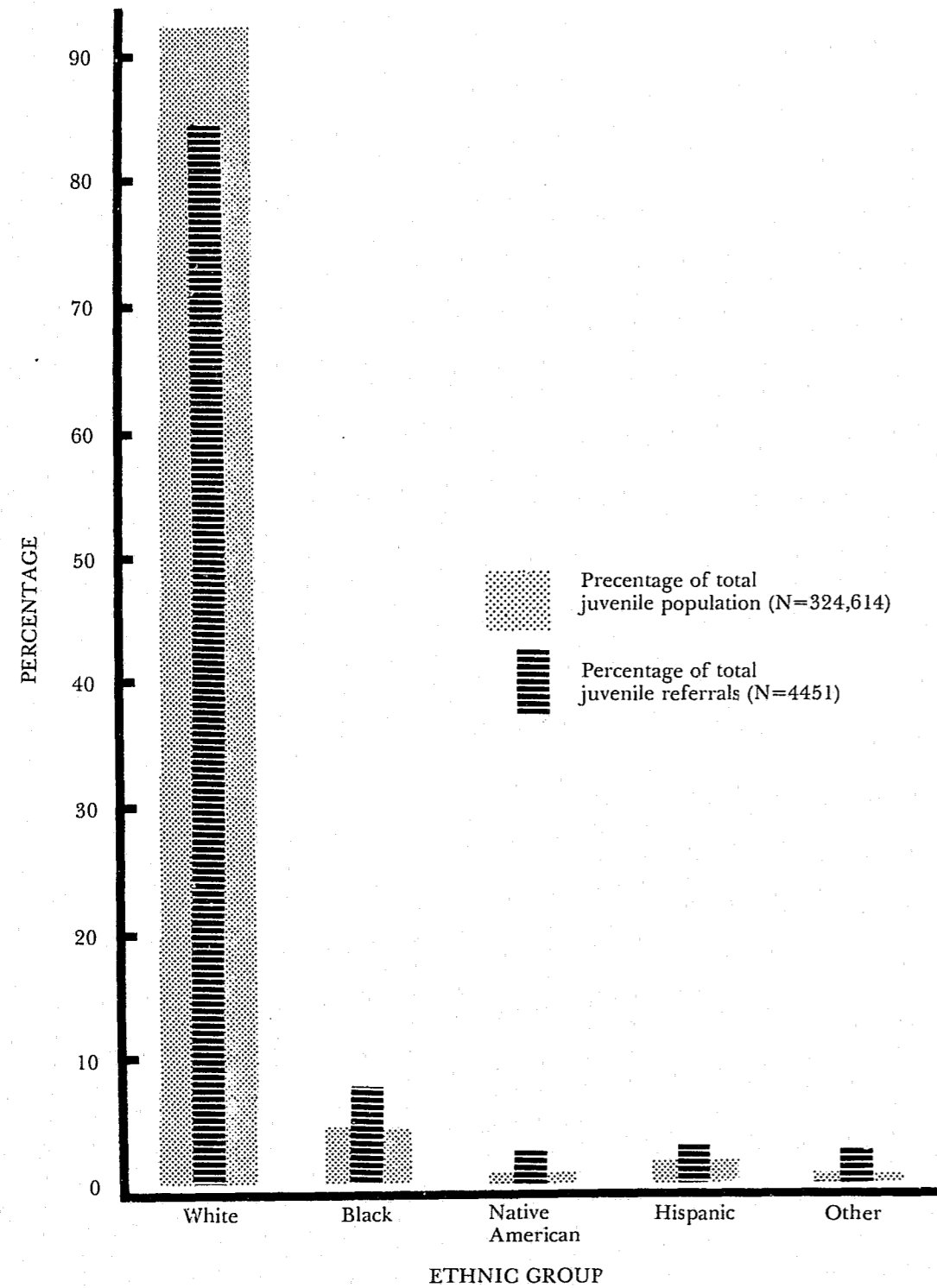
The differences in minor and neglect-dependent referrals were less pronounced than in 1978. 27.2% of Hispanic referrals were for minor offenses followed by whites with 25.1%, Native Americans with 15.5%, and blacks with 10.3%. 16.5% of Native American referrals were neglect-dependent related followed by 14.6% for blacks, 11.4% for whites and 7.2% for Hispanics.

