

HARRIS COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

1951

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

PROTECTIVE SERVICES
TO
CHILDREN

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

The following report is a statistical account of work handled by the Harris County, Texas Probation Department with a brief description of the services offered and procedure for handling.

The operations of the Probation Department are divided into four Divisions: Intake, Delinquency, Dependency-Neglect, and Child Support.

F U N C T I O N S O F I N T A K E D I V I S I O N

All cases, except those involving problems concerning child support, are referred to the Intake Division where they are examined and screened. Cases that indicate a need for extensive supervision or planning are referred to either the Dependency-Neglect Division or the Delinquency Division, while cases with comparatively minor problems are handled in their entirety by the Intake Division. Plans for disposition of all runaway children are handled by the Intake Division as well as the processing of applications for admission to eleemosynary institutions except those requiring treatment for tuberculosis.

F U N C T I O N S O F D E L I N Q U E N C Y D I V I S I O N

Upon referral from the Intake Division, investigate alleged delinquent acts involving boys over the age of ten years and under the age of seventeen, and girls over the age of ten and under the age of eighteen; endeavor to determine the causes of the child's behavior problems and make such plans as may be helpful in preventing future contraventions with the law; prepare individual case reports on both unofficial and official cases and, on an individual basis, furnish such supervision as is necessary or ordered by the Court.

F U N C T I O N S O F D E P E N D E N C Y - N E G L E C T D I V I S I O N

Upon referral from the Intake Division, investigate cases involving neglect of children under the age of sixteen years; supervise the care of children within their own homes when plan is feasible; supervise placement of children in foster homes when such

plan is authorized by the Court and continue efforts to improve the home conditions of the natural parents or guardians so as to effect a return of the children; make recommendations to the Court for adoption placements of Court wards; upon order of the Court, investigate the former environment and antecedents of children placed for adoption, as well as the home of the petitioner in all such cases; investigate cases involving child custody; and, investigate applications for admission to State institutions for treatment of tuberculosis.

FUNCTIONS OF CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

When those required by the Courts to make payments of child support through the Probation Department, such moneys are received and payments made to designated beneficiaries. Information regarding child support payments is furnished the Courts regarding any cases where Court action involves failure to make such ordered payments.

PART I
DELINQUENCY DIVISION

Referrals

During the year 1951, there were 1,373 boys and 385 girls referred to the Probation Department because of behavior problems. Of this total of 1,758 cases, 1,582 were referred by Law Enforcement Agencies (Sheriff's Department and Police Department), 46 by School Authorities, and 130 by parents or other interested individuals. This represents a 29% increase over cases brought to the attention of the Probation Department in 1950, when a total of 1,218 were referred to our Agency. It should be pointed out that neither of these figures represent all children who came into conflict with the law during either of those years, as many cases handled by the Law Enforcing Agencies are handled without referral to our Department.

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number referred	1,373	385	1,758
(a) New (never previously handled)	1,248	346	1,594
(b) Previously handled	125	39	164

Agers of Children Handled

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
12 years of age and under	160	29
13 years of age and under	116	40
14 years of age and under	217	61
15 years of age and under	365	90
16 years of age and under	393	127
*Over 16 years of age	92	38

*The Texas State law regards boys of 17 years of age, and girls of 18 years of age as adults.

Reason for Referral

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Auto theft	139	2
Burglary, unlawful entry	175	0
Robbery	60	0
Bicycle theft	32	0
Prowling, petty thievery, shoplifting	118	9
Runaway (local)	71	54
Runaway (out of town)	120	101

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Malicious mischief	75	12
Forgery, check swindling	16	2
Sex offense	9	62
Narcotics	97	11
Truancy	113	16
Traffic offense	171	5
Other delinquent behavior	112	18

Educational Attainment of Children Involved

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
6th grade or under	175	78
7th grade and 8th grade	192	106
9th and 10th grades	292	90
11th and 12th grades	64	93
Completed high school or trade school	50	19

Following is an analysis of the family composition of children handled for problems of delinquency.

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Both natural parents in home	681	182
Natural mother only in home	190	131
Natural father only in home	136	34
Neither natural parent in home	66	38

Children Detained in Ward

A total of 871 children were placed in Detention during the entire year, for an average stay of 2.5 days. This number and average includes 316 (191 boys and 125 girls) cases of runaway children, for which group planning requires considerable more time for completion. The average daily population was 11.5 children detained.

