

ANNUAL REPORT

1969

**HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

R. O. D. SCHOENBACHER
CHIEF JUVENILE
PROBATION OFFICER



D. H. BAKER
ASST. CHIEF JUVENILE
PROBATION OFFICER

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

3540 WEST DALLAS AVENUE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019

December 31, 1969

TO: ALL CITIZENS OF HOUSTON AND HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS' COURT
THE HONORABLE JUVENILE BOARD

The Report of the Juvenile Probation Department of Harris County, Texas for the calendar year of 1969 is submitted for your approval. As responsible citizens and officials there is every need for you to digest these findings.

However, the whole picture of juvenile delinquency in our community can not be seen in this statistical report. It is only a synopsis of problems and program in the area of Juvenile Court. It is intended to serve as a source of motivation for all concerned persons to closely examine this problem, the services offered, and create a desire on the part of the community to become involved in promoting effort toward prevention and treatment.

The combined efforts of citizens, law enforcement, and community agencies can control this societal cancer which effects many young people of our County. The efforts currently being exhibited by all of the community agencies and volunteer citizens are to be commended as those involved are dedicated to serve children and youth.

In this light, we invite every reader of this report to become personally involved toward this same purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

R. O. D. Schoenbacher
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

'DELINQUENCY IN OUR COMMUNITY'
AN OVERVIEW

PROFILE OF OFFENDERS

7,265 DIFFERENT INDIVIDUAL YOUNG OFFENDERS WERE REFERRED TO HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT 11,793 TIMES.

FAMILY

58% OF THE YOUTH REFERRED WERE LIVING WITH BOTH NATURAL PARENTS; 23% HAD ONLY ONE NATURAL PARENT LIVING IN THE HOME AND 19% WERE LIVING WITH NEITHER PARENTS. IN 32% OF THE FAMILIES BOTH PARENTS WERE WORKING. THE AVERAGE WAGE OF ALL THE FAMILIES REFERRED WERE BETWEEN \$4,000 - \$6,000 ANNUALLY.

SCHOOL AND
RELIGION

SCHOOL AGE POPULATION (JUVENILE) OF HARRIS COUNTY IS 250,731 AND THE DELINQUENCY RATIO IS 5%. THE DENSELY POPULATED LIVING AREAS SHOW THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF YOUTH REFERRALS AND THE MAJORITY OF THE OFFENSES WERE COMMITTED WITHIN A TEN MILE PERIMETER FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON. THE YOUTH REFERRED WERE FROM THE AGES OF THIRTEEN - FIFTEEN AND WERE ATTENDING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. 25% PROFESSED NO RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE INDICATING PROTESTANT OR CATHOLIC PREFERENCE WERE NOT ACTIVE IN CHURCH PROGRAMS OR ATTENDANCE.

OFFENSES

THE MAJORITY OF YOUNGSTERS WERE REFERRED FOR BURGLARY AND THEFT OFFENSES. THERE WAS A NOTABLE INCREASE IN RUNAWAYS AND DRUG ABUSE REFERRALS.

PROFILE OF PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES

PROBATION

THERE WERE 3,063 BOYS AND 1,056 GIRLS PLACED IN DETENTION DURING THE YEAR. 85% OF THE YOUTH REFERRED WERE GIVEN PROBATION SERVICE WITHOUT FORMAL PETITIONS FILED. 10,694 INDIVIDUAL BOYS AND GIRLS WERE GIVEN SUPERVISION BY FORTY PROBATION OFFICERS.

COURT

15% OF THE CASES REFERRED WERE HEARD BY THE JUDGES OF THE JUVENILE COURTS. 179 WERE COMMITTED TO STATE TRAINING SCHOOLS, 79 WERE COMMITTED TO HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL, AND 75 WERE COMMITTED TO FOSTER HOMES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

OTHER SERVICES

THERE WERE 2,247 ADOPTIONS, CUSTODIES AND FOSTER HOMES INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE COURTS OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND CIVIL COURTS.

