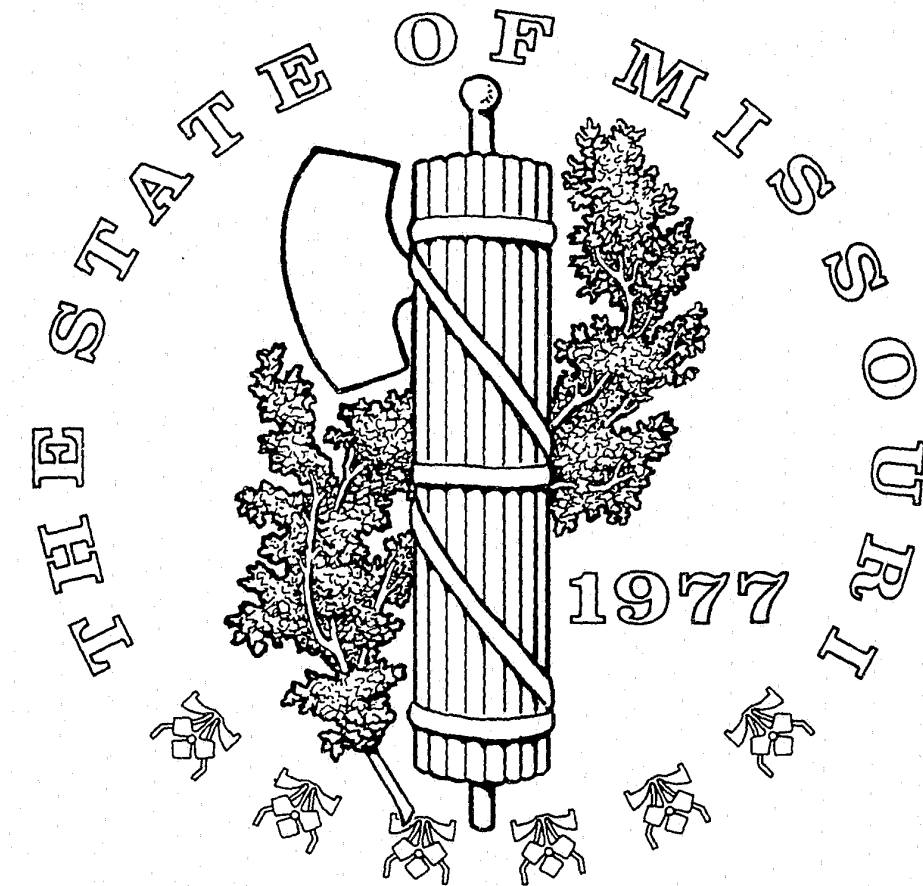


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# JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

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**APR 17 1981**

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JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

1977

Research Report No. 33

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES

Broadway State Office Building  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Prepared by  
Research and Statistics

INTRODUCTION

This report is the thirty-third in a series of research reports published by the Division of Family Services in accordance with Missouri Statutes.\* The information presented in this report was taken from data provided by the 43 juvenile courts of Missouri. There are no statutory requirements that juvenile courts report the number of cases referred each year, nevertheless, 79 counties reported on juvenile court cases and 90 counties reported on adoption cases.

The juvenile court statistics for delinquency, traffic offenses, dependency and neglect, and special proceedings are reported on a prescribed federal form. Major advantages of the form are greater detail in reasons for referral and disposition and the inclusion of some additional social data about the child and his family. St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Jackson County did not use this form; however they did provide their annual report. The data on this report is not as extensive as that provided on the federal form. Therefore, some of the tables will not include referral figures from these counties. These tables have footnotes pointing out this exclusion. Their exclusion means that most statistical tables represent characteristics of the outstate areas only.

In evaluating the statistics given in this report, one must consider the differences among counties in availability of social services, in community attitudes toward delinquency, and in the statistical reporting practices of the court. In some communities all children committing offenses are referred to the juvenile courts for disposition. In other counties only children committing more serious acts are referred to the juvenile courts. For this and other reasons noted above, comparative county trends should be used with qualification.

\* R. S. Mo., 1949, Sec. 207.020

Missouri Juvenile Court Statistics 1937-1977

Year	Total Juvenile Court Cases	Delinquency (includes traffic)	Dependency and Neglect	Adoptions	Other Special Proceedings
1937	7,400	4,374	2,072	954	
1938	5,889	3,650	1,491	748	
1939	8,891	6,161	1,871	859	
1940	6,639	5,308	1,331	*	
1941	8,478	5,666	1,921	891	
1942	9,414	6,336	2,223	855	
1943	11,323	7,351	2,625	1,347	
1944	10,016	5,957	2,614	1,445	
1945	10,790	6,243	2,924	1,623	
1946	9,672	5,341	2,203	1,702	426
1947	9,377	4,589	2,504	1,875	409
1948	9,435	4,786	2,669	1,575	405
1949	9,236	4,905	2,351	1,533	447
1950	9,583	5,040	2,270	1,732	541
1951	9,740	5,175	2,232	1,766	567
1952	9,926	5,389	2,296	1,785	456
1953	10,555	6,089	2,038	1,838	590
1954	11,230	6,555	2,333	1,846	496
1955	11,204	6,675	2,341	1,690	498
1956	13,268	8,512	2,478	1,813	465
1957	14,479	9,953	2,084	1,903	539
1958	17,047	12,248	2,430	1,798	571
1959	17,646	12,947	2,107	1,910	682
1960	19,053	13,584	2,694	2,027	748
1961	20,171	14,614	2,698	2,052	807
1962	23,520	18,011	2,498	2,167	844
1963	23,877	18,302	2,455	2,450	670
1964	29,053	22,214	3,415	2,608	816
1965	30,139	23,012	3,553	2,701	873
1966	33,483	26,025	3,605	2,859	994
1967	38,184	30,419	3,829	2,861	1,075
1968	38,091	31,264	3,092	2,769	966
1969	41,227	34,254	2,946	2,722	1,305
1970	47,666	38,753	4,492	2,524	1,897
1971	44,249	37,605	3,105	2,572**	967
1972	43,801	38,804	2,647	1,675**	675
1973	51,778	44,576	3,965	2,702	535
1974	55,511	46,971	4,648	2,557	1,335
1975	59,144	48,528	5,744	2,495	2,377
1976	60,131	48,107	6,677	2,466	2,881
1977	59,021	46,745	5,005	2,174	5,097

\*Figure not available.