Table 14
Reason Referred by Ethnic Group, 1979

Ethnic Group	Major		Minor		Neglect/Dependent		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
White	2,395	83.7	948	90.7	431	78.2	3,774	84.7
Black	262	9.2	36	3.4	51	9.3	349	7.8
Native American	70	2.4	16	1.5	17	3.1	103	2.3
Hispanic	82	2.9	34	3.3	9	1.6	125	2.8
Oriental	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	.2	2	0.0
Other	52	1.8	11	1.1	42	7.6	105	2.4
TOTAL	2,862	100.0	1,045	100.0	551	100.0	4,458	100.0

FIGURE 8

Comparison of Ethnic Group Referrals and Juvenile Population Proportions, 1979



Other Demographic Characteristics

Living Arrangement

The living arrangements of juveniles at time of referral are listed in Table 15. The most frequent living arrangement reported was living with both parents. The most frequent living arrangement among major and minor offense referrals was also with both parents, however, among neglect-dependent referrals the most frequent was with mother only.

Living with mother only was the second most often reported living arrangement. 48.3% of the living arrangements reported involved living with either a single parent or with a parent and stepparent. 14.8% of the reported arrangements involved no natural parent.

Employment and School Status

The reported employment and school status of juveniles referred to court are listed in Table 16. 67.4% of the juveniles for which school and employment status was reported were in school and unemployed. This was the most frequently reported category for major, minor, and neglect-dependent referrals.

The second most frequently reported category was in school and employed. Approximately 17% of the juveniles referred for either a major or a minor offense were in this category. The second most frequent category for neglect-dependent referrals was preschool.

Of the total referrals for which employment and school status were reported, 83.0% were in school, 11.6% not in school, and 5.4% preschool. In terms of employment, 75.0% were unemployed and 19.6% employed.

The distribution among the various categories is essentially the same regardless of whether the referral was for a major or minor offense.

Table 15
Reason Referred by Living Arrangement, 1979

Arrangement	Major		Minor		Neglect/Dependent		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Both parents	1,030	44.6	356	45.6	98	21.8	1,484	41.9
Mother only	641	27.8	191	24.5	157	35.0	989	28.0
Father only	101	4.4	27	3.5	23	5.1	151	4.3
Mother, Stepfather	199	8.6	82	10.5	33	7.3	314	8.9
Father, Stepmother	60	2.6	15	1.9	4	.9	79	2.2
Relatives	71	3.1	17	2.2	31	6.9	119	3.4
Foster, Group Home	76	3.3	44	5.6	66	14.7	186	5.3
Institution	50	2.2	5	.6	6	1.3	61	1.7
Independent	18	.8	5	.6	4	.9	27	.8
Other	23	1.0	9	1.2	25	5.6	57	1.6
Unknown	39	1.7	30	3.8	2	.4	71	2.0
TOTAL*	2,308	100.1**	781	100.0	449	99.9**	3,538	100.1**

* Does not include 920 missing observations.

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

Table 16
Reason for Referral by Employment and School Status, 1979

Status	Major		Minor		Neglect/Dependent		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Unemployed, not in school	159	7.5	77	11.1	9	2.2	245	7.6
Employed, not in school	104	4.9	25	3.6	0	--	129	4.0
Unemployed, in school	1,470	69.8	469	67.6	220	54.3	2,159	67.4
Employed, in school	373	17.7	120	17.3	7	1.7	500	15.6
Preschool	0	--	3	.4	169	41.7	172	5.4
TOTAL*	2,106	99.9**	694	100.0	405	99.9**	3,205	100.0

* Does not include 1,253 missing observations.

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

Metropolitan Areas and Balance-of-State Comparison

Referrals to the separate juvenile courts of Douglas and Lancaster Counties comprised 47.4% of the total juvenile court referrals in Nebraska in 1979. School enrollment data reveals that 37.7% of Nebraska's juvenile population resides in these two counties. Douglas County reported 1,011 juvenile court referrals to the Commission, Lancaster County reported 1,105 referrals, and the remaining 2,342 referrals came from the Balance-of-State counties.