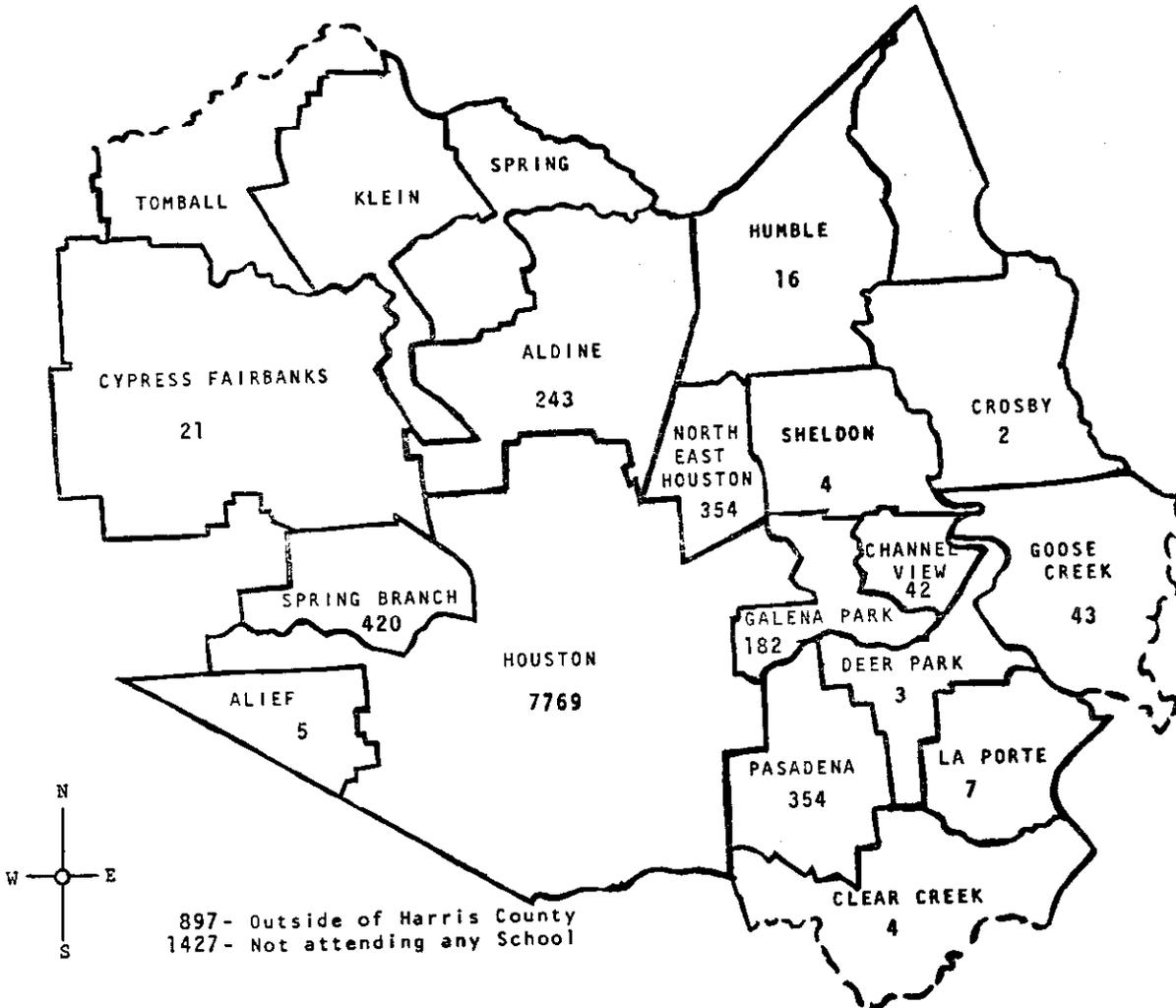
SUMMARY

THE PRECEDING SYNOPSIS INDICATES THAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS A SERIOUS DELINQUENCY PROBLEM. PERHAPS NO OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEM IS LESS CLEAR THAN DELINQUENCY AND EQUALLY UNCLEAR ARE THE METHODS TO TREAT AND PREVENT THE MANY OFFENSES BY YOUTH.

