

**Harris County  
Juvenile  
Probation  
Department**

**1983  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**TO: Citizens & Commissioners of Harris County**

**RE: 1983 Juvenile Probation Annual Report**

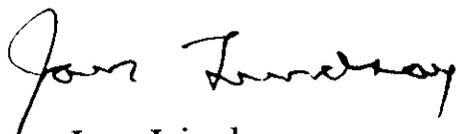
“As required by state law, the 1983 Annual Report of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department is hereby transmitted to the Harris County Commissioners Court and to its citizens.

This report provides a written overview of the Department's many activities and accomplishments during the last year. However, it cannot reflect the dedication or hard work of the Juvenile Probation staff.

As Chairman of the Juvenile Board and as County Judge, I owe thanks to the Commissioners and the other Juvenile Board members for their continued support and interest in providing the best possible services to troubled children and their families.

We all have one goal in mind—helping children take control of their lives so they may become productive citizens. Our efforts to do this will not be reflected in this or any other annual report, but will show up in the quality of the society that we have over the decades ahead.”

Sincerely,



Jon Lindsay  
Chairman, Juvenile Board

**TO: The Citizens of Harris County**

**RE: Transmittal of 1983 Annual Report**

“Input in the planning and implementation of programs and services offered at the Probation Department is credited to a variety of sources. These include members of the judiciary, local and state agencies and governing bodies, professional organizations and associations, the public and an active volunteer force. Without the support of these individuals and groups, the Probation Department would not be the quality agency it is today.

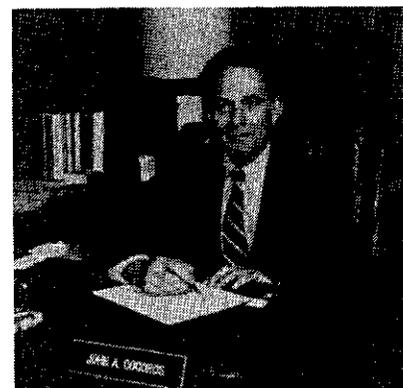
However, the primary strength of all our programs and services must be credited to the Department's professional staff. These dedicated individuals work hard to consistently provide our clients with fair and effective rehabilitative and treatment services. Staff take advantage of the Departmental training activities to improve their skills and learn new treatment and management techniques. These efforts result in a quality and innovative Probation Department.

The 1983 Annual Report will reflect the Department's positive growth made possible through the talents of the Probation staff.”

Sincerely,

*John A. Cocoros*

John A. Cocoros  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer



# 1983 Annual Report Juvenile Probation

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# Introduction

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, under the authority of the Texas Family Code, Title III provides services to all delinquent youth ten years of age through sixteen years of age and some age seventeen. The Department also administers those services provided by Family Court Services and Child Support.

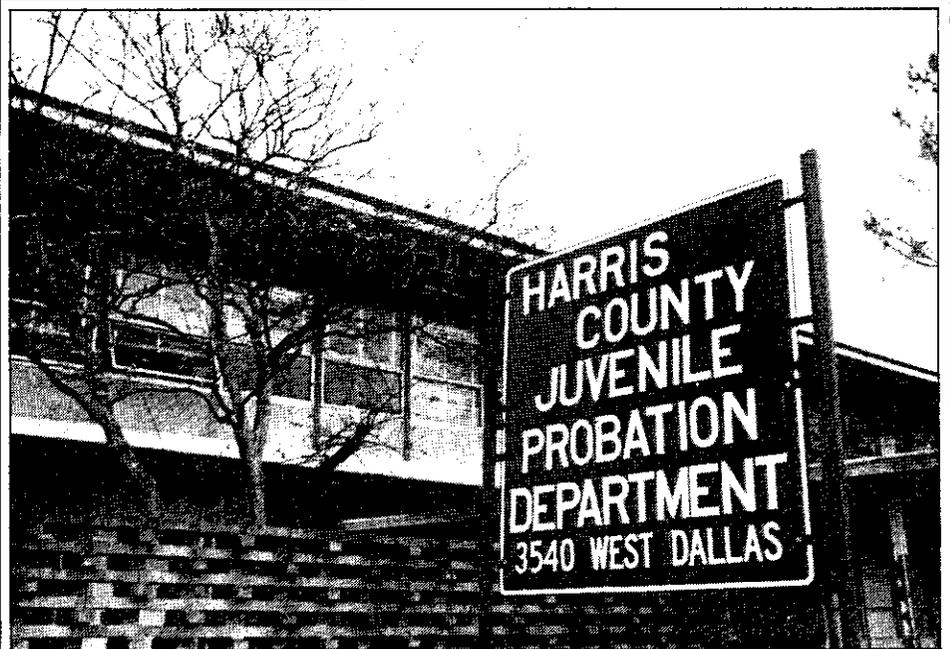
The Juvenile Probation Department is accountable to two local governing bodies and to one state agency. Each has different responsibilities and functions but all three share the goal of providing the best possible probation and treatment services to the youth of Harris County.

The Harris County Juvenile Board, consisting of the County Judge and six District Court Judges, sets the policies and determines the programming for the Juvenile Probation Department. The Harris County Commissioners Court, the county's administrative body, allocates and monitors the majority of the Department's annual budget.