Before comparisons of referral patterns in these jurisdictions can be made, certain qualifications of the data must be made. Differences exist in the reporting practices of the Douglas County Juvenile Court and Lancaster County Juvenile Court.

In Douglas County, the County Attorney's office acts as the court intake for all juvenile referrals. Only cases which are filed with petition in the juvenile court by the County Attorney's office are reported to the Commission.

In Lancaster County, juvenile court intake is handled by the probation office. All cases which come to the attention of the court intake are reported to the Commission. These cases represent both cases which are disposed of informally by the court intake (without petition) and cases formally disposed of by the court (with petition).

Even though the juvenile population of Douglas County is nearly three times larger than that of Lancaster County, it appears that juvenile court activity in both juvenile courts is comparable. This is because the Lancaster County figure for juvenile court referrals includes both manners of handling for court referrals. In comparing only those cases handled with petition in Nebraska, we find that the rate of referral per 1,000 juvenile population is 10.98 in Douglas County, 11.53 in Lancaster County and 10.30 for the Balance-of-State. These figures indicate no marked differences in the referral rate of juvenile cases heard by judges in the metropolitan juvenile courts and in the Balance-of-State juvenile courts.

Figure 9 shows the referral pattern of total juvenile court referrals for major, minor, and neglect-dependent cases in Douglas, Lancaster and all other counties. Differences exist between Douglas and Lancaster Counties in the proportions of minor and neglect-dependent cases referred to the court. In Douglas County, minor referrals accounted for only 9.7% of the total referrals, whereas in Lancaster County these cases represented 19.0% of the total cases. For neglect-dependent cases, Douglas County reported that these comprised 24.2% of their total caseload. Neglect-dependent cases only accounted for 4.5% of the total juvenile referrals in Lancaster County.

Few major differences exist in the ways in which cases were disposed of in the Nebraska juvenile courts (Table 17). In Douglas County, 30.2% of the referrals were found to be unsubstantiated and dismissed. Only 11.6% and 12.4% of the referrals in Lancaster County and all other counties respectively were disposed of in this manner. Lancaster County disposes of 34.3% of the referrals by holding open the case without further action. This is remarkably different from Douglas County which did not dispose of any cases in this manner and all other counties where only 1.4% of the cases were held open. Another difference exists in the proportion of cases disposed of by referral to a public agency. Douglas County disposed of 20.9% of its referrals in this manner, while Lancaster County employed this disposition for only .3% of its referrals and other counties for only 4.9% of their total referrals. A possible reason for the high incidence of this disposition in Douglas County is the proportionally larger number of neglect-dependent cases which are referred to that court.

Table 18 shows the sources of referrals for these jurisdictions. The only major difference exists in Douglas County where 23.3% of the referrals are from social agencies compared to .8% in Lancaster County and 3.6% in all others. Again, this might be attributed to the large number of neglect-dependent cases handled in the Douglas County Juvenile Court relative to the other juvenile courts.

Table 17
Dispositions in Douglas, Lancaster, and
All Other Counties, 1979

Disposition	Douglas		Lancaster		All Others		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Waived to Criminal Court	0	—	1	.1	29	1.2	30	.7
<i>Complaint Not Substantiated</i> Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	305	30.2	128	11.6	291	12.4	724	16.2
<i>Complaint Substantiated</i> No transfer of legal custody. Dismissed: warned, counselled	40	4.0	106	9.6	118	5.0	264	5.9
Hold open without further action	0	—	379	34.3	32	1.4	411	9.2
Formal probation	333	32.9	236	21.4	1,015	43.3	1,584	35.5
Referred to another agency or individual for service or supervision	23	2.3	132	11.9	128	5.5	283	6.3
Runaway returned	0	—	11	1.0	17	.7	28	.6
Fine or restitution	0	—	1	0.1	137	5.8	138	3.1
Other	5	.5	64	5.8	262	11.2	331	7.4
Transfer of Legal Custody to:								
Youth Development Center	36	3.6	13	1.2	68	2.9	117	2.6
Public Agency	211	20.9	3	.3	114	4.9	328	7.4
Private Agency	55	5.4	19	1.7	27	1.2	101	2.3
Individual	3	.3	3	.3	45	1.9	51	1.1
Other	0	—	9	.8	57	2.4	66	1.5
TOTAL*	1,011	100.1**	1,105	100.1**	2,340	99.8**	4,456	99.8**

* Does not include 2 unknown observations.