Boys - - - - - 689
Girls - - - - - 182

Court Cases

Official Court action was taken on 305 cases, 296 boys and 99 girls. Of this number, 62 boys and 21 girls were committed to the State Training Schools under direction of the Youth Development Council. Of the remaining Court cases, 51 boys and 22 girls were placed with various private institutions or in foster homes; 148 boys and 42 girls were placed with their parents on official probation; and 23 boys and 12 girls were placed with relatives under supervision of the Probation Department. Judgment was withheld pending good behavior in cases of 12 boys and 2 girls.

Commitments

Gainesville (white girls)	14
Crockett (colored girls)	7
Gatesville (white boys)	49
Gatesville (colored boys)	13

Children committed to the Youth Development Council remain there for varying periods of time.

The following is a report of cases paroled from the State Training Schools during 1951, and also the cases where later violations necessitated the revoking of parole during the same period.

	<u>Paroled</u>	<u>Revoked</u>	<u>No. Harris Co. Children in Institutions on 1-1-52</u>
Gainesville (white girls)	18	1	24
Crockett (colored girls)	6	3	14
Gatesville (white boys)	75	31	55
Gatesville (colored boys)	40	13	16

SUMMARY

As indicated above there was an increase of 297 in the number of cases referred during 1951, over the year previous. In addition to the 1,758 cases referred during the year, there was a total of 245 cases active with the Probation Department on January 1, 1951, making a total of 2,693 cases involving delinquent children during the year 1951. The county population of children between the ages of 10 and 18 years is approximately 86,000.

PART II

DEPENDENCY DIVISION

There were 251 cases with 572 children active with the division as of January 1st, 1951. During the year, a total of 1,095 cases with 1,658 children were received, making a total of 1,346 cases with 2,230 children handled for the year. Of the cases received, only 8.6% were recurrent as indicated by the below table:

Total amount cases received	1,095
New.....	1,009
Recurrent.....	86

The reasons for which the children were referred is listed as follows:

Dependent - Neglect Complaint.....	608	Children
Child Custody.....	108	"
Adoption Study (Individual Placement).....	293	"
Adoption Study (Licensed Agency).....	55	"
Adoption Study (Juvenile Court).....	10	"
Adoption Study (Step-parent).....	210	"
Application for Institutional Care.....	37	"
Local or Out of Town Inquiries.....	220	"
Other Special Services.....	217	"
Adult T.B. Applications and Investigations.....	226	Cases

The Age Scale of the children referred for the above reasons is as follows:

Under two years.....	466
2-3-4 years.....	327
5-6-7 years.....	336
8-9-10 years.....	230
11-12-13 years.....	183
14 years and over.....	116

In all cases family status is obtained in planning for the child. It was found that:

- 375 children had both natural parents in the home.
- 527 children had natural mother only in the home.
- 169 children had natural father only in the home.
- 587 children had neither natural parent in the home.

Of the total number of cases of Dependent and Neglect, official Court action was taken in every case where it was necessary to remove the children temporarily from the home; 179 were filed on in Juvenile Court. As of January 1, 1952, the plans for children under supervision are as follows:

139 children are in boarding homes.
47 children are in Bayland Home.
39 children are in Mary Burnett School.
380 children are in their own homes under supervision.
462 are in homes of relatives or foster homes under supervision.

The boarding home is primarily used as a temporary placement for children until some form of rehabilitation is made in the family. During 1951, 58 children were placed and 41 removed from boarding homes. The average enrollment is 115, the number of homes 68.

In addition to the above mentioned services, 21 applications for the Austin State School were made; 17 were committed; 13 were accepted, and 5 are awaiting admittance.

SUMMARY

For the year of 1951, 1,346 cases and 2,230 children were given service by the Dependency Division as compared with 907 cases and 1,438 children in the year of 1950, which is an increase of approximately 48%.

The increase in adoption applications of 38% over the year of 1950, and the 36% increase of Dependent - Neglect referrals are the most notable.

Separate from the above service to children, and a part of the case-work service offered by this division is the 226 Adult Tuberculosis applications, which increased by 100% over the year 1950.