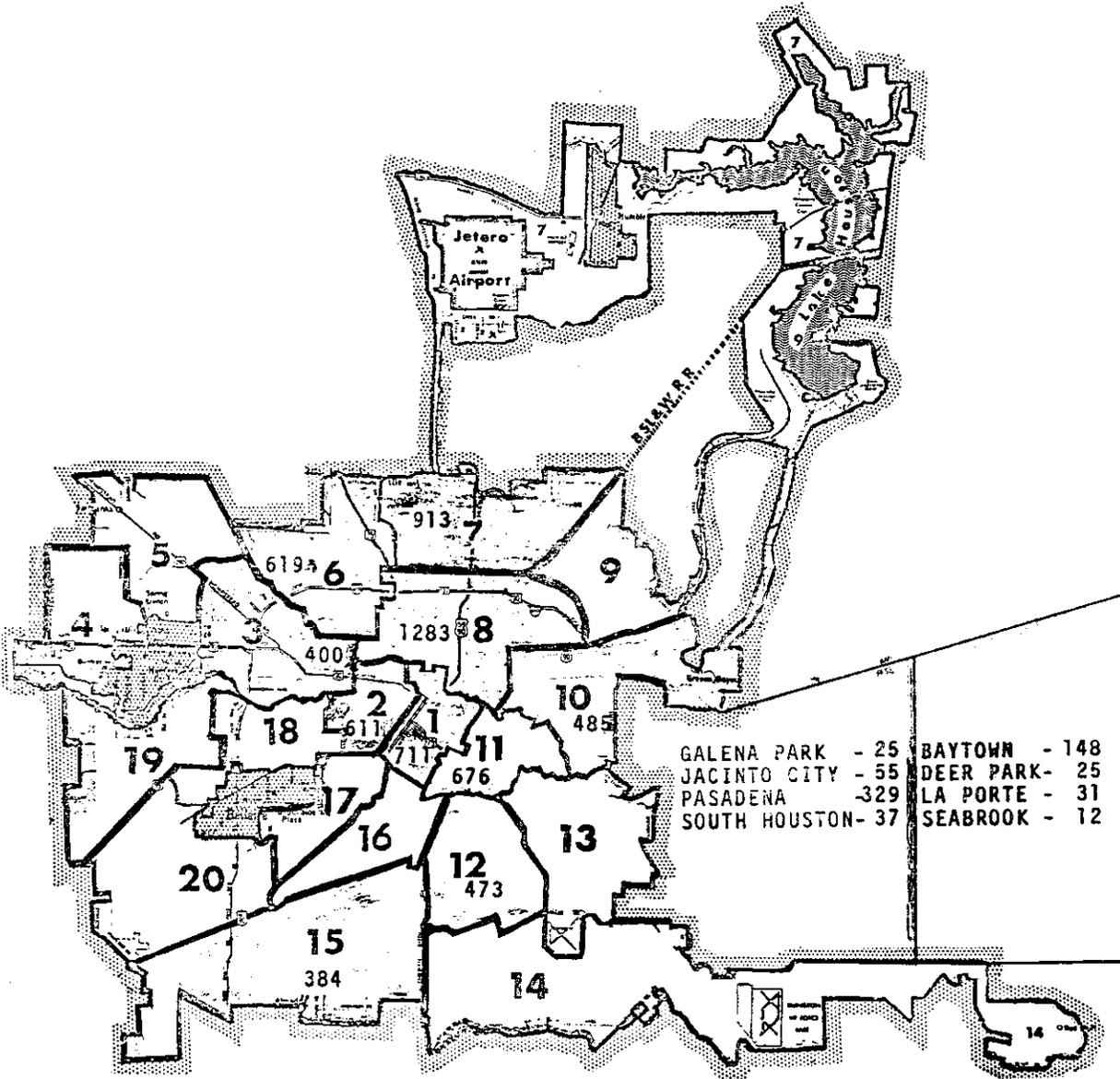
GENERALLY, PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT YOUTH IS AT A PEAK, YET VERY FEW PERSONS IN OUR COMMUNITY CAN CONCEPTUALIZE AS TO THE OVERWHELMING PROBLEM DELINQUENCY PRESENTS TO THE AGENCY DESIGNED BY LAW TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL JUSTICE TO ALL DELINQUENT OFFENDERS.

