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**1984 ANNUAL REPORT**

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**HARRIS COUNTY  
JUVENILE PROBATION  
DEPARTMENT**



# HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

POST OFFICE BOX 13258 • 3540 W. DALLAS • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77219 • (713) 521-4200

Judge Jon Lindsay, *Chairman*  
County Judge

Judge Robert B. Baum,  
*Vice Chairman*  
314th District Court

Judge Robert L. Lowry, *Secretary*  
313th District Court

Judge Criss Cole  
315th District Court

Judge William M. Hatten  
176th District Court

Judge Bill Elliott  
311th District Court

Judge Wyatt H. Heard  
190th District Court

John A. Cocoros  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

TO: Harris County Commissioners' Court  
Citizens of Harris County

RE: 1984 Annual Report

As required by State Law, the 1984 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 hard work of the Juvenile Probation staff.

As Chairman of the Board and as County Judge, I commend the Harris County Commissioners' Court, the members of the Juvenile Board, the citizens of Harris County and the staff of the Probation Department for their continued support, effort and interest in providing the best services possible for troubled children and their families.

Sincerely,

Judge Jon Lindsay  
Chairman  
Harris County Juvenile Board



## HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

3540 W. DALLAS • POST OFFICE BOX 13258 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77219 • (713) 521-4200

JOHN A. COCOROS  
CHIEF OFFICER  
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONS

ROBIN C. PLEDGER  
ASST. CHIEF OFFICER

JOHN PETERS  
DEPUTY CHIEF  
INSTITUTIONS

TERESA V. RAMIREZ  
DEPUTY CHIEF  
FIELD SERVICES

BERNARD HUNTER  
DEPUTY CHIEF  
INTAKE/COURT SERVICES

DONNA SHULTS  
DEPUTY CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

TO: The Citizens of Harris County

RE: Transmittal of 1984 Annual Report

"Again this year, the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department is pleased to submit a positive annual report. 1984 was a year of continued development, expansion and improvement in the quality and scope of our programs and services.

Although we are a large Department, this year has seen significant progress toward one of our most important goals--- that of unifying our various divisions toward a greater team approach. This was done by improving intra-departmental communications, better integration of services, and by involving more volunteers in the diverse facets of the Department's operations.

We are fortunate to have a large staff whose pursuit of individual volunteers, community agencies and businesses who donate their time, talents and resources to the children of Harris County through this Department.

We gratefully acknowledge the outstanding leadership and support of our governing body, the Harris County Juvenile Board. We are also thankful for the generous support of the Harris County Commissioners' Court, our primary funding source.

And, last but not least, we thank the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for its assistance in standard-setting and funding.

With so much to look back on with gratitude, we are encouraged to rededicate ourselves to providing the quality of excellent programs and services which will best serve the citizens of this County and continue to merit the public trust."

Sincerely,

John A. Cocoros  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer



# 1984 ANNUAL REPORT JUVENILE PROBATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letters of Transmittal . . . . .	1
Table of Contents . . . . .	3
Commissioners' Court . . . . .	4
Juvenile Board . . . . .	5
Overview . . . . .	6
Organization Chart . . . . .	7
Intake and Court Services . . . . .	8
Case Flow Chart . . . . .	12
Statistical Profile of Referrals . . . . .	13
Institutional Services	
Detention . . . . .	15
Burnett-Bayland Home . . . . .	17
Youth Village . . . . .	18
Probation . . . . .	19
Child Support . . . . .	21
Family Court Services . . . . .	21
Staff Development and Support	
Training . . . . .	22
Personnel . . . . .	22
Research . . . . .	22
Volunteers . . . . .	23
Interns . . . . .	23
Funding Sources . . . . .	24

# HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

The Harris County Commissioners' Court is the elected administrative body of county government. It is composed of a County Judge who is elected at large, and four Commissioners who are each elected from a specific geographical area or precinct. Each member serves a four year term.

The Commissioners' Court meets weekly with special meetings or public hearings called whenever necessary.

The main functions of the Commissioners' Court are to conduct the general administration of county affairs, to supervise and control the county courthouses and jail, to appoint and employ county personnel, to determine county tax rates, to maintain and provide health and welfare to all county residents through county hospitals, health services and various agencies, and to adopt a county budget.