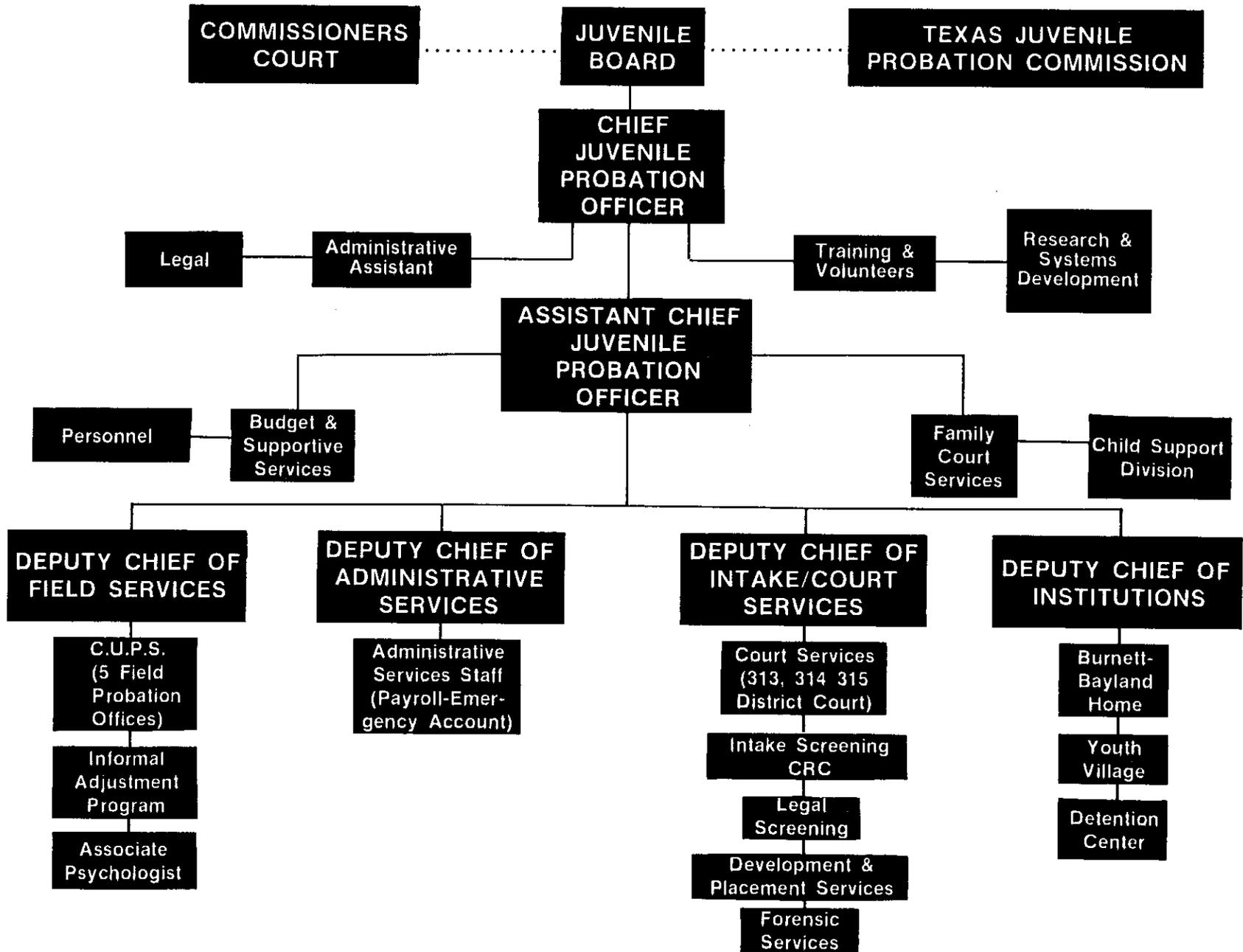
The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, a newly created state agency, created by statute in 1981, provides some funds and also sets and monitors standards for juvenile probation services and personnel. These three entities operate independently of each other, but collectively guide the Department's daily activities and future planning.

The staff of the Probation Department and members of the Juvenile Board, are proud of their many accomplishments in offering quality and innovative programs and services to delinquent youths and families. This effort is recognized in Texas and throughout the United States as a model for the treatment and rehabilitation of delinquent youth.

The Annual Report is a statistical analysis and program overview of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department for 1983.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# Harris County Commissioners Court



Honorable Jon Lindsay  
County Judge



Tom Bass  
Precinct 1



Jim Fonteno  
Precinct 2



Bob Eckels  
Precinct 3



E. A. "Squatty" Lyons, Jr.  
Precinct 4

# Harris County Juvenile Board

The Harris County Juvenile Board sets the policies and determine programming for the Juvenile Probation Department. Created by the Texas Legislature, the Juvenile Board consists of the County Judge and six District Judges. Three of the six District Court Judges have jurisdiction over all juvenile cases. This Board meets monthly, with additional meetings as needed, to conduct all formal business and keep abreast of the Department's activities.

Several responsibilities of the Juvenile Board are mandated through legislation. These include preparing the Department's annual budget for the County Commissioners Court; preparing an annual written report on the Department's operations and services; monitor the operations and services of the Department and determine policy; and directing either the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer or the District Clerk to receive and disburse child support payments as ordered by a District Court.