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

FIGURE 9
Comparison of Referral Frequencies
for Douglas, Lancaster and All Other Counties

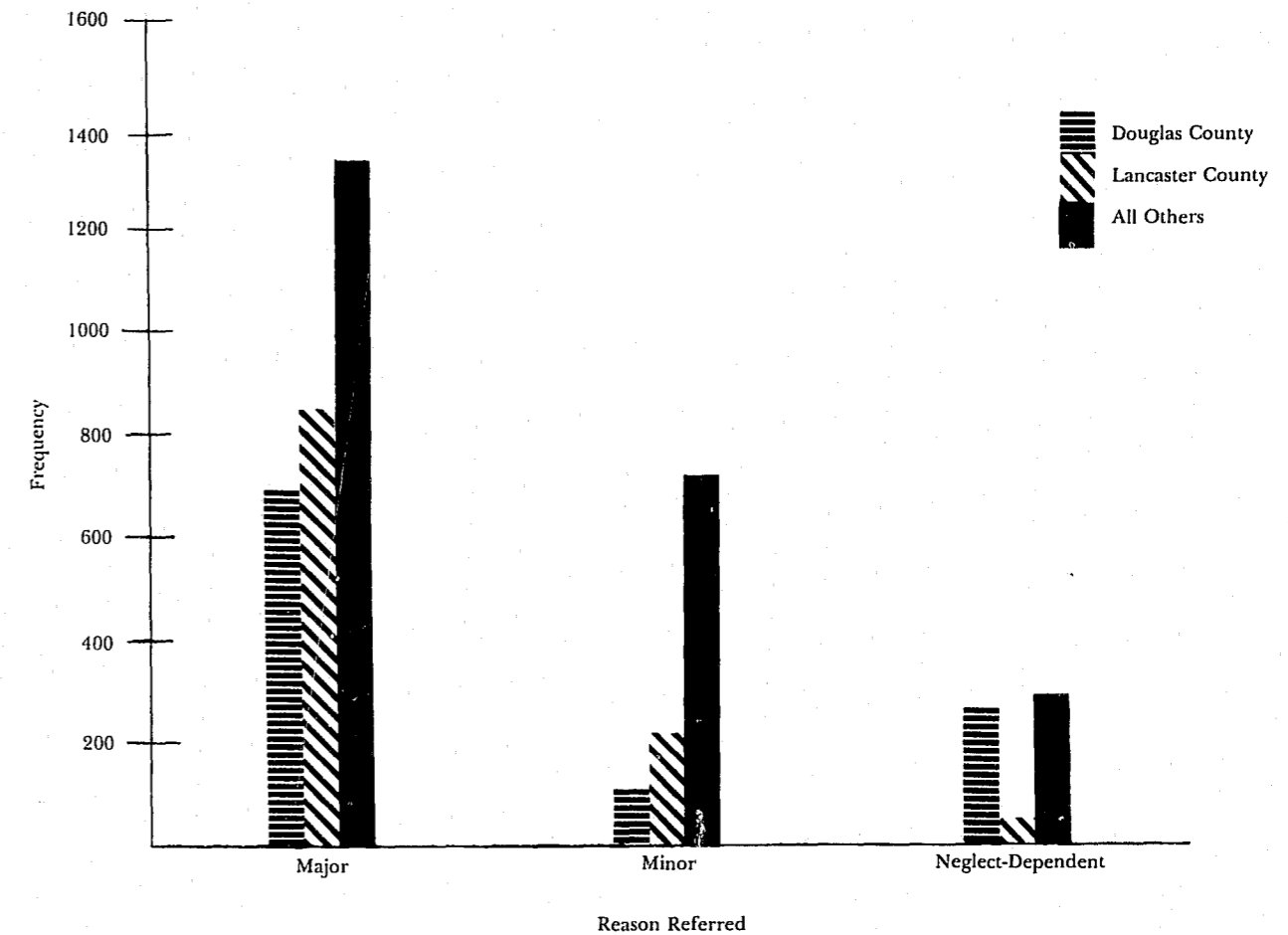


Table 18
Source of Referrals in Douglas, Lancaster,
And All Other Counties, 1979

Source of Referral	Douglas		Lancaster		All Others		Total	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Law Enforcement	658	65.1	546	49.5	1,256	55.7	2,460	56.3
School	9	.9	52	4.7	22	1.0	83	1.9
Social Agency	236	23.3	9	.8	81	3.6	326	7.5
Probation Office	0		27	2.4	19	.8	46	1.1
Parents, Relative	86	8.5	48	4.3	36	1.6	170	3.9
Other Court	22	2.2	164	14.9	18	.8	204	4.7
County Attorney	0		199	18.0	789	35.0	988	22.6
Other	0		59	5.3	33	1.5	92	2.1
TOTAL	1,011	100.0	1,104	99.9*	2,254	100.0	4,369	100.1*

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

**Appendix A
County Juvenile Justice Data, 1979**

County	Juvenile Population ¹	Number of Juvenile Arrests ²	Percent of Juvenile Population Arrested	Juvenile Court Referrals ³			
				Major Offenses	Minor Offenses	Neglect-Dependent	Total Cases
Adams	5,697	147	2.6%	38	22	0	60
Antelope	1,759	14	.8	7	3	0	10
Arthur	134	0	-	0	0	0	0
Banner	184	0	-	0	0	0	0
Blaine	239	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Boone	1,643	15	.9	7	1	2	10
Box Butte	2,591	120	4.6	18	8	10	36