As the governing body of Harris

County, the Commissioners' Court is responsible for adopting an annual budget for all departments. The Juvenile Probation Department prepares a budget request outlining specific monetary needs for the coming fiscal year. Budgetary hearings are held, and funds are allocated based on funds available and the needs of each department.



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 is the policy-making body for the Juvenile Probation Department. The two primary responsibilities of the Board are to develop programs and monitor the overall operation of the Department, and to review and approve the Department's Budget request prior to its consideration by the Commissioners' Court.

The Juvenile Board, which was created by the Texas Legislature,

is composed of the County Judge and six District Court Judges. Three of the District Court Judges have been designated as Juvenile Court Judges, and have jurisdiction over all juvenile court cases.

The remaining three judges have each been elected by the judges within their particular area of responsibility, to membership on the Juvenile Board as a representative of that group. These three judges represent the

Criminal District Courts, the Family District Courts, and the Civil District Courts.

The Juvenile Board meets monthly with additional meetings as needed, to conduct all formal business and to obtain current information on the Department's activities.



Jon Lindsay  
County Judge  
Chairman of Juvenile Board



Robert Lowry  
313th District Court  
Vice-Chairman of Juvenile  
Board and Chairman of  
Personnel Committee



Criss Cole  
315th District Court  
Chairman of Program  
Committee



Robert B. Baum  
314th District Court  
Chairman of Budget/Finance  
Committee



William M. Hatten  
176th District Court  
Chairman of Building and  
Grounds Committee



Bill Elliott  
311th District Court



Wyatt H. Heard  
190th District Court

# HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

## OVERVIEW / ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Harris County Texas encompasses an area of 1,176.81 square miles. The population of Harris County, in 1984 was 2,705,000. Of this number, 809,395 residents were under the age of 19, and approximately 299,364 of this number were between the ages of 10 and 17.

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department was created, and its duties defined, by the Texas Legislature. We are mandated to provide comprehensive services to the youth of Harris County who are between the ages of 10 and 17. This includes youth who are involved in delinquent behavior, or who are involved in a type of incorrigible behavior which could best be dealt with or resolved by this Department.

The Juvenile Probation Department operates under the direction of John A. Cocoros, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, and Robin Pledger, the Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

There are four primary divisions of service within the Department, each under the direction of a Deputy Chief Probation Officer. The Deputy Chiefs work very closely with the Assistant Chief and Chief Probation Officer in the day to day operation of all divisions of the department.

Donna Shults is Deputy Chief of Administrative Services. In addition to her administrative duties, she represents the Department at the State Legislature and acts as liaison with this Department and professional organizations throughout the state.

John Peters, Deputy Chief of Institutions, is responsible for the operation of the three institutions, which serve the youths who are in need of custodial care. The Detention Center, under the direction of James K. Martins, serves as a receiving unit for all youths brought to the Department by law enforcement agencies. These youths might or might not be detained pending Court, depending on the nature of the offense.

The other two institutions, Burnett Bayland Home, under the direction of Robert Waller, and the Harris County Youth Village under the direction of Ronald J. Nicksich, are court ordered residential facilities for children placed there by court order.

Bernard Hunter, Deputy Chief of Intake Court Division, assisted by Elmer Bailey, Assistant Deputy Chief, is responsible for receiving and processing all referrals, other than adoption or custody, which are to be evaluated and processed by the Department.

These referrals come from law enforcement agencies throughout the county who request a type of assistance which is unique to the facilities of the Probation Department.

Teresa V. Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Field Services, assisted by John P. Murray, Assistant Deputy Chief, is responsible for providing supervision to youths who have been adjudicated delinquent and released by the Courts to either their families or to a local placement facility, and for informal adjustment cases. Close contact is maintained with the youth and his family during the probationary period, which is usually a year. The goal of this division is to assist the youth to successfully complete the probationary period.

There are other areas of responsibility within the Department which are vital to the operation of the Courts, and to the function of the Department.

The Child Support Office, under the direction of Sam VanRheen, housed in the Family Law Center, is a collection and disbursement office for court ordered child support payments in juvenile and divorce cases when child support or restitution is ordered.

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission requires that juvenile probation officers be certified by

obtaining 40 hours of pre-service training as well as 40 hours of ongoing training each year.