Some members of the Juvenile Board serve as liaison with the probation staff on specific aspects of the Department as follows:

Chairman

Judge Jon Lindsay

Vice Chairman

Judge Robert Lowry

Secretary

Judge Robert Baum

Chairman, Budget & Finance

Judge Robert Baum

Chairman,

Building and Grounds

Judge William Hatten

Chairman, Programs

Judge Criss Cole

Chairman, Personnel

Judge Robert Lowry

Members, Triboard Committee

Judge Robert Baum

Judge Robert Lowry

During 1983, the Harris County Juvenile Board guided the Probation Department through a variety of changes. A major project this year was the building and remodeling of the Juvenile Detention Center. Located at 3540 W. Dallas, this facility, paid for through County bond money, was designed to meet the special needs of the types of youths referred to the Department. While most of this project is completed and housing youth, the summer of 1984 is the target date for final completion. The Juvenile Board is also responsible by law for certification of this facility as a suitable detention center for youth.

With the creation of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commis-

sion, the Juvenile Board received state funds in 1983 to be utilized for probation services. These funds are allocated to counties on a yearly basis by this newly created state agency according to a state approved formula, as a means to supplement and improve juvenile services. Judge Robert Baum was appointed in 1981 by the Governor to serve as one of the initial nine Commissioners overseeing this agency's activities for the State of Texas.

Another important task undertaken by the Juvenile Board during 1983 was the study of and subsequent decision to support the removal of the Child Support Enforcement Division from under the Board's control. This action supported Senate Bill 1359 which authorized this office to function separately under the authority of the County Commissioner's Court. Effective September 1, 1983, the Child Support Enforcement Division was accordingly transferred from the Juvenile Board and renamed the Domestic Relations Office.

# Juvenile Board



Honorable Jon Lindsay  
County Judge



Judge Robert L. Lowry  
313th District Court



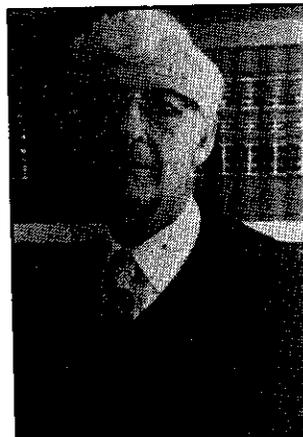
Judge Robert B. Baum  
314th District Court



Judge Criss Cole  
315th District Court



Judge William Elliott  
311th District Court



Judge William M. Hatten  
176th District Court



Judge Wyatt H. Heard  
190th District Court

# Intake Court & Probation Services

## INTAKE

All youth referred to the Juvenile Probation Department are processed through the *Intake Screening Division*. In operation daily with twenty four hour coverage, the probation officers in Intake Screening are responsible for evaluating the legal and social circumstances of a youth and family. It is at this time that a decision is made to release the youth to a responsible adult guardian, or to detain the child pending a court hearing.

The cases referred to Intake Screening are either in-custody or non-custody cases. The in-custody cases are offences where the youth is physically brought either to the Detention Center or Chimney Rock Center (CRC), depending on the type of offense

committed. Non-custody cases are offenses where the youth involved has been released to a parent or guardian at the police level, and a paper referral on the case is referred to the Juvenile Department for proper assessment and assignment.

After the Intake process, all referrals are forwarded to the *Legal Screening Unit*. The attorneys in this unit review all the felony and certain misdemeanor cases to determine if legal grounds exist for further court action. A total of 4,452 cases were reviewed in 1983 resulting in 1,865 petitions being filed. The Legal Screening Attorneys also act as Special Prosecutor for the District Attorney's Office and represent the State in detention hearings.

## COURT

After the Intake and Legal Screening process, a youth becomes the responsibility of the *Court Unit*. It is in this Division that all information for the court hearing is prepared. Officers coordinate and verify all demographic data into a concise and cohesive report, including dispositional alternatives, for presentation to the court. They also prepare detailed reports on violations of probation and *Detention Hearings*. The Juvenile Court Referee, Veronica Price-Morgan, conducts Detention Hearings daily. Each youth detained in the Detention Center is required to have a hearing every ten days until the case is disposed of in court.

Motions for certifications are an additional part of the court process. This is the procedure by which the court determines if a youth meets the criteria to be transferred to the adult criminal court for the alleged offense, or be tried as a juvenile. As required by Article 54.02 of the Texas Family Code, Title 3, numerous reports and tests are completed and interviews are conducted by the Probation Department and District Attorney's Office. The evaluations include a psychological, psychiatric, a neuropsychological, a physical examination and an electroencephalogram (EEG). These, with a

*Probation Officer interviews client during intake.*



## PROBATION

complete social history and background of the youth's previous department, are submitted to the court at least one full day prior to the scheduled certification hearing. In 1983, thirty nine youth were certified as adults and transferred out of the juvenile courts.

Once a youth is adjudicated delinquent by the courts and placed on probation, the case is assigned to the Probational Field Services Division. The primary function of the *Probation Field Service Division* is to rehabilitate the child by providing supervision and treatment for all adjudicated youths. Various programs are offered to best suit the needs of each child and his/her family. The large geographic size of Harris County creates a need for six community unit probation officers. This ensures that service delivery is effective and is not limited to a client's residence and/or lack of transportation to the main office.

Aside from ensuring that all rules of probation are followed as ordered by the courts various programs are utilized based on the probation officer's client evaluation of the youth. The Rotary Boys Club and Outward Bound program have been developed in conjunction with other agencies in the community and provide special activities as part of a youth's treatment package. Four primary programs developed and implemented through the Department's efforts include the Incentive Program, Restitution, Community Service Restitution, and Contract Counseling.

The *Incentive Program* is a motivational tool that enables a child to complete the probation period early. In this program, a youth and possibly the family, participate in educational workshops, employment or regular school attendance, volunteer activities, training or recreational programs, as well as individual, group and family counseling. The goal is to redirect behavioral patterns to more positive and acceptable levels. During 1983, a total of 85 youths completed this program.