\*\*Does not include Jackson County.

The Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) designation has been used to describe metropolitan counties, or counties which have a population "spill over" from the metropolitan counties. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area counties are Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

## DELINQUENCY

Juvenile delinquency cases in this report are those which are referred to the juvenile courts for acts defined in the statutes of the state as violations of state laws or municipal ordinances by children or youths of juvenile age. Under Missouri Law, Juvenile Court age includes children up to the age of 17 years. This includes offenses so seriously anti-social as to interfere with the rights of others or to menace the welfare of the youth himself or of the community. This broad definition includes conduct which is a violation of law only when committed by a child as well as conduct which is considered a law violation when committed by a person of any age. Also included, but separately reported, are traffic violations over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction. The cases reported are those cases which were disposed of by the courts during the calendar year 1977.

The number of reported juvenile delinquency referrals including traffic referrals in 1977 totaled 46,745, a decrease of 2.8 per cent over the past year. Until 1971, delinquency referrals had increased every year since 1948. In 1948, the juvenile courts handled 4,786 delinquency referrals. By 1970, this had increased by 710 per cent to 38,753 referrals.

Referrals for delinquent behavior excluding traffic, decreased from 33,780 in 1976 to 33,041, or a decrease of 2.2 per cent. Since some children are referred more than once during a year, the actual number of referrals (33,041), involves only an estimated 26,750 juveniles. Also, a referral is made each time a juvenile is apprehended for a delinquent act, but if the child commits several delinquent acts at the same time, only one offense is recorded.

Juvenile delinquency continues to be more prevalent in metropolitan areas than in more rural areas. Counties designated by the U.S. Census Bureau as being

in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, consisting of twelve counties in Missouri, contain 64.8 per cent of the child population ages 10-17 according to the 1970 Census figures. These same counties report 25,026 non-traffic delinquency referrals or 75.7 per cent of total non-traffic referrals.

Table 1. Changes in Delinquency and Traffic Referrals  
1948-1977

Year	Delinquency Referrals	Change From Prior Year	Traffic Referrals	Change From Prior Year
1948	4,515		271	
1949	4,745	5.1	160	-41.0
1950	4,823	1.6	217	35.6
1951	4,735	-1.8	440	102.7
1952	5,038	6.4	351	-20.2
1953	5,642	12.0	447	27.4
1954	5,891	4.4	664	48.5
1955	5,759	-2.2	916	38.0
1956	7,347	25.8	1,165	27.2
1957	8,302	13.0	1,651	41.7
1958	10,332	26.0	1,916	16.1
1959	10,386	0.5	2,249	17.3
1960	10,826	4.2	2,758	22.6
1961	11,307	4.4	3,307	19.9
1962	14,009	23.9	4,002	21.0
1963	13,305	-5.0	4,997	24.9
1964	16,508	24.1	5,706	14.2
1965	17,908	8.4	5,104	-10.6
1966	17,691	-1.2	8,334	63.3
1967	20,697	17.0	9,722	16.7
1968	21,389	3.2	9,875	1.6
1969	23,725	10.9	10,529	6.6
1970	28,017	18.0	10,736	1.9
1971	26,131	-5.8	11,474	6.9
1972	28,278	8.2	10,526	-8.3
1973	31,587	11.7	12,989	23.4
1974	33,508	6.1	13,463	3.6
1975	35,620	6.3	12,908	-4.1
1976	33,780	-5.2	14,327	11.0
1977	33,041	-2.2	13,704	-4.3

These differences between metropolitan areas and rural areas are due to actual higher delinquency rates and to difference in numbers of juvenile court staff available. In a majority of rural counties, the juvenile officer either serves part time or covers several counties in the judicial circuit.

Table 2. Reason for Referral by Population Area  
(excludes traffic)

Reason Referred	State Total		SMSA**		Other	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL	33,041	100.0	25,026	100.0	8,015	100.0
Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults:						
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	18	*	12	*	6	*
Manslaughter by negligence	10	*	9	*	1	*
Forcible rape	34	0.1	29	0.1	5	*
Robbery	554	1.7	478	1.9	76	0.9
Assault	1,695	5.1	1,402	5.6	293	3.7
Burglary: breaking or entering	2,894	8.8	2,248	9.0	646	8.1
Auto theft	1,112	3.4	873	3.5	239	3.0
Larceny	5,189	15.7	4,091	16.4	1,098	13.7
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	410	1.2	372	1.5	38	0.5
Sex offenses (except forcible rape)	235	0.8	204	0.8	31	0.4
Violation of drug laws	1,752	5.3	1,325	5.3	427	5.3
Drunkenness	263	0.8	195	0.8	68	0.9
Disorderly conduct	1,274	3.9	834	3.3	440	5.5
Vandalism	1,970	6.0	1,303	5.2	667	8.3
Other	3,267	9.9	2,684	10.7	583	7.3
Offenses applicable to juveniles only:						
Running away	4,305	13.0	3,126	12.5	1,179	14.7
Truancy	1,962	5.9	1,471	5.9	491	6.1
Violation of curfew	1,284	3.9	1,029	4.1	255	3.2
Ungovernable behavior	2,474	7.5	1,871	7.5	603	7.5
Possessing or drinking of liquor	1,684	5.1	955	3.8	729	9.1
Other	655	2.0	515	2.1	140	1.8

\*Less than one-tenth of one per cent.

\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

The seriousness of particular delinquent juvenile acts is difficult to determine but the reasons for referral may be divided into adult type offenses and juvenile type offenses. Adult type offenses include murder and non-negligent manslaughter, manslaughter by negligence, sex offenses, purse snatching, other robbery, assault, burglary, auto theft, larceny, possession of weapons, violation of drug laws, drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and vandalism. Juvenile offenses include running away, truancy, violation of curfew, ungovernable behavior and possession or drinking of liquor. When this kind of classification is used, 62.6 per cent of the referrals are for adult type offenses (Table 2).

By taking Appendix Tables II and III, we can group several similar offenses and rank them in accordance with age and sex. This group includes both those offenses which are applicable to adults and juveniles, such as larceny and burglary, and those offenses applicable only to juveniles, such as running away and truancy.

Rank	Male	Female
1	Larceny*	Running Away
2	Burglary	Larceny*
3	Vandalism	Ungovernable behavior
4	Possessing or drinking liquor	Truancy
5	Running Away	Possessing or drinking liquor
6	Ungovernable Behavior	Violation of drug laws

\*Larceny includes shoplifting.