The Training Section, under the direction of Jo Ann Jones, provides seminars and workshops to assure that professional staff will meet the requirements for certification.

The Personnel Office, under the direction of Harvey Hetzel, is responsible for posting job openings, and assuring that those who are considered qualify. Complete personnel records are kept on each employee, and annual performance evaluations are required. Each employee's record is monitored to assure that he or she is given consideration for any upward mobility position which may occur.

Family Court Services, under the direction of Emily Charney is responsible for providing investigative services and social studies to the twelve Judicial District Courts in cases pertaining to adoption and disputed child custody cases.

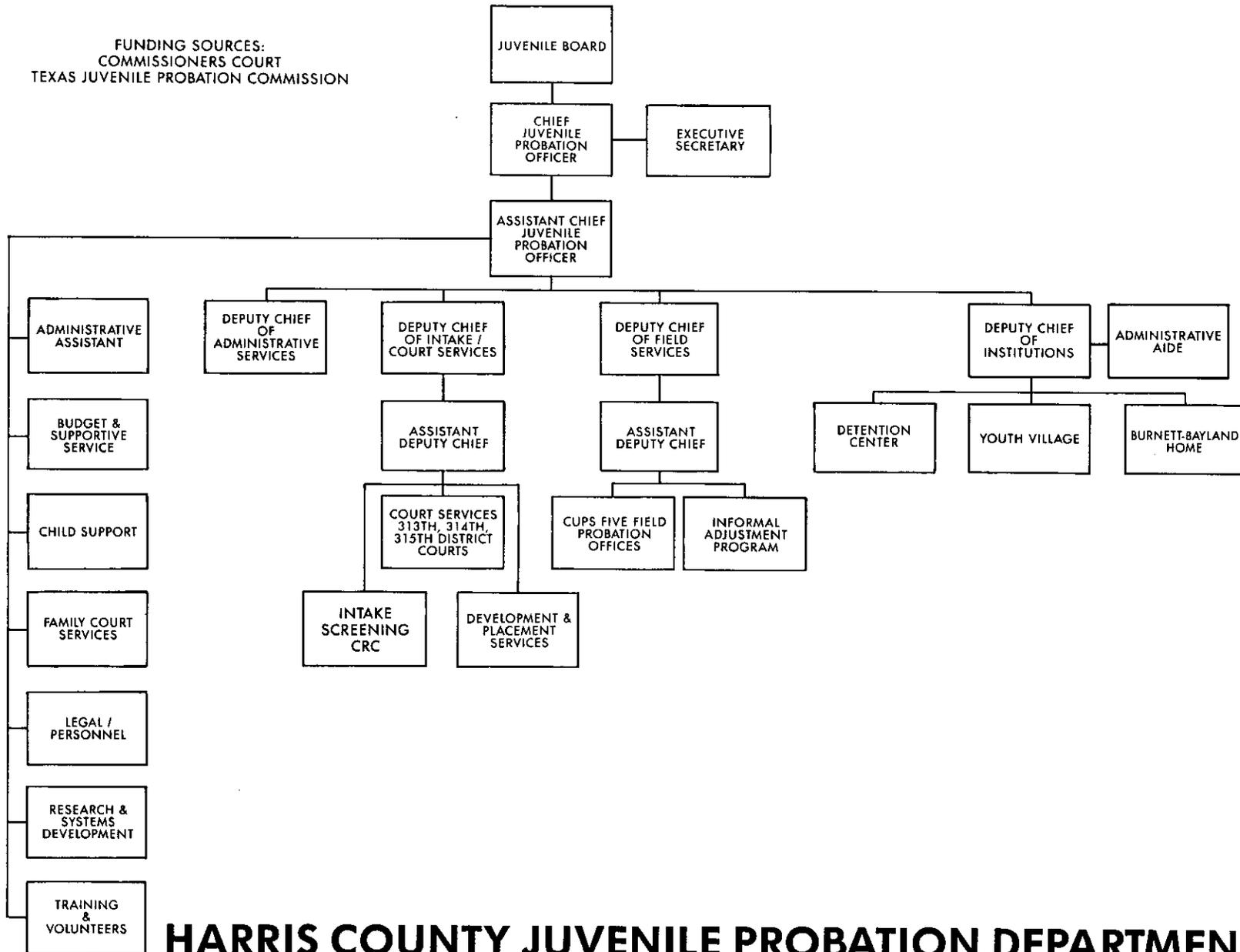
The Research and Systems Development Division under the direction of Jeanne Cyriaque is responsible for maintaining records on all juveniles referred to the Department, and for providing statistical and research reports.