PART III

SUPPORT DIVISION

In this Division, there was a total of 1,203 cases received for the year 1951 which indicates an increase of approximately 44% over the year of 1950 when the total was 891. The amount of funds collected and disbursed in 1951 for support of minor children also indicates an increase of 45% over the year of 1950. The table of operations for the year is as follows:

Total number of cases for the year 1951.....	3,518
Number of cases active on January 1, 1951.....	1,913
Number of new cases accepted during the year.....	1,203
Number of old cases reopened during the year.....	432
Number of complaints, some action taken.....	915
Number of cases active on December 31, 1951.....	2,340
Number of cases involving support for wives during year.....	236
Number of cases involving support for children during the year.....	3,312
Average number of cases per month.....	2,070
Wife only.....	49
Children.....	2,021
Number of children receiving support during the year.....	6,138
Average number of children receiving support each month.....	3,497
Average number of wives receiving support each month.....	49
Cash on hand December 31, 1950.....	None
Total amount collected during year 1951.....	\$1,016,367.56
Total amount disbursed during year 1951.....	\$1,016,367.56
Balance on hand December 31, 1951.....	None
Total number of warrants issued during the year 1951.....	49,455

The reasons for referrals are as follows:

1951
New Cases

COURTS

	<u>Civil</u>	<u>Grand Jury</u>	<u>Criminal</u>	<u>Probation Office Agreements</u>	<u>District Attorney Agreements</u>	<u>Justice</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	52	0	0	0	24	0	76
February	54	0	0	0	27	0	81
March	67	0	0	0	36	1	104
April	59	0	0	3	36	2	100
May	70	0	3	3	49	0	125
June	63	0	0	1	32	0	96
July	62	0	2	2	43	3	112
August	61	0	1	2	50	3	117
September	60	0	0	1	40	0	101
October	71	0	1	1	38	4	115
November	54	0	2	2	43	2	103
December	44	0	0	3	26	0	73
	717	0	9	18	444	15	1,203

The persons receiving support for the year:

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Wives</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	123	4	127
February	119	8	127
March	174	13	187
April	142	10	152
May	210	15	225
June	178	11	189
July	177	13	190
August	169	26	195
September	158	14	172
October	188	10	198
November	165	10	175
December	133	4	137
	<u>1,936</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>2,074</u>

The active cases receiving attention and the children involved:

	<u>Number Cases Per Month</u>			<u>Persons Involved</u>		
	<u>Children</u>	<u>Wives</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Wives</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	1,746	49	1,795	3,021	49	3,070
February	1,800	50	1,850	3,114	50	3,164
March	1,850	49	1,899	3,201	49	3,250
April	1,901	47	1,948	3,289	47	3,336
May	1,949	48	1,997	3,372	48	3,420
June	1,996	50	2,046	3,453	50	3,503
July	2,018	47	2,065	3,513	47	3,560
August	2,093	51	2,144	3,621	51	3,672
September	2,151	42	2,193	3,720	42	3,762
October	2,193	49	2,242	3,794	49	3,843
November	2,237	54	2,291	3,870	54	3,924
December	2,292	48	2,340	3,965	48	4,013

The amount of support moneys received and disbursed is accounted as listed:

1951

Receipts

Courts

	<u>Courts</u>					
	<u>Civil</u>	<u>Grand Jury</u>	<u>Criminal</u>	<u>Office Agreements</u>	<u>District Attorney Agreements</u>	<u>Justice</u>
January	\$63,602.05	\$ 367.00	\$ 638.35	\$1,202.00	\$ 9,625.00	\$1,045.45
February	60,980.38	347.00	458.35	996.00	9,526.40	841.50
March	71,215.97	317.50	647.35	956.00	10,579.50	1,219.75
April	68,949.66	300.00	564.50	1,489.50	10,083.00	1,141.00
May	74,477.20	237.00	440.00	928.00	9,731.75	997.50
June	69,198.25	254.50	517.50	1,158.75	11,178.80	1,113.46
July	73,247.53	272.50	432.50	1,001.25	8,999.00	956.25
August	74,623.83	331.00	424.50	555.00	9,244.25	878.00
September	73,933.44	148.00	417.50	951.00	9,786.75	653.75
October	81,619.22	342.50	392.50	828.25	11,859.25	917.75
November	73,636.26	346.00	480.50	1,102.75	12,161.90	993.50
December	70,291.77	279.50	656.50	1,552.00	13,477.69	1,194.75
	<u>\$855,775.56</u>	<u>\$3,582.50</u>	<u>\$6,108.50</u>	<u>\$12,726.50</u>	<u>\$126,253.29</u>	<u>\$11,927.65</u>

Total

January	\$ 76,479.85
February	73,122.63
March	84,936.07
April	82,527.66
May	86,811.45
June	83,451.25
July	81,909.03
August	86,056.59
September	85,930.44
October	95,959.47
November	88,728.91
December	87,451.21
	<u>\$1,016,367.56</u>