The table below accurately reflects the characteristics of juvenile referrals in the outstate areas. Referrals from Jackson County, St. Louis County, and the City of St. Louis are not included.

Rank	12 Years and Under	13-14 Years	15 Years	16 Years
1	Vandalism	Running away	Running away	Possessing or drinking liquor
2	Larceny*	Larceny*	Larceny*	Running away
3	Burglary	Vandalism	Possessing or drinking liquor	Larceny*
4	Truancy	Burglary	Ungovernable behavior	Violation of drug laws
5	Ungovernable behavior	Ungovernable behavior	Burglary	Burglary
6	Disorderly conduct	Truancy	Truancy	Ungovernable behavior

\*Larceny includes shoplifting.

The type of care used by the courts for juveniles pending disposition varies greatly, due mainly to the type of facility available. Since a large number of referrals for traffic violations are not detained overnight, they are excluded from the data concerning type of care. Of the 11,379 delinquency referrals for which we have these statistics, 2,117 or 18.6 per cent resulted in detention of the juvenile.

The place of detention varies widely between the SMSA counties and the rural counties. In the SMSA counties, for which data is available, juveniles detained were placed in specialized detention facilities for 63.7 per cent of the detained referrals, in jail for 30.6 per cent, and in foster homes and other facilities for 5.7 per cent of the referred cases which were detained. In the rural counties, juveniles detained were placed in jail in 75.2 per cent of the referrals, in specialized detention facilities for 20.4 per cent of the referrals, and in foster homes and other facilities for 4.4 per cent of the detained cases.

When classified by sex, 20.1 per cent of the girls referred were detained compared with 18.0 per cent of the boys. Of the total number of juveniles detained, 31.1 per cent were girls, and 68.9 per cent were boys.

Table 3. Care Pending Disposition by Population Area, Race and Sex\* (excludes traffic)

Care Pending Disposition	State Total				SMSA**				Other			
	White		Non-White		White		Non-White		White		Non-White	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
TOTAL	7,597	3,078	508	196	2,344	920	74	26	5,253	2,158	434	170
No detention or shelter care overnight	6,293	2,457	353	159	2,076	758	53	23	4,217	1,699	300	136
Detention or shelter care overnight or longer in:												
Jail or police station	921	345	103	20	97	33	7	2	824	312	96	18
Detention home	337	224	51	16	155	119	14	1	182	105	37	15
Foster family home	17	31		1	3	2			14	29		1
Other	29	21	1		13	8			16	13	1	

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

The two types of delinquency dispositions are official and unofficial or, in legal terminology, with or without a petition. These cases for which a petition is filed are placed on the court calendar for adjudication by the juvenile court judge. The unofficial cases are those that have no petition filed and are handled informally by the juvenile judge or some other official of the court.



Official and unofficial handling is determined by the type of offense committed. In the following table the offenses with the highest percentages for official and unofficial dispositions are given. Approximately 17.4 per cent of the total cases were disposed of officially during the calendar year.

Rank	Official	Unofficial
1	Burglary	Running away
2	Running away	Larceny*
3	Larceny*	Vandalism
4	Ungovernable behavior	Possessing or drinking liquor
5	Auto theft	Ungovernable behavior
6	Violation of drug laws	Burglary

\*Larceny includes shoplifting.

Types of disposition may be defined as the action taken by the juvenile courts with respect to the individual concerned and the reason for referral. Of the delinquency cases referred, for which we have this statistic, 786 or 6.9 per cent were dismissed because the charge was not proved or individual was not found to be involved. In 658 cases (5.8 per cent) the court transferred legal custody of the juvenile. Of the remaining cases, the most common types of disposition are as follows:

Rank	Type of Disposition	Per Cent
1	Dismissed: Warned, adjusted, counselled	43.1
2	Probation Officer to supervise	18.6
3	Held Open without further action	7.8
4	Referred to another agency or individual	7.7
5	Runaway returned	7.0

When type of disposition is compared between SMSA counties and other counties, both use warning, adjustment, counselling more than any other type (54.2 per cent for SMSA counties and 38.4 per cent for other counties). Probation officer supervision is the next most used type of disposition for both with SMSA counties using this in 16.0 per cent of the cases and other counties in 19.7 per cent.

Table 4. Type of Disposition by Population Grouping\*  
(excludes traffic)

Disposition	Total		SMSA***		Other	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL	11,379	100.0	3,364	100.0	8,015	100.0
Waived to criminal court	34	0.3	4	0.1	30	0.4
Complaint not substantiated: Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	786	6.9	182	5.4	604	7.5
Complaint substantiated - No transfer of legal custody: Dismissed: Warned, adjusted, counselled	4,901	43.1	1,822	54.2	3,079	38.4
Held open without further action	893	7.8	179	5.3	714	8.9
Probation officer to supervise	2,113	18.6	538	16.0	1,575	19.7
Referred to another agency or individual for supervision or service	876	7.7	189	5.6	687	8.6
Runaway returned	797	7.0	243	7.2	554	6.9
Other	321	2.8	40	1.2	281	3.5
Transfer of legal custody to: Public institution for delinquents	264	2.3	75	2.2	189	2.4
Other public institution	37	0.3	17	0.5	20	2.5
Public agency or department	166	1.5	59	1.8	107	1.3
Private agency or institution	46	0.4	6	0.2	40	0.5
Individual	58	0.5	2	**	56	0.7
Other	87	0.8	8	0.2	79	1.0

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis and the City of St. Louis.

\*\*Less than one-tenth of one per cent.

\*\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

Type of disposition was unknown for 21,662 or 86.6 per cent of the SMSA counties' 25,026 reported referrals. The SMSA breakdown did not include the counties of Jackson, St. Louis, or the City of St. Louis.



The seven most frequent reasons for referral were cross classified by the type of disposition, as shown in Table 5. Among the reasons for referral, there are differences in their disposition. There are differences between drinking and drug violations and between burglary and larceny with respect to cases dismissed, referred to a probation officer, or transfer of custody to a public institution for delinquents.