A vital part of the Probation Department is the assistance provided by two groups of volunteers who provide invaluable assistance to the Department.

The Junior League is involved with the Department on an ongoing project basis. They have been so involved since 1966, and counsel with youth at the Intake level.

The Juvenile Court Volunteers Program is funded by the United Fund. They have a staff of volunteers who provide counseling and care to youths who have been adjudicated delinquent.

FUNDING SOURCES:  
 COMMISSIONERS COURT  
 TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION



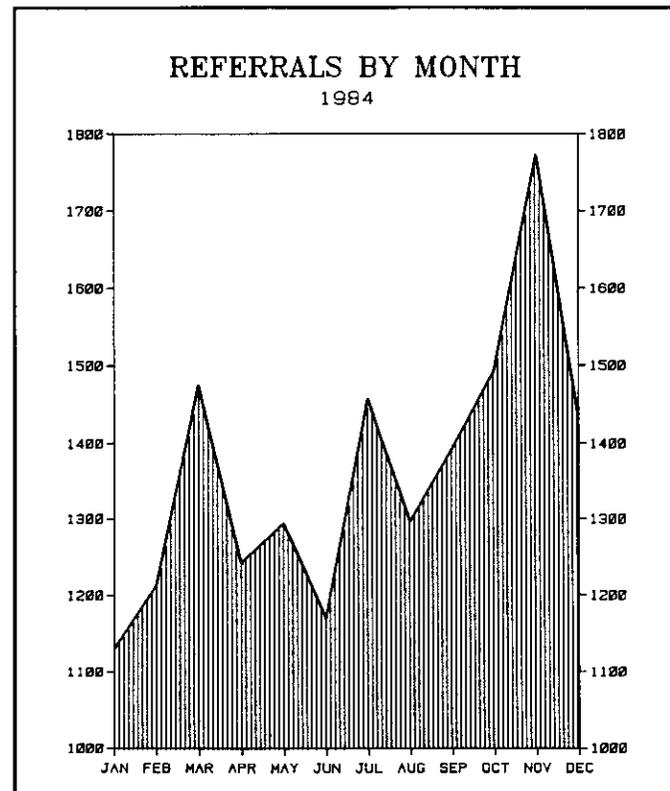
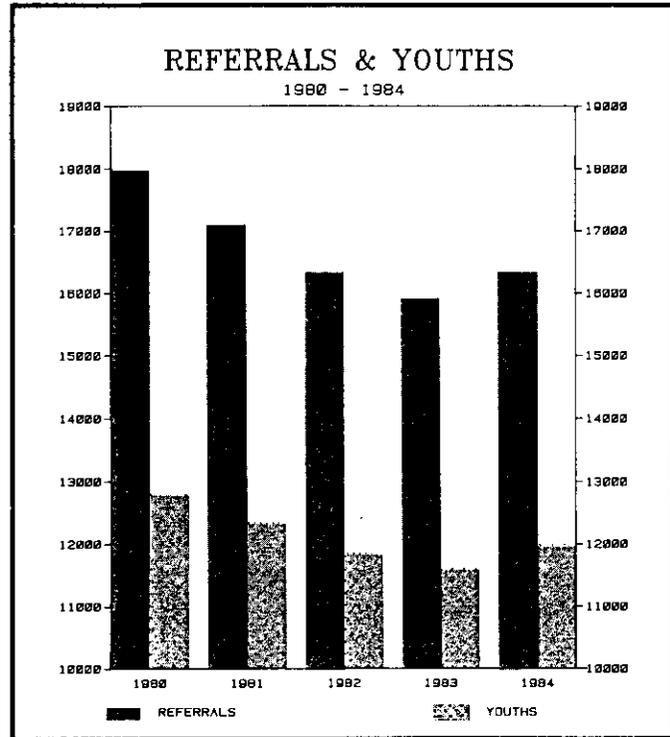
**HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 1984**

# INTAKE AND COURT SERVICES

## INTAKE SCREENING

All youth referred to the Juvenile Probation Department are first processed through the Intake Screening Division. A total of 16,369 youths were referred during 1984. In operation daily, with around the clock coverage, Intake officers evaluate the social circumstances of the youth and his family. With this information, a decision is made to either release the youth to a responsible adult guardian, or to detain, pending a court hearing.