Boyd	713	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Brown	937	16	1.7	3	3	5	11
Buffalo	6,739	146	2.2	19	7	0	26
Burt	1,876	29	1.5	10	2	5	17
Butler	1,921	19	1.0	19	32	0	51
Cass	3,865	113	2.9	18	8	11	37
Cedar	2,918	11	.4	2	1	2	5
Chase	1,134	2	.2	9	7	1	17
Cherry	1,243	17	1.4	1	2	0	3
Cheyenne	2,190	47	2.1	8	7	6	21
Clay	1,904	24	1.3	11	7	10	28
Colfax	2,398	30	1.3	8	9	3	20
Cuming	2,720	54	2.0	1	2	2	5
Custer	2,751	55	2.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dakota	3,500	158	4.5	16	2	8	26
Dawes	1,616	105	6.5	12	3	1	16
Dawson	4,941	206	4.2	38	10	2	50
Deuel	538	13	2.4	7	4	0	11
Dixon	1,684	12	.7	9	6	0	15
Dodge	8,115	301	3.7	8	2	0	10
Douglas	92,081	4,278	4.6	668	98	245	1,011
Dundy	475	4	.8	1	0	0	1
Fillmore	1,662	6	.4	10	17	1	28
Franklin	756	0	-	3	1	0	4
Frontier	788	14	1.8	2	2	0	4
Furnas	1,365	9	.7	8	3	3	14
Gage	4,458	219	4.9	21	5	9	35
Garden	516	3	.6	1	1	0	2
Garfield	482	0	-	0	0	0	0
Gosper	267	1	.4	0	0	0	0
Grant	289	0	-	0	0	0	0
Greeley	1,081	0	-	4	0	4	8
Hall	10,503	329	3.1	203	125	28	356
Hamilton	2,005	82	4.1	4	4	4	12
Harlan	699	28	4.0	2	2	0	4
Hayes	183	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Hitchcock	856	12	1.4	3	3	1	7
Holt	3,004	5	.2	0	0	0	0
Hooker	266	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Howard	1,850	17	.9	2	2	7	11
Jefferson	2,329	84	3.6	35	2	2	39
Johnson	1,162	34	2.9	6	1	0	7

Appendix A (Continued)