Table 5. Reason for Referral by Type of Disposition\*

Disposition	Reason for Referral						
	Larceny	Running Away	Burglary	Ungovernable Behavior	Truancy	Vandalism	Possessing Liquor
TOTAL	1,597	1,731	995	830	635	948	916
Waived to criminal court	2	1	15		2		3
Complaint not substantiated Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	114	41	76	33	26	118	45
Complaint substantiated - No transfer of legal custody: Dismissed: Warned, adjusted, counselled	848	357	247	350	367	452	489
Held open without further action	128	91	58	112	66	67	69
Probation officer to supervise	321	183	399	115	89	177	203
Referred to another agency or individual for super- vision or service	95	182	52	111	42	36	61
Runaway returned	1	755	1	8	1		
Other	29	20	33	21	15	62	34
Transfer of legal custody to:							
Public institution for delinquents	29	25	76	29	6	3	1
Other public institution		6	2	6	2		
Public agency or department	14	36	23	20	11	6	3
Private agency or institution	8	13	3	9	1	1	1
Individual	2	13	6	12	2	3	3
Other	6	8	4	4	5	23	4

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

## DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT

Children are referred for dependency and neglect when they are abandoned, deserted, abused; when they fail to receive adequate care and support; or when they are subjected to conditions injurious to morals. After receiving such reports about the care of children, the juvenile court either conducts a study of the situation or refers the case to a social agency for consideration.

During 1977, there were 5,005 referrals for dependency and neglect. Unlike delinquency, where only one child of a family may be referred, usually all the children within the family will be referred for dependency and neglect. Therefore, in describing referrals, each child is considered a separate referral, although several children from the same family may have been called to the attention of the court by a single complaint. As in delinquency, some children may be referred more than one time for neglect during the year.

Of the total child referrals, 3,618 or 72.3 per cent came from the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area counties of Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and St. Louis City; and 1,407 or 27.7 per cent came from the other counties. (See Appendix Table I for other details.)

Reason for Referral. - The category of dependency and neglect includes lack of adequate care or support, abandonment or desertion, abuse or cruel treatment, conditions injurious to morals, and physical handicaps necessitating institutional placement. Lack of adequate care or support can be described as the failure of parents to provide the minimum standard of care for the child. Although no statistics are available, it may be assumed that the failure to give adequate care usually does not depend on family income but on parental abilities and adjustment. Referral for lack of

adequate care or support is the most common reason for referral.

Source of Referral. - Unlike delinquency, dependency and neglect referrals come from many sources. Such referrals are often made on the appearance of a child rather than on an action of the child. Therefore, schools, social agencies, and relatives, as well as the police, are responsible for bringing dependent and neglected children to the attention of the court. Sources reported for dependency and neglect are shown in Appendix Table V. Law enforcement agencies made 312 or 15.8 per cent of the referrals, social agencies made 1,182 or 60.0 per cent, parents or relatives made 258 or 13.1 per cent, schools made 59 or 3.0 per cent, and 143 or 7.3 per cent were made by all other sources.

Care of Pending Disposition. - Some referrals for dependency and neglect are so urgent that care outside the home is required prior to the time of disposition. Of these referrals reported (Appendix Table VI), 1,370 or 69.5 per cent required no care outside the home prior to the disposition of the case. Of the 599 children requiring care outside the home prior to disposition, 405 or 67.6 per cent were given care in foster homes, 60 or 10.0 per cent were provided care in detention facilities, 9 or 1.5 per cent were placed in jail, and the remaining 125 or 20.9 per cent were provided other kinds of care outside the home.

Types of disposition for dependency and neglect referrals are based on the court's decision, after a detailed study of what will best meet the needs of the child or children. Of the 1,969 referrals, for which we have statistics for neglect, 126 or 6.4 per cent of the referrals were found not to be neglected. Although there is no breakdown for reason referred, it may be assumed that a large number of referrals are made because the children are alleged to be receiving inadequate care. "Adequate" care is difficult to determine

and, therefore, differences of opinion of what constitutes adequate care results in the findings of no neglect in some cases. (See Table 6 for other details.)

Of the 1,843 referrals where neglect was found, 131 or 7.1 per cent were dismissed by warning or held open without any further action. Where the court feels some action is necessary, the most common type of disposition is referral or commitment to a public agency.

In 1977, of the 1,843 referrals where neglect was found, 554 or 30.1 per cent were referred to another agency or individual for supervision or service. Re-

Table 6. Type of Disposition by Population Grouping\*  
(Dependency and Neglect)

Disposition	Total		SMSA**		Other	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL	1,969	100.0	562	100.0	1,407	100.0
Waived to criminal court	25	1.3			25	1.8
Complaint not substantiated Dismissed: Not proved or found not involved	126	6.4	12	2.1	114	8.1
Complaint substantiated - No transfer of legal custody: Dismissed: Warned, adjusted, counselled	131	6.7	25	4.4	106	7.5
Held open without further action	202	10.3	10	1.8	192	13.6
Probation officer to supervise	7	0.4	2	0.4	5	0.4
Referred to another agency or individual for supervision or service	554	28.1	209	37.2	345	24.5
Runaway returned	7	0.4	2	0.4	5	0.4
Other	83	4.2	2	0.4	81	5.8
Transfer of legal custody to:						
Public institution for delinquents	8	0.4	1	0.2	7	0.5
Other public institution	29	1.5	4	0.7	25	1.8
Public agency or department	549	27.9	243	43.2	306	21.7
Private agency or institution	22	1.1	8	1.4	14	1.0
Individual	152	7.7	33	5.9	119	8.5
Other	74	3.8	11	2.0	63	4.5

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

referrals to social agencies indicate the court has requested service to be given in an effort to improve conditions causing the neglect situation. Sometimes home conditions indicate the court should remove the child or children from the parents' or relatives' home. In 760 or 38.6 per cent of the neglect referrals, the court transferred the legal custody of the child to a public or private agency or institution or another individual. Some of these children may be removed from their own homes and some may remain in their own homes under supervision. Many of the children removed from their homes are placed in foster homes.

#### SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

Special proceedings cases are those concerning adoptions, commitment of mentally defective children, material witnesses, application for consent to marry, and determination of the custody or guardianship of children.

There were 7,271 special proceedings cases reported during 1977. Of the total cases, 2,174 were adoption cases, which will be examined further in the next section, and the remaining 5,097 grouped under "other". Of the 7,271 special proceedings cases 6,289 or 86.5 per cent were from SMSA counties and 982 or 13.5 per cent were from other counties.

#### ADOPTIONS

Adoption is the process by which a child legally acquires a new parent or parents and through which he is given, by law, the protection, rights, and obligations of a natural child. Adoptive parents are selected in a number of ways but the preferred method involves detailed study and discussion with prospective parents prior to the placement of a child.