The cases referred to Intake Screening are either in-custody or non-custody cases. The in-custody cases involve offenses wherein the youth is taken to the Detention Center or Chimney Rock Center (CRC), depending on the type of offense committed. Most status offenses are referred to CRC, with all others referred to the Detention Center. Non-custody cases involve offenses in which the youth involved has been released to a parent or guardian at the police level. The Probation Department receives a paper referral for appropriate assessment and assignment.

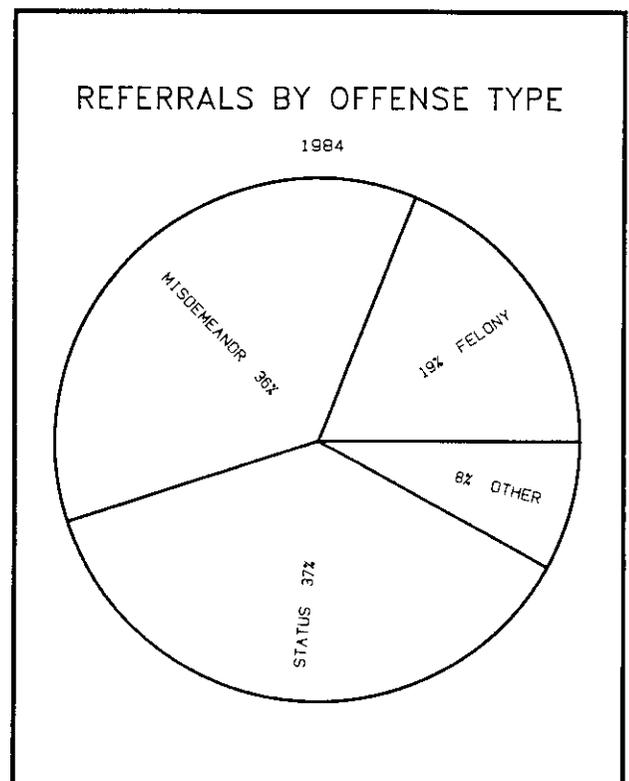
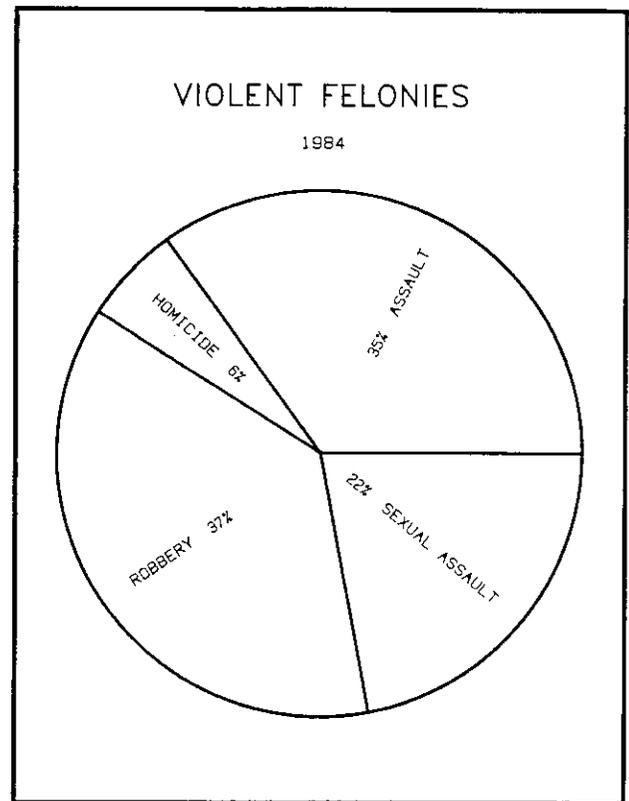


Referral Source	Frequency
Houston Police Department	10,153
Harris County Sheriff's Department	2,573
Pasadena Police Department	540
Juvenile Probation Officers	493
Deer Park Police Department	347
Baytown Police Department	396
Other	1,867

After the intake process, all referrals are forwarded to the Legal Screening Unit. The two attorneys in this unit review all the felony and certain misdemeanor cases to determine if legal grounds exist for further court action. In 1984, a total of 5057 cases were reviewed, resulting in 2735 petitions being filed or reopened in the district courts.