The *Restitution Program* is a rehabilitative alternative utilized by the court for monetary repayment to victims for damages incurred by the youth's conduct. The treatment goal is to instil within the youth a sense of personal responsibility and consequences for his/her actions. In 1983, approximately 175 youth were ordered to pay restitution amounting to over \$50,461.00. In this program, the probation officer supervises the child and monitors the child's payment of restitution.

The Juvenile Probation Department statistics indicate the following activity of court case dispositions.

### Case Dispositions

Petitions	Court Activity
Declined	—
Filed	1709
Reopened	1058
Court Decisions	Court Activity
Certified as adults	39
Dismissed or denied	273
Non-Suit	143
Informal Adjustment	17
Early Terminations	102
Passed	96
Probation	1568
Restitution	103
TYC	362
Other	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2767</b>



*Family counseling is an integral part of the treatment plan.*

A third program is **Community Restitution** which began in the latter part of 1983. The Red Cross makes available community volunteer jobs to youth on probation. The youth receive training, ongoing supervision, and learn skills that could be utilized for future employment. The probation officer continues to supervise the youth and keeps abreast of his/her progress.

**Contract Counseling** is a fourth treatment program within the Field Services Division. Contracts are let to two private counseling agencies for individual, family and group counseling for youth and their families. The probation officer maintains contact with the ser-

vice provider regarding the client's progress. In 1983, 583 individual, 1,092 family, and 841 group counseling sessions were held.

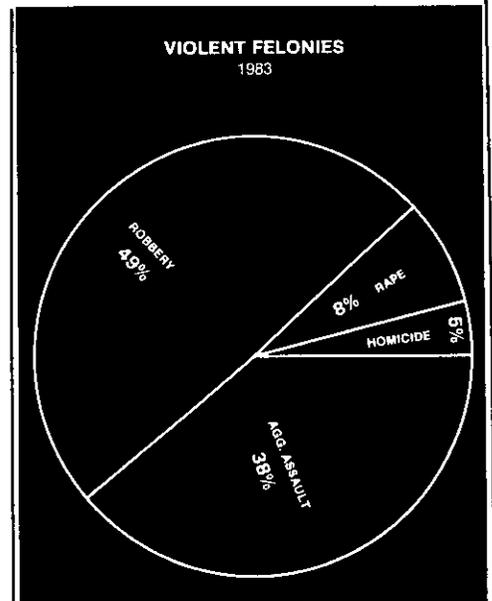
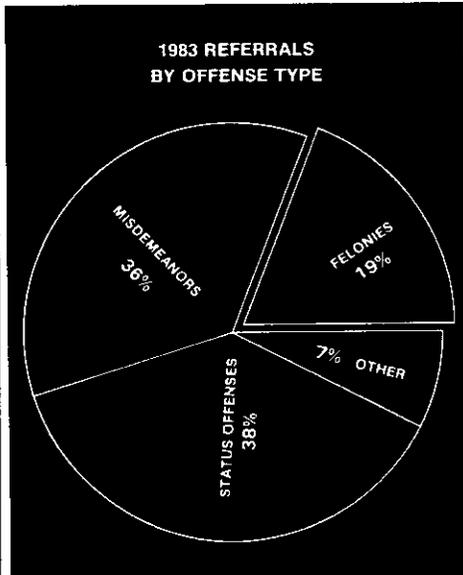
With these programs in operation, it is apparent that adjudicated youth participate in numerous treatment programs and are seen frequently by the probation officers. Approximately 15,556 face to face contacts were made between client and probation officer in 1983. The average caseload per probation officer is 52, with approximately 106 new cases assigned to the six units each month. This makes a total of 1,296 cases handled per month in 1983.

The Field Services Division

also provides services at the **Informal Adjustment Unit**. This program is for youths who have not been adjudicated, and acts as prevention and diversion from further formal involvement in the juvenile justice system. This six month program offers one to one supervision and various group counseling sessions. During 1983, approximately 2,242 face to face contacts were made with 1,121 youths. Volunteers and interns are invaluable in assisting with probation services. Throughout 1983, over 11,489 service hours were provided by the trained volunteer and intern staff for the Field Services Division.

# Statistical Review

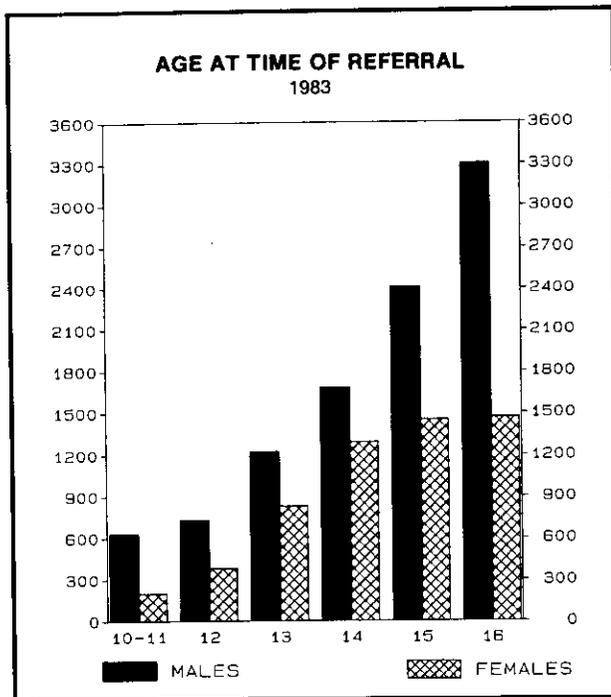
The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department received 15,921 referrals during 1983. These include those offenses committed by children ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age. The breakdown of all referrals reveals that of the total 19 percent were felonies, 36 percent were misdemeanors, 38 percent were status offenses, and 7 percent were other offenses.