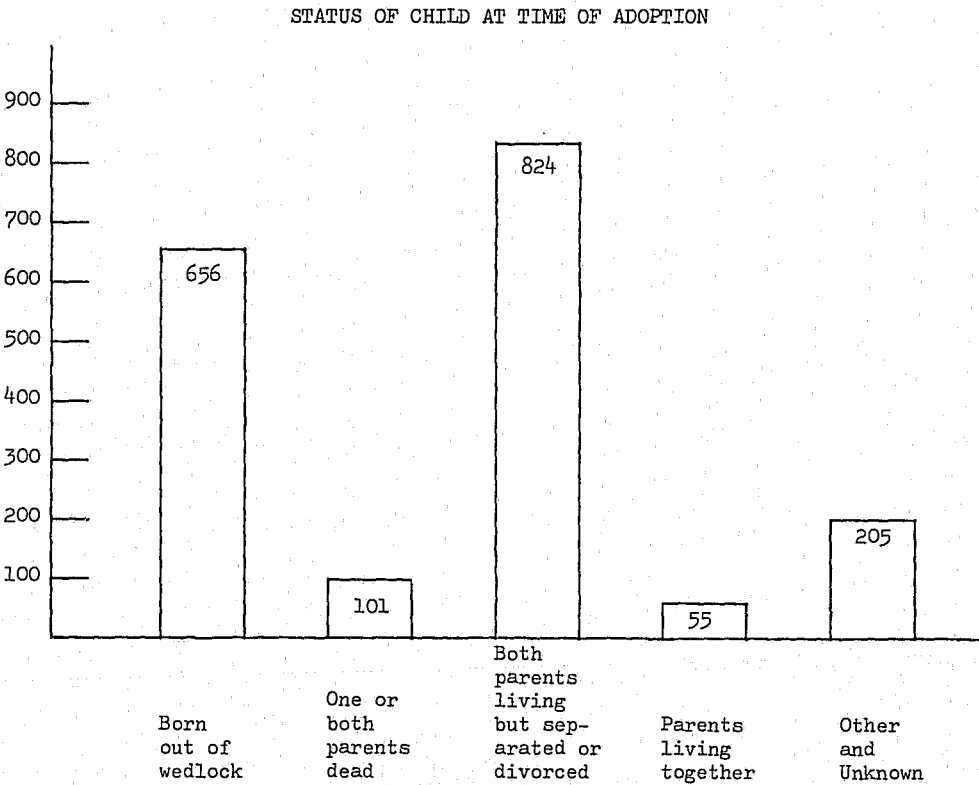
Adoptions are classified by the relationship of the adoptive child to the petitioner. Of the 2,174\* adoptions in 1977, 593 children were adopted by persons unrelated to the child, 932 were adopted by stepparents, 125 were adopted by natural parents; rel-

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\* Jackson County reported 333 adoption cases, but no other information about these children or their adoptive parents was given. Therefore, all the charts, tables, or analyses in this section will exclude these 333 adoptions.

atives other than parents adopted 109 children, and in 82 adoptions the relationship of the petitioner to the child was not reported. Well over half, 63.3 per cent, of the adopted children joined families of natural parents, stepparents or relatives. This represents the continuation of an established family relationship which is the most desirable situation for an adoptive child.

Of the 1,166 children adopted by their natural parents, stepparents, or relatives, 242 (20.8 per cent) were born out of wedlock, 789 (67.7 per cent) had both natural parents living at the time of their adoption, and 79 children were orphans. Status was unknown for 56 of these children.



Unrelated petitioners adopted 593 children. Of these, 402 or 67.8 per cent were born out of wedlock, 81 or 13.7 per cent were born to married couples, and 21 or 3.5 per cent had one or both parents dead. The status of the remaining 89 was classified "other" or "unknown".

The success of an adoption depends to a great extent on the age of the child, and therefore, efforts are made to place the child at the earliest age possible. Although data are not collected on the reasons children are available for adoption, it may be assumed that a large majority of the younger children are relinquished for adoption having been born out of wedlock, and the other children adopted have become available because of environmental situations which have resulted in the removal and eventual termination of parental rights. Many of the adopted children, 53.2 per cent, needed no placement as they were already in the families of the petitioners.

Table 7. Age of Adoptive Child at Time of Placement by Placing Agency\*

Age	Total	Public Child Placing Agency or Institution	Private Child Placing Agency or Institution	Own Parent	Other Relatives	Guardian	Other	No Placement, Child Always in Home	No Placement, Child Not in Home
TOTAL	1,841	415	170	177	10	2	62	979	26
0-5 months	108	60	7	34	1		5	1	
6-11 months	113	52	35	24	1		1		
1-2 years	59	26	10	20			2	1	
3-4 years	62	27	4	27	3		1		
5-6 years	46	27	3	14		1		1	
7-8 years	29	15	1	12			1		
9-10 years	18	12	2	3	1				
11-14 years	17	14		1			2		
15 and over	4		1	3					
Not specified	1,385	182	107	39	4	1	50	976	26

\*Excludes 333 adoptions from Jackson County.

Placement is classified in three groups: agency, independent, and no placement. Agency placements are further subdivided into public and private. A total of 585 agency adoptions were completed during the year of which 415 or 70.9 per cent were made by public agencies.

Independent placements are those made by parents, other relatives, or other individuals and organizations without referral to an adoptive agency. During 1977 a total of 251 independent adoptive placements were made. Of these placements, 187 or 74.5 per cent were made by the child's parent, or other relative, and 64 or 25.5 per cent were made by other individuals or organizations.

"No placement" adoptions are predominantly step-parent adoptions following remarriage by the child's parent. During 1977 there were 1,005 such adoptions, representing 54.6 per cent of all the adoptions during the year.

Before the adoption is final and prior to placement of the child, the juvenile court requests a study of the child to be adopted and the suitability of the adoptive home. Social agencies also conduct similar

studies prior to adoption but when an adoptive placement is made by a parent, relative, or other individual, a study of the child's new environment is not made until after placement.

