

**annual
report on**

1960

**delinquency
dependency**

enumerating all services to all children

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT



3540 WEST DALLAS
HOUSTON 19, TEXAS

PROBATION DEPARTMENT
OF
HARRIS COUNTY

DECEMBER 31, 1960

THE HONORABLE JUVENILE BOARD
THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT
ALL CITIZENS OF HARRIS COUNTY

SIRS:

THE FOLLOWING STATISTICAL REPORT SUMMARIZES THE SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF HARRIS COUNTY WHO ARE CATEGORIZED BY LAW AS DELINQUENT OR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS PROBLEM HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED. THE EMPHASIS THAT HAS BEEN PLACED TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM HAS NOT AS YET REACHED THE POINT IN PRODUCING ANY NOTICEABLE REDUCTION OF DELINQUENT ACTS IN SCOPE OR NUMBER. THE INCREASE CONTINUES DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF MANY TO COMBAT THIS MENACE.

IT IS NECESSARY THAT ALL MEMBERS OF ALL COMMUNITIES IN HARRIS COUNTY CLOSELY EXAMINE WHAT IS BEING DONE AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO DIRECT AND HELP OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH. ADEQUATE SERVICES ARE NEEDED TO CONTROL THIS PROBLEM AND THE COMMUNITY MUST CONTINUE ACTION TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES.

THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF THE JUVENILE DIVISION OF THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS THAT OF ALL THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS, IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THE HELP OF THE SERVICE CLUBS, AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, COMBINED WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE JUVENILE BOARD AND COMMISSIONERS COURT HAS DEFINITELY CONTRIBUTED TO ANY SUCCESS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ATTAINED IN ASSISTING THE CHILDREN WE SERVICED DURING THE YEAR 1960.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Paul Irick
PAUL IRICK,
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

5454 DELINQUENT REFERRALS

Five thousand, four hundred and fifty-four reasons for referral are listed below. 5380 individual children received service from this department for alleged delinquent acts in 1960, some children being referred three or four times for varied offenses.

	BOYS			GIRLS			TOTAL
	W	C	L/A	W	C	L/A	
Auto Theft.....	248	77	68	21	2	6	422
Robbery.....	30	14	10	13	1	2	70
Burglary—Unlawful Entry.....	528	303	165	51	9	4	1060
Other Theft.....	437	332	168	55	27	14	1033
Truancy.....	36	6	15	23	4	12	96
Running Away.....	218	109	60	184	92	58	721
Being Ungovernable.....	73	25	18	53	27	12	208
Sex Offense.....	98	65	23	86	31	15	318
Use or Possession of Drugs.....	5	2	3	4	0	2	16
Assault—Injury to Person.....	46	69	40	17	17	2	191
Malicious Mischief.....	116	47	24	19	4	1	211
Traffic Violation.....	24	6	4	3	0	0	37
Other Delinquent Behavior.....	387	236	178	149	67	54	1071
	<u>2246</u>	<u>1291</u>	<u>776</u>	<u>678</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>5454</u>

10 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE

The law provides that boys between the ages of 10 to 17 and girls 10 to 18 shall be considered as juveniles and subject to the laws of the Juvenile Court. The indication is that the greatest number of problems are encountered during early adolescence, chronologically, 13 through 16 years of age.

23 Probation Department Staff Members Service All Referrals

A youth referred by police officers or individuals begins a process of individualized treatment prescribed by law. Two issues of this law are paramount—SERVE THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY and SERVE THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD.

The function of probation is legal and social, therefore the offense is considered along with the social, psychological and physical study of the child. Evaluation of these factors begins immediately and results determine whether a child will be referred to other agency, released to parents, assigned for supervision without legal action, or assigned for immediate Juvenile Court action. The district attorney, supervisor and probation officer, guided by policy, plan the course of action. Following chart shows what happened to youths referred:

	BOYS			GIRLS			TOTAL
	W	C	L/A	W	C	L/A	
Handled and Assigned for Supervision.....	483	163	163	101	36	26	972
Handled and Released or Referred.....	1001	613	385	349	107	84	2539
Re-Referrals.....	638	466	202	207	125	67	1705
Pending.....	124	49	26	21	13	5	238
							<u>5454</u>

JUVENILE COURT—DELINQUENCY

	BOYS			GIRLS			TOTAL
	W	C	L/A	W	C	L/A	
Number of Children Referred to Juvenile Court.....	588	169	147	111	49	21	1085



MANY OF THESE youthful offenders need to be detained or held, for their own or the community's protection, while this process of diagnosis is taking place. The Harris County Detention Home, used for this purpose, has a planned program for all detained; the average length of stay being four and one-half days.

DETENTION WARD

	W	C	L/A	TOTAL
Boys detained	1289	721	587	2597
Girls detained	439	180	137	756

The Department is responsible for parole services for the Texas Youth Council when boys or girls return to this community from the state training schools at Gatesville, Gainesville and Crockett. Local institutions mainly used are Harris County Boys School, which is under Probation Department supervision, and the Convent of the Good Shepherd for Girls.

GATESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS

	W	C	L/A	TOTAL
Boys committed during year	59	57	24	140
Boys on hand last day of year.....	62	89	31	182

GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

	W	L/A	TOTAL
Girls committed during year	13	10	23
Girls on hand last day of year	14	10	24

CROCKETT STATE SCHOOL

	C
Girls committed during year	20
Girls on hand last day of year	31

HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL

	W	L/A	TOTAL
Boys committed during year	39	11	50
Boys on hand last day of year	52	16	68

CONVENT OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

	W	L/A	TOTAL
Girls received during year	13	2	15
Girls on hand last day of year	14	3	17

2410 DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT REFERRALS

The law provides that service through the Juvenile Court shall be given to children, from infancy through sixteen, who are dependent and neglected by parents or guardian, so they may receive proper care and guardianship. Investigation, evaluation of social, psychological and physical factors, and facilities for this protective service are provided by the probation officers. This service is rendered in the homes of the children if at all possible, then through Juvenile Court action if necessary. These children, through no fault of their own, have been forced into depraved situations, needing care, guidance and control that should be offered by the parents. The parents, in many instances, are in need of service and accept same, but in other instances the pattern of neglect is continued and the Juvenile Court representative and the State take control of the child, removing parental rights. Following is a table showing number received and investigated.

DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT	W	C	L/A	Total
Children under supervision first day of year.....	918	374	204	1496
Number added during year	1643	486	281	2410
Number on hand last day of year.....	1152	435	212	1799

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12 Probation Department Staff Members Service All Referrals On Dependent And Neglected Children

Evaluation of complaint information and social factors determine whether assignment for supervision in the home without court action, filing of petition for court action, removal of children from surroundings through court order, or referral to other agency for service, shall be made. The Supervisor, Probation Officer, and District Attorney, guided by policy and/or the order of the Juvenile Court, determine the course of action.

If immediate removal of the child is needed emergency foster care for pre-school children in foster homes, and institutional care for school children at Burnett-Bayland Home, both facilities under department supervision, is provided. Physical, medical needs and general well-being of the child is cared for in as near homelike surroundings as possible.

The Court and the Department make every effort to place these children in a permanent situation that will serve their best interest as soon as possible. The following chart shows Court action, foster home, emergency home and institutional population:

CASES REFERRED TO COURT	W	C	L/A	Total
New Cases during year	103	65	26	194
Re-Opened Cases	40	12	6	58
Total Children Involved.....	275	134	72	481

BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME	Boys	Girls	Total
Children received during year	98	97	195
Children in home last day of year	60	48	108

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY HOMES	W	C	Total
Children placed in home during year	187	128	312
Children in home last day of year	19	16	35

FOSTER HOMES—Paid and Free	Total
Children placed in homes during year	141
Children in homes last day of year	178

When parental rights are terminated permanent adoption placements are made by the Juvenile Court through the Department, which uses the adoption placement procedure governing licensed agencies. Following are the adoptive placements for the year:

ADOPTIVE HOMES	Total
Children in Adoptive Homes first day of year	37
Children placed in Adoptive Homes during year	30
Children Legally Adopted during year	33

7704 CASES OF SUPPORT

through divorce action . . .

1313 REFERRALS FOR SPECIAL CASEWORK SERVICE

The Department services all courts and agencies where special services for children are required.

Custody

The Court may require that an investigation of both parties be submitted for evaluation by the Court in matters of custody of minor children.

Adoption

The Law requires that prior to any adoption being granted, an investigation and report of the adoptive parents, and the former antecedents of the child be prepared for the Court. This service is provided by the Department as directed by the Courts.

Investigation for Agencies

Frequently, probation departments and social agencies of other cities and states require investigation of homes and persons in this area. They request that studies be made and evaluations be submitted to assist them in their services.

Special Services

1. Custody investigations received	187
2. Adoption investigations received	812
3. Other cases received (foster homes)	54
4. O.T.I.'s received (Out of town investigations)	260
TOTAL	1313

PROBATION STAFF OF FIVE
SERVICE ALL REFERRALS

SUPPORT

The District Courts require that monies for support of minor children be received and disbursed by the Department. Primarily this Section accounts for the Courts, a record of payments. However, counseling service to the recipient and assistance in planning is given in a majority of cases.

\$3,974,693.82
(PRIVATE MONEY)

COLLECTED
AND
DISBURSED

NINE PROBATION DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTANT PERSONNEL
SERVICE ALL SUPPORT CASES

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

★ ★ ★

HONORABLE BILL ELLIOTT, County Judge

COMMISSIONERS

W. KYLE CHAPMAN.....Precinct Number 1
V. V. RAMSEY.....Precinct Number 2
PHILIP E. SAYERS.....Precinct Number 3
E. A. LYONS, JR.....Precinct Number 4

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

HONORABLE BILL ELLIOTT, County Judge
Chairman of the Board

District Judges . . .

HONORABLE JOHN L. COMPTON	151st Judicial District Court
HONORABLE SAM W. DAVIS	Criminal District Court Number 5
HONORABLE LEWIS DICKSON	125th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE EDMUND B. DUGGAN	Criminal District Court
HONORABLE WM. M. HOLLAND	127th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE WILMER B. HUNT	133rd Judicial District Court
HONORABLE BYRON JOHNSON	80th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE LANGSTON G. KING	Criminal District Court Number 2
HONORABLE ARNOLD H. KRICHAMER	Criminal District Court Number 4
HONORABLE MIRON A. LOVE	Criminal District Court Number 3
HONORABLE SEARS W. McGEE	55th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE J. W. MILLS	Court of Domestic Relations
HONORABLE BEN MOORHEAD	11th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE WENDELL A. ODOM	Court of Domestic Relations Number 2
HONORABLE PHIL PEDEN	157th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE JOHN SNELL, JR.	152nd Judicial District Court
HONORABLE THOMAS J. STOVALL, JR	129th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE BERT H. TUNKS	113th Judicial District Court
HONORABLE BEN F. WILSON	61st Judicial District Court
HONORABLE BEN WOODALL	Court of Domestic Relations Number 3

Judge of the Juvenile Court.....HONORABLE J. W. MILLS
Referee of the Juvenile Court.....EDWARD ROCHE