Violent felonies shown below are those offenses committed against persons and comprise 19 percent of the total referrals to the Department.

The majority of all referrals to the Department were made by the Houston Police Department. The breakdown of the sources of referrals is reflected in the following table.

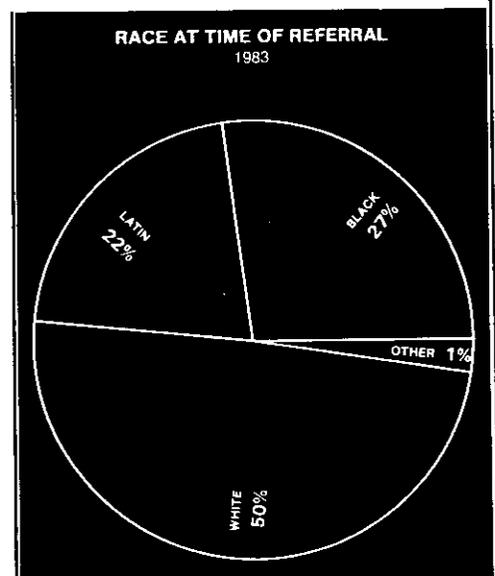
Source of Referral	1983
Houston Police Department	9817
Pasadena Police Department	777
Baytown Police Department	529
Harris County Sheriff's Department	2470
Other	2228
<b>Total</b>	<b>15921</b>



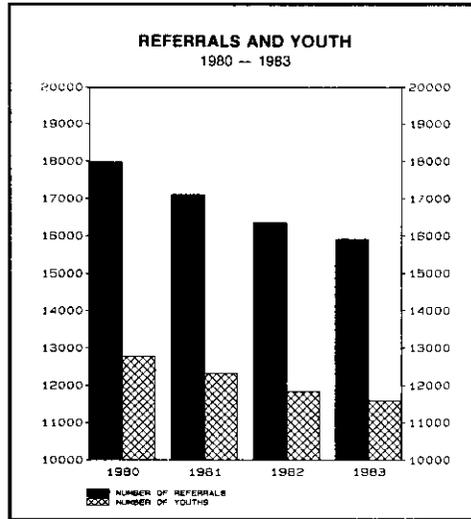
Males dominate females for the total number of referrals. Males and females were referred to the Department for similar types of offenses. However, females dominate males in one category, that of runaways. Over three-fourths of all youth referred fall in the fourteen, fifteen, sixteen year age range.

Youth referred by School District: 1980-1983

School District	Year			
	1980	1981	1982	1983
Aldine	285	108	785	791
Alief	121	43	375	509
Channelview	39	20	81	109
Clear Creek	144	60	246	258
Crosby	18	4	55	57
Cypress-Fairbanks	121	44	341	419
Deer Park	112	30	236	278
Galena Park	120	27	245	496
Goose Creek	218	49	651	496
Houston	2457	599	6721	6610
Huffman	20	9	18	23
Humble	71	40	123	148
Katy	41	15	116	137
Klein	97	33	325	323
LaPorte	84	29	104	107
North Forest	185	63	422	430
Pasadena	466	133	1242	961
Sheldon	30	6	95	79
Spring	70	20	212	225
Spring Branch	332	81	798	669
Tomball	27	5	42	22
Private/Parochial	199	60	524	473



Half (50 percent) of all youth referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation Department were white, 27 percent were black, 22 percent were hispanic, and 1 percent were of other ethnic origin. Based on the data, black youth tend to be referred more frequently than other ethnic groups for crimes against persons; while white youth tended to be more frequently referred for crimes against property and what is labeled victimless crimes. Hispanics tended to be referred most often for inhalant abuse.



Referral Category	1981	1982	1983
Homicide	26	26	16
Arson	46	57	55
Rape	27	37	32
Robbery	182	233	200
Burglary	1456	1542	1468
Assault			
Aggravated Assault	127	125	158
Misd A/B	26	33	29
Misd C	482	404	481
Theft			
Felony	310	347	288
Misd A/B	1628	1686	1663
Misd C	542	507	570
Motor Vehicle Theft			267
Joyriding	637	538	220
Alcohol Offenses			
Misd C	12	28	53
Drug Offenses			
Felon	64	56	38
Misd A/B	336	337	376
Misd C	531	593	565
Sniffing	142	277	178
Disorderly Conduct	83	121	120
Other Offenses			
Felony	502	515	514
Misd A/B	1289	1318	1428
Violation of Lawful			
Court Order	236	298	363
Status Offenses			
Runaway	7641	6361	5823
Other	162	221	179
City Violations	168	181	169
Administrative Actions	269	290	416
Other Administrative Actions	128	161	164
TYC Parolee Runaways	65	67	88
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17117</b>	<b>16359</b>	<b>15921</b>

# Detention Services

The Harris County Juvenile Detention Center, located adjacent to the administrative offices at 3540 W. Dallas, is a secure facility for youth pending their court hearings or awaiting placements outside the home.

In accordance with the Texas Family Code, youth are detained for any one of the following reasons:

1. The child is accused of committing a felony and may be dangerous to him/herself or others if released.

2. Suitable supervision, care or protection for the child is not being provided by a parent, guardian, custodian or other person.