THE JUVENILE COURT AND PROBATION DEPARTMENT CANNOT ADEQUATELY HANDLE THE PROBLEM UNLESS THE COMMUNITY IS WILLING TO ASSUME THE COST TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY STAFF AND FACILITIES AND BECOME INVOLVED IN PROGRAMS OF PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

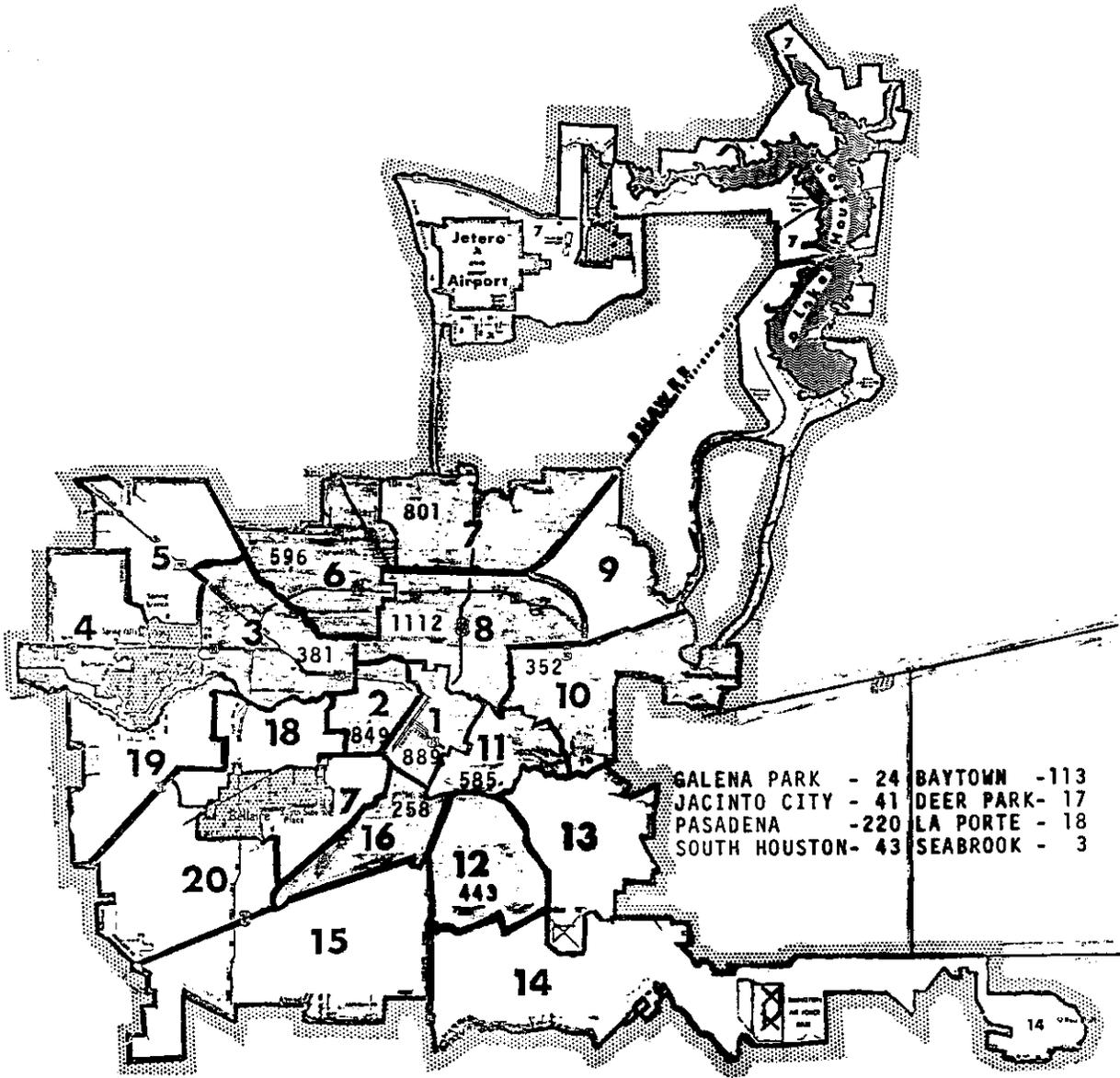
REFERRALS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