The juvenile court staff made 21 or 3.7 per cent of the studies for agency placements, social agencies made 527 or 93.6 per cent, and other individuals or agencies made 15 studies or 2.7 per cent. The juvenile court studies were made by the adoption unit of the juvenile court. Of the 251 independent placements requiring adoptive studies, the juvenile court made 82 (32.7 per cent), social agencies made 84 studies (33.5 per cent), 70 studies (27.9 per cent), were made by individuals or other agencies, and in 14 cases (5.6 per cent) no studies were made. Juvenile courts made 183 (18.2 per cent) of the "no placement" adoptions, 402 (40.0 per cent) were made by social agencies, and 284 (28.3 per cent) were made by individuals or other agencies. No study was made in 124 of the "no placement" adoptions. For further data see Appendix Table X.

Of the 1,181 adoptive placements requiring studies in SMSA counties, 166 or 14.1 per cent of the studies were made by juvenile courts. The majority of the studies (52.3 per cent) were made by other individuals or agencies and the remaining studies (33.6 per cent) were made by social agencies. In the non-urban areas the trend was reversed. The majority of studies, 333 (50.5 per cent) were made by social agencies and the remaining studies were divided between the juvenile courts, 120 (18.2 per cent), and other individuals or agencies, 207 (31.4 per cent). Table 8 contains additional data.

Table 8. Agency Making Adoptive Study by Population Area\*

Investigating Agency	State Total		SMSA**		Other	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL	1,841	100.0	1,181	100.0	660	100.0
Court Staff	286	15.5	166	14.1	120	18.2
State Division of Family Services	730	39.7	397	33.6	333	50.5
Local public agency	160	8.6	91	7.7	69	10.5
Private agency	123	6.7	113	9.6	10	1.5
Combinations	542	29.4	414	35.1	128	19.4

\*Excludes 333 adoptions from Jackson County.  
 \*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

APPENDIX - SUPPLEMENTARY STATISTICAL TABLES-----

Table I. Juvenile Delinquency, Dependency and Neglect

County	Total Juve- nile Court Cases*	Delinquency Cases					Traf- fic Vio- la- tions
		Total**	Court Disposition				
			Warned, Dis- missed, Adjusted or Held Open	Super- vision or Proba- tion	Com- mitted to Public Insti- tution	Other and Not Spec- ified	
STATE TOTAL	59,021	33,041	***	***	***	***	13,704
Adair	315	207	163	31	4	9	69
Andrew	32	8	5	3			24
Atchison	76	38	11	17		10	32
Audrain	396	268	151	94	9	14	89
Barry	92	53	15	23	11	4	25
Barton	11	3		3			
Bates	46	16		11		5	
Benton							
Bollinger	32	14	10	2		2	18
Boone	41						
Buchanan	1,181	728	619	63	18	28	400
Butler	377	155	102	28		25	33
Caldwell	24	12	2	5		5	4
Callaway							
Camden	13						
Cape Girardeau	720	451	307	83	8	53	210
Carroll	159	102	56	31		15	35
Carter	13	5	5				2
Cass	18						
Cedar							
Chariton	1						
Christian	208	124	58	37	2	27	65
Clark	20	4			2	2	
Clay	78						
Clinton	116	77	72	1		4	23
Cole	967	573	307	226	14	26	268
Cooper	160	87	25	7	5	50	58
Crawford							
Dade							
Dallas	2						
Daviess	18	4		1		3	1
DeKalb							
Dent	30	5	2	1		2	
Douglas	98	39	13	15	4	7	32
Dunklin	512	358	308	29	9	12	82
Franklin							
Gasconade	6						
Gentry	42	19	12	5		2	16
Greene	1,706	706	408	87	30	181	686
Grundy	105	47	4	6		37	46
Harrison	62	35	6	4		25	21
Henry	66	34		22	6	6	
Hickory							
Holt	41	16	6	5		5	23
Howard	85	45	29	16			35
Howell	73	26	17	5	2	2	1
Iron	39	23	22	1			11
Jackson	10,253	5,278					2,547
Jasper	67						
Jefferson	1,359	820	460	297	30	33	236
Johnson							
Knox	54	31	15	9	1	6	10
Laclede	14						
Lafayette	17						
Lawrence							
Lewis	129	80	44	36	1	9	29
Lincoln	175	108	56	49		3	46

\* For counties where no entries are made the county failed to report or reported they had no cases of the specified type.  
\*\* Traffic violations not included.  
\*\*\* State Totals are not available.

and Special Proceedings Cases, by Counties, 1977

County	Total	Dependency and Neglect Cases				Special Proceedings	
		Warned, Dis- missed, Adjusted or Held Open	Super- vision or Proba- tion	Com- mitted to Public Insti- tution	Other and Not Spec- ified	Adoptions	Other
STATE TOTAL	5,005	***	***	***	***	2,174	5,097
Adair							
Andrew	23	6	8	1	8	10	6
Atchison	5				5	1	
Audrain	22	4	8		10	16	1
Barry	10		8		2	4	
Barton						8	
Bates	26		8		18	4	
Benton							
Bollinger							
Boone						41	
Buchanan	11	4	5	1	1	33	9
Butler	161	131	15	1	14	21	7
Caldwell	7	1			6	1	
Callaway							
Camden						13	
Cape Girardeau	45	10	11	15	9	2	12
Carroll	18	7	8		3	4	
Carter	5		5			1	
Cass						18	
Cedar							
Chariton						1	
Christian	11	2			9	6	2
Clark	9	4			5	7	
Clay						78	
Clinton	6	4			2	10	
Cole	87	23	29		35	20	19
Cooper	9	3			6	5	1
Crawford							
Dade							
Dallas						2	
Daviess	12				12		1
DeKalb							
Dent	10		2		8	14	1
Douglas	18	2			16	9	
Dunklin	51	4	23		24	21	
Franklin							
Gasconade						6	
Gentry	4	1	2		1	3	
Greene	179	14	8	4	153	134	1
Grundy	10	2	6		2		2
Harrison	3	1			2	2	1
Henry	10	1	4		5	15	7
Hickory							
Holt	1				1	1	
Howard						2	3
Howell	32	14	2		16	13	1
Iron	5	1			4		
Jackson							
Jasper	2,095					333	
Jefferson	154	19	8		127	67	44
Johnson						105	
Knox	4		1		3	6	3
Laclede						14	
Lafayette						17	
Lawrence							
Lewis	5		3		2	9	6
Lincoln	8	2	5		1	6	7