3. The child is likely to abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the court.

4. There is no parent, guardian, custodian, or other person able to return the child to court when required.

5. The child has previously been found to be a delinquent child or has previously been convicted of a penal offense punishable by a term in jail or prison and is likely to commit an offense if released.

While detained, each youth has a detention hearing before the Referee of the Juvenile Court every ten days. Initially, each youth has the right to a hearing within two working days of his/her admittance.



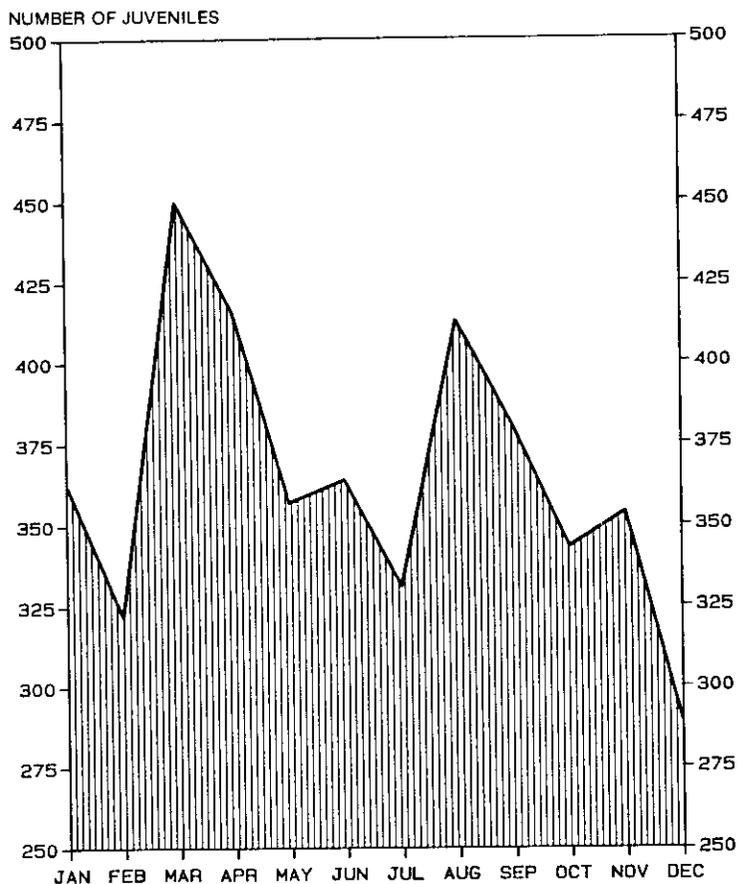
While detained, each youth has a detention hearing before the Referee of the Juvenile Court every ten days. Initially, each child has the right to a hearing within two working days of his/her admittance.

Admittance by Offense	
Offense	Frequency
<b>Delinquency Offenses:</b>	
Homicide	41
Rape	60
Robbery	187
Aggravated Assault	136
Burglary and Theft	2100
Controlled Substances	172
All others	599
<b>C.H.I.N.S. Behavior:</b>	
School Attendance	14
Liquor Law Violation	14
Inhalant	50
Runaway	433
Others	377
<b>Administrative Referrals</b>	<b>259</b>

**C**onstruction and remodeling of the Detention Center continued through 1983. In April 1984, Phase I of a two part plan, will have been completed. This adds 140 private rooms, two gymnasiums, 13 day rooms, an assessment unit, and a new facility for Intake Screening. September 1, 1984 is the projected date for completion of Phase II and will include additional 58 private rooms, a third gymnasium, three outdoor play areas, and new kitchen and laundry facilities.

During a youth's stay, closely supervised activities are offered. These include physical recreation, arts and crafts, aerobic dance instruction and organized games. The casework staff, with the assistance of a consulting psychologist, provide ongoing group and individual counseling. Caseworkers also serve as a liaison between the youth and probation officer by keeping them informed of the court process. Medical services are available around the clock for emergencies, with all youth undergoing a physical exam upon their admittance to Detention.

### ADMITTANCES TO DETENTION BY MONTH 1983



The largest number of admittances to Detention were during the months of March, April and August. Admittances were lowest during the months of February, July and December.

### LENGTH OF DETENTION

Days Detained	Male	Female
Less than 24 hours .....	850	221
1 day .....	1,096	384
2 days .....	202	72
3-5 days .....	228	56
6-10 days .....	188	35
11-30 days .....	554	111
31-44 days .....	118	23
over 44 days .....	139	23

# Harris County Institutions

The two Harris County facilities most often used by the Courts for placing adjudicated delinquent youth not able to return home, are the Harris County Youth Village and Burnett-Bayland Home. These institutions provide residents with counseling, twenty-four hour child care, recreational programs and vocation or academic classes. Both emphasize a youth's reintegration back into the family, community and home school upon completing probation.

The *Harris County Youth Village* is located on a 120 acre campus in Clark Lake. In this relaxed environment, residents participate in a wide variety of programs designed to meet their individual treatment needs.

The Youth Village program provides an interface of several treatment services. Educational services are highlighted by the 15 academic and vocational classes delivered on campus by the accredited Houston Independent School District component. Residential-care services focus on the development of a strong self-image and the learning of self-sufficiency and responsibility. Social-recreational services focus on improving motor coordination, peer cooperation, and social development. The Casework staff develop and implement individualized treatment programs for residents and work closely with the youth's family.

Medical services regularly test and treat the residents in addition to using a diversity of special community and private medical agencies. All of these services are enhanced by the many volunteers at the Youth Village.