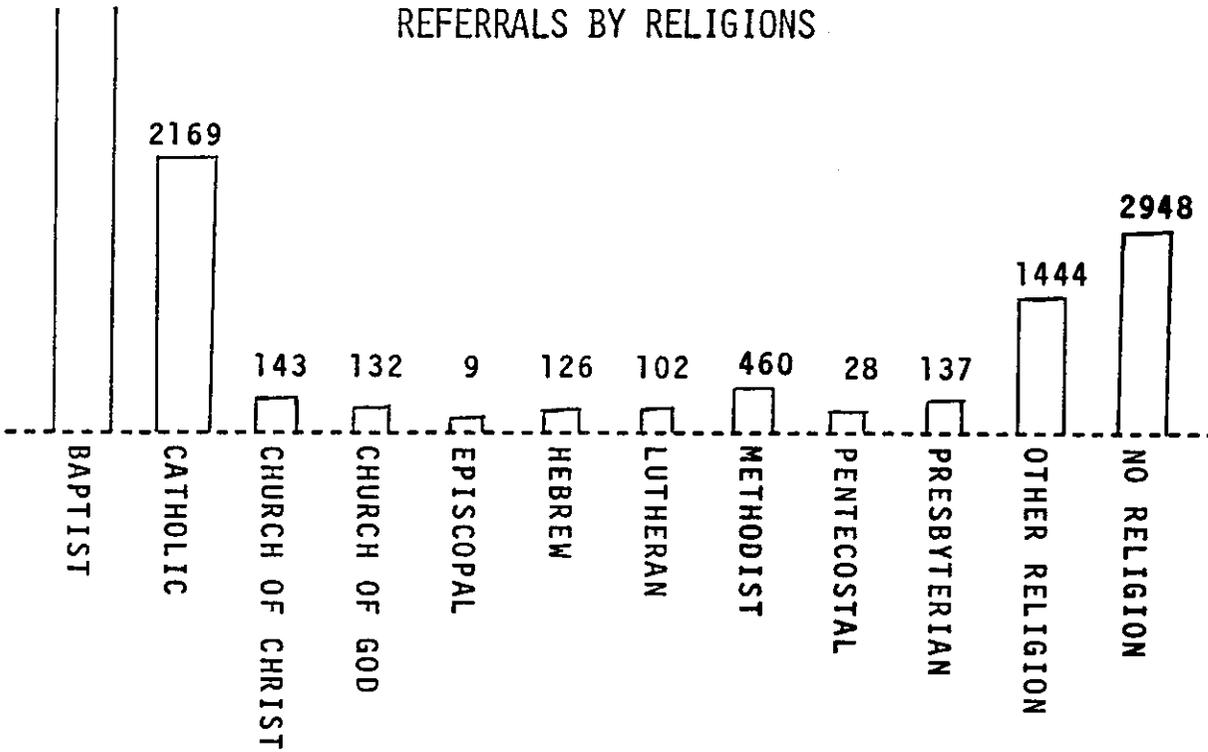
TEN HIGHEST MASTER DISTRICTS BY HOME OF JUVENILE OFFENDER



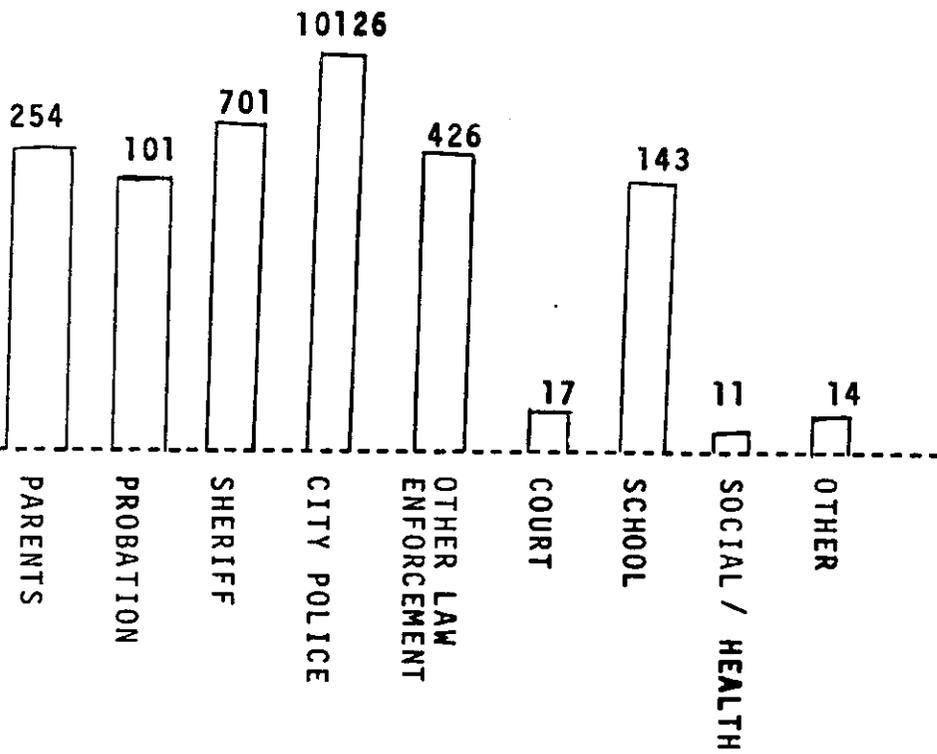
TEN HIGHEST MASTER DISTRICTS WHERE OFFENSES WERE COMMITTED



REFERRALS BY RELIGIONS



REFERRALS BY AGENCIES



REFERRALS BY STATUS AND AGES

| | BOYS | | | GIRLS | | | GRAND TOTAL |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| | WHITE | NEGRO | LATIN | WHITE | NEGRO | LATIN | |
| FIRST OFFENDERS | 2542 | 2235 | 927 | 952 | 420 | 189 | 7265 |
| REPEATERS | 1897 | 910 | 390 | 882 | 326 | 123 | 4528 |
| TOTAL | 4439 | 3145 | 1317 | 1834 | 746 | 312 | 11793 |
| AGES: | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 165 | 193 | 34 | 34 | 16 | 6 | 448 |
| 11 | 163 | 184 | 70 | 34 | 22 | 10 | 483 |
| 12 | 269 | 315 | 111 | 59 | 42 | 26 | 822 |
| 13 | 436 | 344 | 209 | 189 | 85 | 38 | 1301 |
| 14 | 831 | 534 | 242 | 453 | 171 | 67 | 2298 |
| 15 | 1177 | 681 | 344 | 426 | 168 | 77 | 2873 |
| 16 | 1398 | 894 | 307 | 402 | 159 | 63 | 3223 |
| 17 | | | | 237 | 83 | 25 | 345 |
| TOTALS | 4439 | 3145 | 1317 | 1834 | 746 | 312 | 11793 |