County	Juvenile Population ¹	Number of Juvenile Arrests ²	Percent of Juvenile Population Arrested	Juvenile Court Referrals ³			Total Cases
				Major Offenses	Minor Offenses	Neglect-Dependent	
Kearney	1,612	56	3.5	8	5	0	13
Keith	2,143	25	1.2	9	1	3	13
Keya Paha	247	3	1.2	0	0	0	0
Kimball	1,094	30	2.7	2	1	0	3
Knox	2,686	15	.6	29	19	1	49
Lancaster	34,354	1,755	5.1	845	210	50	1,105
Lincoln	7,887	380	4.8	43	31	0	74
Logan	274	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Loup	198	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Madison	6,732	299	4.4	39	9	13	61
McPherson	122	NA	-	0	0	0	0
Merrick	2,145	41	1.9	13	7	1	21
Morrill	1,247	29	2.3	6	9	0	15
Nance	971	24	2.5	7	1	0	8
Nemaha	1,461	54	3.7	10	3	0	13
Nuckolls	1,465	19	1.3	3	1	1	5
Otoe	3,406	71	2.1	18	10	1	29
Pawnee	726	3	.4	4	3	0	7
Perkins	672	0	-	1	0	1	2
Phelps	2,065	35	1.7	10	3	0	13
Pierce	1,754	23	1.3	2	0	1	3
Platte	6,339	309	4.9	16	16	0	32
Polk	1,326	59	4.4	14	18	0	32
Red Willow	2,636	88	3.3	20	3	5	28
Richardson	2,306	110	4.8	11	5	1	17
Rock	526	0	-	1	0	0	1
Saline	2,745	75	2.7	21	32	1	54
Sarpy	20,479	1,057	5.2	193	104	48	345
Saunders	3,880	84	2.2	28	3	0	31
Scotts Bluff	8,586	324	3.8	115	41	33	189
Seward	3,115	71	2.8	15	11	7	33
Sheridan	1,584	36	2.3	11	10	1	22
Sherman	966	2	.2	3	3	2	8
Sioux	203	1	.5	0	0	0	0
Stanton	670	10	1.5	1	1	0	2
Thayer	1,456	23	1.6	9	15	0	24
Thomas	150	0	-	0	0	0	0
Thurston	1,607	17	1.1	8	8	0	16
Valley	1,135	26	2.3	25	10	0	35
Washington	3,498	118	3.4	14	3	0	17
Wayne	1,864	49	2.6	17	9	2	28
Webster	1,010	6	.6	7	0	0	7
Wheeler	213	0	-	0	0	0	0
York	2,799	268	9.6	42	26	7	75
TOTAL	335,318	9,867	2.9	2,862	1,045	551	4,458

1. Juvenile population figures are from school enrollment data.

2. 1979 Uniform Crime Report data.

3. 1979 Juvenile Court Report data.

Appendix B
Uniform Crime Report Juvenile Arrest Data, 1974-1979

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Murder, Manslaughter	9	6	2	8	4	12
Death by Negligence	2	1	2	1	2	1
Forcible Rape	23	36	30	18	13	34
Robbery	213	210	158	127	102	122
Felony Assault	160	163	137	106	90	67
Burglary	1279	1175	1120	1181	1048	889
Larceny-Theft	4023	4056	3765	3562	3349	3583
Motor Vehicle Theft	657	527	467	454	458	388
Misdemeanor Assault	571	440	500	451	317	375
Arson	115	50	65	44	31	89
Forgery, Counterfeiting	76	104	82	103	86	111
Fraud	123	137	116	97	116	116
Embezzlement	4	1	1	4	6	6
Stolen Property-Buy, etc.	203	182	200	209	185	197
Vandalism	1424	1248	1384	1105	834	1011
Weapons Offenses	75	77	68	60	58	80
Prostitution, Comm. Vice	26	14	28	15	6	16
Sex Offenses	112	72	86	38	57	56
Drug Abuse Violations	1162	1064	1038	918	746	536
Gambling	8	0	3	0	0	0
Offenses Against Fam., Children	3	11	3	10	7	5
Driving Under the Influence	172	209	259	290	302	332
Liquor Laws	1405	1549	1564	1757	1585	1768
*Drunkeness-Intoxication	261	323	256	318	323	—
Disorderly Conduct	725	692	568	460	509	505
Vagrancy	16	9	4	6	8	2
All Other Offenses	1248	1173	1056	1408	1268	1285
Suspicion	201	199	62	79	72	36
Curfew, Loitering Violations	633	466	658	712	462	491
Runaways	1260	1070	590	551	523	451
Total	16189	15264	14272	14092	12567	12564

*No longer an offense due to change in the Nebraska Criminal Code.

END