In 1983, a Positive Monetary Release (PMR) program was initiated to enrich the overall behavior modification program. With PMR, the residents earn hypothetical dollars by exhibiting acceptable social behaviors, peer relationships, and task completions. As the residents advance, the environment becomes rewarding and in turn demands a more mature set of behaviors. This concrete approach has proved successful in the modification of problematic behavior and their replacement with pro-social behaviors and bring responsibility for their actions.

The Youth Village served 341 residents during 1983. This accounts for 76% male and 24% female. The ethnic breakdown was 44% black, 29% white, and 27% hispanic. The average daily population was 123, with the average length of stay 9.2 months. The period of probation allowed by law is one year.

*Burnett-Bayland Home*, located on forty acres of land in southwest Houston, is a community based residential facility where the residents attend public school. The community based

nature of the program encourages youth to participate in extra curricular activities off campus, or if appropriate, find part-time employment during the after school and weekend hours.

The Burnett-Bayland campus has a swimming pool, gymnasium, and tennis courts. These are part of the recreational program, an important part of the treatment plan. Individual, family and group counseling are equally as important. Staff encourage parent participation as a way to reintegrate residents back into the family.

A three part level system is used as part of a behavior-modification program. Youth begin at level 2 upon initial admittance to Burnett-Bayland Home, and then move up or down in the system based on weekly student responsibility appraisals and case staffing by the casework supervisor, administrator and child care staff. A total of 84 boys received residential care during 1983. The ethnic breakdown was 46 blacks, 26 whites and 12 hispanics.

As with all areas of the Probation Department, volunteers were an integral part of the services provided. In 1983, the Red Cross, Junior League and Juvenile Court Volunteers sponsored 72 volunteers for the Burnett-Bayland Home.

# Placement Services

Many youth require treatment in residential centers rather than returning home. During 1983, 712 placement requests were made to the *Development & Placement Services Division*, of which 443 youth were actually placed outside the home.

Various private and public facilities were utilized during 1983 based on a youths treatment and rehabilitative needs. They are as follows;

## MHMRA ACTIVITY

SERVICE	NUMBER OF YOUTH
Referrals	445
Intake Screenings	390
Mental Retardation Screenings	14
Mental Health Screenings	4
Psychological eval.	306
Psychiatric eval.	204
Family evaluations	82

The Development and Placement Services Division also function as coordinator between the Department and the MHMRA Forensic Unit. This unit is housed in the Juvenile Probation Department and performs the majority of all psychological-psychiatric evaluations for the courts.

FACILITY	NUMBER OF YOUTHS REFERRED
Triad (Casa Phoenix)	6
Austin State Hospital	5
Vernon Drug Abuse Center (State)	13
Jackson Group Home (MHMRA)	3
Mapleridge (MHMRA)	4
Northwest Group Center	4
Burnett-Bayland Home	82
Harris County Youth Village	220
Private facilities	106
Devereux Foundation	7
DePelchin Faith Home	2
Gulf Coast Trade Center	44
Houston Marine Institute	2
Hope Center	28
Meadowbriar Home for Girls	4
Meridell Achievement Center	4
New Horizons	1
Odyssey Harbor	1
Southwest Center for Hearing Impaired	1
Summit Oaks	10
Texas School for Deaf	1

# Family Court Services & Child Support Division

## FAMILY COURT SERVICES

**F**amily Court Services, located in downtown Houston, is in operation to assist the Court of Domestic Relations, the Juvenile Courts and the Probate Courts in adoption and disputed child custody cases.

All referrals to Family Court Services are initiated by a District Court order. An intake unit pre-screens all cases and refers those cases requiring social studies to court investigators for follow-up. Specially trained investigators visit homes, interview families and other appropriate persons, and gather information from relevant social agencies to prepare extensive social histories. This information assists the Courts in determining a plan in the child's best interest. In 1983, a total of 1,041 adoption investigations and 666 custody investigations were performed.

Occasionally, children are found to be living in unsuitable or dangerous environments requiring temporary legal custody to be placed with the Probation Department pending final court hearings. During 1983, a total of 88 children were removed from their homes and placed in the custody of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

The *Harris County Child Support Division* is responsible for the collection and disbursement of child support payments as ordered by a District Court. During 1983, this Division handled approximately 90,000 active cases, totaling in an excess of \$52,000,000.00.

## CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

Child Support staff members utilize computer technology to process all incoming support payments, check for accuracy in dollar amounts, record the payment, and mail the support payment to the appropriate individual. Payees are instructed to pay an annual fee for this county service. These collections are deposited in the County's General Fund.

The activity for the Child Support Division in 1983 is as follows:

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Active Cases .....	\$90,000.00
Accountings per month .....	\$5,100.00
Annual transactions .....	\$3,000,000.00
Total annual fees collected .....	\$49,334.15
Total annual deposit .....	\$52,209,279.20

# Training & Volunteers

Since September, 1983, when the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission Standards became effective and monies were allocated to the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, probation staff officers have participated in training to meet the state mandate. This mandate requires forty (40) hours of pre-service training for all new Probation Officers within the first six months of employment to acquire certification. All certified probation officers must receive forty (40) hours of inservice each year to maintain certification.

The *Training and Staff Development* program offered over 90 training opportunities and approximately 1,130 training hours during 1983 for all the Department's staff, volunteers, and interns. This included inservice training workshops, seminars, and state and national conferences.