Table I. Juvenile Delinquency, Dependency and Neglect							
County	Total Juvenile Court Cases*	Delinquency Cases				Other and Not Specified	Traffic Violations
		Total**	Court Disposition				
			Warned, Dis-missed, Adjusted or Held Open	Super-vision or Probation	Com-mitted to Public Institution		
Linn	199	109	77	23		9	71
Livingston	162	116	66	20	2	28	24
McDonald	114	40	15	25			70
Macon	96	55	18	23	1	13	20
Madison	49	33	9	17	2	5	4
Maries	717	481	330	87	2	62	175
Marion	26	10	1	2		7	9
Mercer	7						
Miller	286	230	175	30	6	19	40
Mississippi	3						
Moniteau	79	38	27	3		8	30
Monroe	124	71	41	23	2	5	47
Montgomery							
Morgan	9						
New Madrid	360	186	99	27	10	50	76
Newton	93	50	19	20	1	10	35
Nodaway	9						
Oregon							
Osage	40	12	2	9		1	8
Ozark	338	284	199	26	19	40	42
Pemiscot	188	107	38	46		23	34
Perry	305	139	113	12	7	7	139
Pettis	587	429	154	185	15	75	122
Phelps	154	89	38	43	4	4	56
Pike	996	560	307	152	3	98	205
Platte							
Polk	862	533	236	162	5	130	88
Pulaski	20	11		2		9	2
Putnam	62	21	14			7	23
Ralls	261	149	88	43	3	15	93
Randolph	155	73	34	30	3	6	58
Ray	36	25	20	5			7
Reynolds	74	48	20	11	3	14	21
Ripley	1,000	550	389	128	11	22	356
St. Charles	18	9		2	4	3	
St. Clair	466	358	167	138	2	51	39
St. Francois	113	69	35	25		9	23
Ste. Genevieve	17,940	10,515					4,586
St. Louis	11,048	5,876					1,582
St. Louis City							
Saline							
Schuyler	608	378	243	68	12	55	162
Scotland	24	3	2	1			1
Scott	48	14	4	10			33
Shannon	303	165	84	59	3	19	83
Shelby	30	16	4	11	1		7
Stoddard							
Stone	146	68	34	22	5	7	36
Sullivan	254	167	26	125	3	13	38
Taney	33	27	5	18	3	1	
Texas	156	119	60	38	4	17	24
Vernon	66	22	4	12		6	1
Warren	96	50	27	7	1	15	13
Washington	4						
Wayne	23	12	5	1		6	9
Webster	185	125	41	55	8	21	35
Worth							
Wright							

County	Total	Dependency and Neglect Cases				Special Proceedings	
		Warned, Dis-missed, Adjusted or Held Open	Court Disposition		Other and Not Spec-ified	Adoptions	Other
			Super-vision or Probation	Com-mitted to Public Insti-tution			
Linn	13	4	7		2	2	4
Livingston	18	2	1	1	14		4
McDonald							
Macon	13	5			8	4	4
Madison	12		8		4		
Maries	49	8	18		23	9	3
Marion						3	4
Mercer						7	
Miller	9	3	5	1		6	1
Mississippi							
Moniteau						3	
Monroe	10	4	1		5	1	
Montgomery	6				6		
Morgan							
New Madrid						9	
Newton	28	1			27	32	38
Nodaway						8	
Oregon						9	
Osage							
Ozark	12				12	7	1
Pemiscot							
Perry	47	8	29	4	6	11	1
Pettis	10			1	9	17	
Phelps	26	5	2		19		10
Pike	4	2	2			5	
Platte	206	9	190		7	23	2
Polk							
Pulaski	180	86	58		36	34	27
Putnam	1				1	4	2
Ralls	14	3	5		6	3	1
Randolph	2				2	16	1
Ray	11	2	5		4	12	
Reynolds	4				4		
Ripley	4				4	1	
St. Charles	3	1			2	9	
St. Clair	4				4	5	
St. Francois	48	17	4		27	12	9
Ste. Genevieve	14	2	4	2	6	6	1
St. Louis	399					541	1,899
St. Louis City	562					118	2,910
Saline							
Schuyler							
Scotland							
Scott	46	17	26		3	11	11
Shannon	17				17	3	
Shelby						1	
Stoddard	34	5	7		22	12	9
Stone	4		4			3	
Sullivan							
Taney	37	1			36	5	
Texas	27	8	6		13	11	11
Vernon	1	1				5	
Warren	4				4	9	
Washington	20	1	2	6	11	14	9
Wayne	33	2	8		23		
Webster						4	
Worth	2				2		
Wright	15	2			13	10	



Table II. Reason for Referral by Sex\*  
(excludes traffic)

Reason Referred	Total	Male	Female	Not Specified**
TOTAL	11,379	8,291	3,088	21,662
Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults:				
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	6	4	2	
Manslaughter by negligence	2	1	1	
Forcible rape	6	6		
Robbery	97	90	7	
Assault	388	303	85	
Burglary: breaking or entering	996	941	55	
Auto theft	352	313	39	
Larceny	1,599	1,241	358	
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	63	57	6	
Sex offenses (except forcible rape)	55	37	18	
Violation of drug laws	680	515	165	
Drunkenness	111	90	21	
Disorderly conduct	522	389	133	
Vandalism	948	865	83	
Other	822	658	164	
Offenses applicable to juveniles only:				
Running away	1,731	705	1,026	
Truancy	636	390	246	
Violation of curfew	421	312	109	
Ungovernable behavior	830	532	298	
Possessing or drinking liquor	917	710	207	
Other	197	132	65	

\*Excludes 33 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the city of St. Louis.  
\*\*Jackson County, St. Louis County, and St. Louis City.

Table III. Reason for Referral by Age at Time of Referral\*  
(excludes traffic)

Reason Referred	Total	12 and Under	13-14	15	16	17 and Over	Not Specified**
TOTAL	11,379	1,564	3,191	2,942	3,584	98	21,662
Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults:							
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	6	1	1	1	3		
Manslaughter by negligence	2	1			1		
Forcible rape	6		3		3		
Robbery	97	5	20	30	41	1	
Assault	388	68	90	103	125	2	
Burglary: breaking or entering	996	179	280	224	306	7	
Auto theft	352	21	114	105	109	3	
Larceny	1,599	287	475	383	441	13	
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	63	5	16	15	27		
Sex offenses (except forcible rape)	55	15	21	9	10		
Violation of drug laws	680	14	164	186	311	5	
Drunkenness	111	2	24	31	53	1	
Disorderly conduct	522	115	137	121	148	1	
Vandalism	948	320	284	159	178	7	
Other	822	130	188	192	300	12	
Offenses applicable to juveniles only:							
Running away	1,731	95	587	526	489	34	
Truancy	636	127	256	220	31	2	
Violation of curfew	421	26	90	115	189	1	
Ungovernable behavior	830	118	270	228	211	3	
Possessing or drinking liquor	917	14	108	246	544	5	
Other	197	21	63	48	64	1	

\*Excludes 33 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the city of St. Louis.  
\*\*Jackson County, St. Louis County, and St. Louis City.