REFERRALS BY OFFENSES

| | BOYS | GIRLS | GRAND |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
| ARSON | 84 | 4 | 88 |
| ASSAULT & INJURY TO PERSON | 248 | 51 | 299 |
| ASSAULT TO MURDER | 20 | 2 | 22 |
| AUTO THEFT/UNAUTHORIZED USE OF AUTO | 884 | 64 | 948 |
| BREAKING & ENTERING COIN MACHINE | 71 | 0 | 71 |
| BURGLARY/BREAKING & ENTERING | 974 | 58 | 1032 |
| CARRYING PROHIBITIVE WEAPON | 89 | 10 | 99 |
| DISTURBING THE PEACE | 117 | 36 | 153 |
| INTOXICATED/POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL | 402 | 89 | 491 |
| FORGERY & PASSING | 20 | 18 | 38 |
| GLUE SNIFFING | 133 | 7 | 140 |
| INCORRIGIBLE/UNGOVERNABLE | 225 | 212 | 437 |
| MALICIOUS MISCHIEF | 426 | 41 | 467 |
| MURDER | 19 | 5 | 24 |
| NARCOTICS/POSSESSION OF/USE OF | 215 | 105 | 320 |
| PURSE SNATCHING | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| ROBBERY | 115 | 20 | 135 |
| RUNAWAY | 1283 | 1199 | 2482 |
| RUNAWAY, OUTSIDE HARRIS COUNTY | 74 | 72 | 146 |
| RUNAWAY, OUTSIDE TEXAS | 61 | 58 | 119 |
| SEX PLAY/RAPE/SODOMY | 93 | 59 | 152 |
| SHOPLIFTING | 442 | 207 | 649 |
| THEFT | 1291 | 92 | 1383 |
| TRAFFIC | 89 | 14 | 103 |
| TRUANT | 287 | 173 | 460 |
| WANDERING THE STREETS | 486 | 114 | 600 |
| OTHER DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR | <u>743</u> | <u>182</u> | <u>925</u> |
| TOTALS | 8901 | 2892 | 11793 |

23% OF THESE REFERRALS WERE FOR RUNAWAYS, A 1 1/2% INCREASE OVER 1968. HOWEVER THERE WAS A 47 1/2% INCREASE IN NARCOTICS ABUSE AND 68 1/2% INCREASE IN GLUE SNIFFING.

DETAINED IN DETENTION

| BOYS | | | GIRLS | | | GRAND TOTAL |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| WHITE | NEGRO | LATIN | WHITE | NEGRO | LATIN | |
| 1,410 | 1,197 | 456 | 662 | 279 | 115 | 4,119 |

| | BOYS | GIRLS |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY | 8.04 | 8.1 |
| AVERAGE NUMBER IN WARD | 68.1 | 23.0 |
| DAYS CARE | 24271 | 8577 |

DETAINED IN DETENTION

| BOYS | | | GIRLS | | | GRAND TOTAL |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| WHITE | NEGRO | LATIN | WHITE | NEGRO | LATIN | |
| 1,410 | 1,197 | 456 | 662 | 279 | 115 | 4,119 |

| | BOYS | GIRLS |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY | 8.04 | 8.1 |
| AVERAGE NUMBER IN WARD | 68.1 | 23.0 |
| DAYS CARE | 24271 | 8577 |

JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY DISPOSITIONS

NUMBER REFERRED TO COURT

| | BOYS | GIRLS | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| NEW CASES | 1160 | 228 | 1388 |
| RE-OPEN CASES | <u>316</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>399</u> |
| TOTALS | 1476 | 311 | 1787 |
| DISPOSITIONS: | | | |
| COMMITTED TO TYC | 146 | 33 | 179 |
| COMMITTED TO HCBS | 79 | 0 | 79 |
| COMMITTED TO HCBS - W/H | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| TYC W/H: | 145 | 37 | 182 |
| DECLARED DELINQUENT: | 199 | 66 | 265 |
| PASSED: | 605 | 116 | 721 |
| CONTINUED UNDER SUPERVISION: | 177 | 35 | 212 |
| OTHER: | | | |
| CANCELLED | 36 | 9 | 45 |
| PETITION DENIED | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| PETITION DISMISSED | 81 | 12 | 93 |
| DEPENDENT AND NEGLECT | <u>4</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>7</u> |
| TOTALS | 1476 | 311 | 1787 |

HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL

| | TOTALS |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. ON HAND FIRST DAY OF YEAR | 64 |
| 2. RECEIVED DURING YEAR | 95 |
| 3. CLOSED DURING YEAR | 84 |
| 4. ON HAND LAST DAY OF YEAR | 75 |

BURNETT BAYLAND HOME

| | BOYS | GIRLS |
|------------------------------|------|-------|
| 1. ON HAND FIRST DAY OF YEAR | 71 | 61 |
| 2. RECEIVED DURING YEAR | 120 | 119 |
| 3. CLOSED DURING YEAR | 118 | 116 |
| 4. ON HAND LAST DAY OF YEAR | 73 | 64 |

CUSTODY INVESTIGATION

| | CASES | CHILDREN |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1. ON HAND FIRST DAY OF YEAR | 53 | 102 |
| 2. RECEIVED DURING YEAR | 164 | 280 |
| 3. CLOSED DURING YEAR | 143 | 246 |
| 4. ON HAND LAST DAY OF YEAR | 74 | 136 |

ADOPTIVE INVESTIGATIONS

| | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. ON HAND FIRST DAY OF YEAR | 258 |
| 2. RECEIVED DURING YEAR | 1713 |
| 3. CLOSED DURING YEAR | 1741 |
| 4. ON HAND LAST DAY OF YEAR | 230 |

ADOPTIVE HOME PLACEMENTS

| | TOTAL |
|---|-------|
| 1. CHILDREN IN ADOPTIVE HOMES FIRST DAY | 34 |
| 2. CHILDREN PLACED IN ADOPTIVE HOMES | 1 |
| 3. CHILDREN LEGALLY ADOPTED | 20 |
| 4. CHILDREN REMOVED FROM ADOPTIVE HOMES | 2 |
| 5. CHILDREN IN ADOPTIVE HOMES LAST DAY | 13 |

CHILD SUPPORT

| | |
|---|--------|
| NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES ON JANUARY 1, 1969..... | 9,548 |
| NUMBER OF NEW CASES ACCEPTED DURING THE YEAR..... | 3,410 |
| NUMBER OF OLD CASES REOPENED DURING THE YEAR..... | 1,708 |
| TOTAL OF ALL CASES DURING THE YEAR..... | 14,666 |
| NUMBER OF CASES ACTIVE ON DECEMBER 31, 1969..... | 10,259 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING SUPPORT DURING THE YEAR..... | 29,646 |
| | |
| AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING SUPPORT EACH MONTH.. | 19,680 |
| | |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED AND DISBURSED DURING THE YEAR..... | |
| | \$13,685,233.09 |
| CASH ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 1969..... | NONE |
| NUMBER OF WARRANTS ISSUED..... | 224,654 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER HOME AND INSTITUTIONS..... | \$5,686.01 |
|---|------------|

| | |
|---|-------------|
| TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED FROM DIVORCE FEES BY DISTRICT CLERK TO HELP MAINTAIN CHILD SUPPORT SECTION..... | \$42,456.00 |
|---|-------------|

THE HARRIS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT IS A GOVERNMENTAL CASEWORK AGENCY, SUPPORTED WHOLLY BY TAX FUNDS AND GOVERNED BY STATUTE.

THE HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD HAS SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY TO INAUGURATE AND APPROVE THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD:

Judge Bill Elliott

Judge Edward Coulson

Judge Lee Duggan, Jr.

Judge Joseph M. Guarino

Judge William M. Hatten

Judge Wyatt Heard

Judge Robert L. Lowry

Judge Wendell A. Odom

Judge W. H. Miller

Judge Wallace C. Moore

Judge J. B. Smith, Jr.

Judge Peter Solito

Judge Wells Stewart

Judge George Walker

Judge Ben Woodall

THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY HAS BUDGETARY CONTROL OVER ALL PHASES OF OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE INSTITUTIONS.

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT:

W. Kyle Chapman

V. V. Ramsey

Bill Elliott

E. A. Lyons, Jr.