The Texas Council on Crime and Delinquency and Sam Houston State University Training Academy assisted in the efforts of the Training Division to provide a comprehensive training program for all levels of probation staff.

The Training and Staff Development Division are responsible for the Juvenile Alcohol Awareness Program. This special training program began in March, 1983 in response to the

perceived needs of the youth served by our Department. The first six months of the program, the Pilot Phase, was made possible by a grant of approximately \$12,000.00 from the Texas Commission on Alcoholism. As of September, 1983, when the initial funding period was complete, the Probation Department assumed complete responsibility for the program.

The program consists of six 1½ hour classes covering the following topics:

1. Alcohol and Alcoholism: Truth and Myth
2. Traffic Safety: Drinking and Driving
3. How Alcohol Affects the Family System
4. Communication Skills
5. Development of Decision-Making Skills
6. The Psychological Dynamics of Chemical Dependency

The program is geared towards the prevention of the devastating disease of alcoholism through education.

We are now in the eighth session of the program and the response has been overwhelming. Over 781 young people have been referred to the program and over 600 people, including parents, have attended the classes. All three of the Juvenile Court Judges are making attendance in this program a special rule of probation where deemed appropriate.

The success and accomplishments of the Juvenile Probation Department are not only credited to the probation staff, but also the support from volunteers and interns. During 1983, over 200 trained volunteers and interns participated in all aspects of the Department.

The *Junior League*, having worked on a volunteer basis with the Department since 1966, placed 100 volunteers and worked with hundreds of youth in 1983. They assisted with direct probation and casework duties under the supervision of a probation officer.

Another vital volunteer group is the *Juvenile Court Volunteers*. With administrative offices located in the Probation Department building on West Dallas, these volunteers worked with 684 youths in 1983. This accounts for 17,706 hours of direct service.

The Department's Student Intern Program continues to develop, with students from Sam Houston State University, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University. In 1983, 72 student interns participated in the program.

# Personnel

The Personnel Division handles large numbers of highly qualified applicants for each open position. This affords the Department the opportunity to be selective in employment choices, and hire qualified probation officers, support staff, and management officers.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 1983

<b>Probation Services</b>		
Entry level positions opened and filled .....		43
Applications received .....		1,280
Applications interviewed for		
Entry Level positions .....		277
Upward Mobility positions opened and filled		44
Upward Mobility applications received .....		157
Upward Mobility applicants interviewed .....		149
<b>Institutions</b>		
Entry level positions opened and filled .....		67
Applications received .....		1,318
Applications interviewed for Entry Level Positions		344
Upward Mobility positions opened and filled		29
Upward Mobility applications received .....		237
Upward Mobility applicants interviewed .....		166

<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>Entry Level</b>	<b>Upward Mobility</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Positions opened and filled .....</i>	110	73	183
<i>Applications Received .....</i>	2,598	374	2,972
<i>Applicants interviewed .....</i>	621	315	936

# Funding

## FUNDING

The Juvenile Probation Department receives funds from three sources, The Harris County Commissioner's Court, The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, and state grant funds.

The majority of funds are allocated by the County. In 1983, the Probation Department received approximately 5.5% of the County's \$235,873,157.00 budget. These funds are allocated to eight separate accounts and are utilized in areas including staff salaries, placement cost, operating costs, and special programs and services for our clients.

The 1983 budget total was \$12,975,871 a decrease of approximately 2.5% over the 1982 budget. This amount reflects the addition of an account (Informal Adjustment Program) and the loss of the Child Support Enforcement account.

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission distributed funds to various County Juvenile Boards for the first time in 1983. Harris County received approximately 10.54% of the total Commission annual budget. This amounted to \$1,025,853.00. State Commission funds are utilized for staff salaries, training, and direct service and treatment programs for youth.

The Department receives a limited amount of grant funds through the Governor's Office.

ACCOUNT	1983	
	Expenditures	Percentage
Family Court Services	\$926,167	7.14%
Juvenile Probation Department	\$5,062,548	39.01%
Child Support	\$694,495	5.35%
Juvenile Detention Center	\$2,070,832	15.96%
Burnett-Bayland Home	\$1,080,004	8.32%
Youth Village	\$1,924,392	14.83%
Informal Adjustment	\$4,677	.04%
Juvenile Group Home #5		
Comprehensive Child Care Services	\$1,212,756	9.35%
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>\$12,975,871</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## GRANTS

Since May, 1981, the Texas Criminal Justice Division (CJD), created by the 67th Legislature, has had primary responsibility for providing of state funds to local governments for correctional programs. In accordance with CJD Directives, the Houston-Galveston Area Council has earmarked twenty-eight percent of the region's grant allocation for juvenile justice projects. The Department implemented a number of projects through grants awarded in 1983. These included:

1. **Juvenile Case Screening....\$7,611.** This grant provides funding for a licensed attorney empowered by the Harris County District Attorney's Office to act as a special prosecutor. The attorney screens juvenile offenses for probable cause. The major goal of this project is to divert appropriate cases from the Juvenile Court and prepare lengthy investigation reports for cases only when a petition will be initiated.
2. **Purchase of Services....\$271,125.** This grant provides funding to support probation services through contracts with other agencies for individual and group counseling, family therapy, emergency transportation of run-aways and residential treatment. Clients are referred to appropriate agencies by probation officers following a needs assessment.
3. **Juvenile Detention Home Staffing Program....\$254,606.** This grant provides funding for providing improved 24 hour supervision for juveniles in the Detention Center, by addition of ten personnel. The grant's primary goal is to improve the child/staff ratio.