Table IV. Reason for Referral by Manner of Handling\*  
(excludes traffic)

Reason Referred	Total	Official	Unofficial
TOTAL	11,379	1,984	9,395
Offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults:			
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	6	4	2
Manslaughter by negligence	2	1	1
Forcible rape	6	4	2
Robbery	97	41	56
Assault	388	65	323
Burglary: breaking or entering	996	412	584
Auto theft	352	129	223
Larceny	1,599	230	1,369
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	63	13	50
Sex offenses (except forcible rape)	55	13	42
Violation of drug laws	680	113	567
Drunkenness	111	14	97
Disorderly conduct	522	36	486
Vandalism	948	119	829
Other	822	153	669
Offenses applicable to juveniles only:			
Running away	1,731	239	1,492
Truancy	636	68	568
Violation of curfew	421	33	388
Ungovernable behavior	830	151	679
Possessing or drinking liquor	917	123	794
Other	197	23	174

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

Table V. Dependency and Neglect: Source of Referral by Population Area\*

Referred by	State Total		SMSA**		Other	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL	1,969	100.0	562	100.0	1,407	100.0
Law enforcement agency	312	15.8	47	8.4	265	18.8
School department	59	3.0	18	3.2	41	2.9
Social agency	1,182	60.0	438	77.9	744	52.9
Probation officer	13	0.7			13	0.9
Parents or relatives	258	13.1	27	4.8	231	16.4
Other court	15	0.8	3	0.5	12	0.9
Other	130	6.6	29	5.2	101	7.2

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis and the City of St. Louis.

\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis and the City of St. Louis.

Table VI. Dependency and Neglect: Care Pending Disposition by Population Area\*

Care Pending Disposition	State Total		SMSA**		Other	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
TOTAL	1,969	100.0	562	100.0	1,407	100.0
No detention or shelter care overnight	1,370	69.5	436	77.6	934	66.4
Detention or shelter care overnight or longer in:						
Jail or police station	9	0.5	2	0.4	7	0.5
Detention home	60	3.0	19	3.4	41	2.9
Foster family home	405	20.6	72	12.8	333	23.7
Other place	125	6.3	33	5.9	92	6.5

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

Table VII. Number of Delinquency Referrals per Individual by Age\*  
(excludes traffic)

Number of Referrals per Child	Total	12 and Under	13-14	15	16	17 and Over	Not Specified
TOTAL	9,023	1,285	2,505	2,289	2,752	73	119
1	7,672	1,149	2,038	1,858	2,446	65	116
2	965	109	305	301	241	6	3
3	219	15	89	68	47		
4	86	6	39	30	11		
5	43	4	12	22	3	2	
6	26	1	15	7	3		
7	4	1	2	1			
8 or more	8		5	2	1		

\*Excludes 36 counties, primarily Boone, Clay, Franklin, Jackson, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

Table VIII. Age of Adoptive Child at Time of Placement by Race and Population Area\*

Age at Time of Placement	State Total			SMSA**			Other		
	White	Non-White	Unknown	White	Non-White	Unknown	White	Non-White	Unknown
TOTAL	1,198	73	570	583	59	539	615	14	31
0-5 months	81	11	16	28	9	15	53	2	1
6-11 months	46	6	61	16	5	58	30	1	3
1-2 years	33	3	23	10	2	20	23	1	3
3-4 years	49	2	11	21	2	10	28	1	1
5-6 years	35	1	10	13		8	22	1	2
7-8 years	21	1	7	9	1	7	12		
9-10 years	14		4	6		4	8		
11-14 years	12		5	1		4	11		1
15 and over	3	1					3	1	
Not specified	904	48	433	479	40	413	425	8	20

\*Excludes 333 adoptions from Jackson County.

\*\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Franklin, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis.

Table IX. Adoptive Children by Placing Agency, Race, and Relationship\*

Race and Relationship	Total	Public Child Placing Agency or Institution	Private Child Placing Agency or Institution	Own Parent	Other Relatives	Guardian	Other	No Placement, Child Always in Home	No Placement, Child Not in Home
TOTAL	1,841	415	170	177	10	2	62	979	26
White	1,198	254	23	150	9		53	686	23
Non-White	65	13	6	20	1		25	25	
Unknown	578	148	141	7		2	9	268	3
Not Related	593	355	165	40	5	1	18	9	
White	284	211	19	33	4		12	5	
Non-White	26	12	6	7	1				
Unknown	283	132	140			1	6	4	
Own Parent	125	17		62			3	21	22
White	102	14		53			3	11	21
Non-White	7			7					
Unknown	16	3		2				10	1
Stepparent	932							932	
White	660							660	
Non-White	25							25	
Unknown	247							247	
Other Relative	109	17		68	4	1	3	15	1
White	84	9		58	4		3	9	1
Non-White	7	1		6					
Unknown	18	7		4		1		6	
Not Specified	82	26	5	7	1		38	2	3
White	68	20	4	6	1		35	1	1
Non-White									
Unknown	14	6	1	1			3	1	2

\*Excludes 333 adoptions from Jackson County.

Table X. Agency Making Adoptive Study by Placing Agency\*

Agency Making Study	Total	Public Child Placing Agency or Institution	Private Child Placing Agency or Institution	Own Parent	Other Relatives	Guardian	Other	No Placement, Child Always in Home	No Placement, Child not in Home
TOTAL	1,841	415	170	177	10	2	62	979	26
Court Staff									
State Division of Family Services	286	15	6	69	4		9	183	
Local public welfare agency	730	294	12	67	3		8	339	7
Private agency	160	65	40	4			1	39	11
Other person or agency	123	11	105				1	6	
Study not made	371	15		25	1	2	42	284	2
Not specified	151	7		12	2			124	6
	20	8	7				1	4	

\*Excludes 333 adoptions from Jackson County.

**END**