The legal screening attorneys also act as special prosecutors for the District Attorney's Office and represent the State in detention hearings.

1984 Referrals	
Offense	Frequency
Homicide	32
Assault	
Aggravated	171
Misdemeanor A/B	26
Misdemeanor C	551
Sexual Assault	109
Robbery	184
Arson	59
Burglary	1,418
Theft	
Felony	159
Misdemeanor A/B	1,357
Misdemeanor C	932
Motor Vehicle Theft	299
Joyriding	180
Alcohol Offense	
Misdemeanor C	35
Drug Offense	
Felony	60
Misdemeanor A/B	530
Misdemeanor C	562
Sniffing	96
Disorderly Conduct	131
Other Offenses	
Felony	389
Misdemeanor A/B	1,651
Violation of a Lawful Court Order	324
Status Offense	
Runaway	5,963
Other	174
City Violations	190
Administrative Action	398
Other Administrative Action	260
TYC Parolee Runaways	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,369</b>



# COURT

At the completion of the intake and legal screening processes, a youth becomes the responsibility of the Court Services Units. The officers in these units prepare all the information for the child's court hearing. Officers collect, coordinate, verify and combine all demographic data into a concise and cohesive report for presentation at the youth's court hearing.

Included in this information are dispositional alternatives for the judge's consideration. The Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority Forensic Unit, located with the Probation Department, performs the majority of the psychological-psychiatric evaluations for the courts.

Court officers also prepare detailed reports on cases for violations of probation and for the Detention Hearing. Each youth detained in the Detention Center is entitled, by law, to have a Detention Hearing on the second judicial day and every ten (10) days thereafter until the case is disposed of in Court. The Juvenile Court Referee conducts detention hearings daily Monday through Friday.

Certification reports are an additional part of the court

process prepared by officers in this Division. This is the procedure by which the District Courts which hear juvenile cases determine if a youth meets the criteria to be certified as an adult and transferred to the District Courts which hear adult cases.

<b>MHMRA ACTIVITY</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Number of Youth</b>
Referrals	446
Intake Screenings	419
Mental Retardation Screenings	13
Mental Health Screenings	4
Psychological Eval.	354
Psychiatric Eval.	228
Family Evaluations	109

<b>1984 CASE DISPOSITIONS</b>	
<b>Petitions</b>	<b>Court Activity</b>
Declined	172
Filed	1640
Reopened	1095
<b>Total</b>	<b>2907</b>
<b>Court Decisions</b>	<b>Court Activity</b>
Probation	1519
Probation/Restitution	103
Certified	24
Dismissed	113
Early Termination of Probation	7
Informal Adjustment	50
Other	100
Mental Health Problems	3
Nonsuit	128
No Supervision Ordered	20
Passed	109
Petition Withdrawn by Plaintiff	1
Incentive Completed	101
Texas Youth Commission	381
<b>Total</b>	<b>2659</b>

As required by Article 54.02 of the Family Code, Title 3, numerous reports and tests are completed and interviews conducted by the Probation Department, the MHMRA Authority Forensic Unit, and the District Attorney's Office. The extensive evaluations include a psychological, psychiatric and neuro-psychological, a physical examination and electroencephalogram (EEG). These, with a complete social history and background of the youth's previous department, are submitted to the court one full day prior to the court one full day prior to the scheduled certification hearing. Throughout 1984, 24 youths were certified as adults and transferred to adult courts.

It is the goal of the Intake Court Services staff to provide the least intrusive measure of treatment to each child referred, keeping in mind the needs of the child, the importance of the family unit and the safety of the community.

Depending on the case involved, the courts may determine that placement outside the home is in the child's best interest. During 1984, 639 placement requests were made to the Development and Placement Services Division. A total of 418 youths were

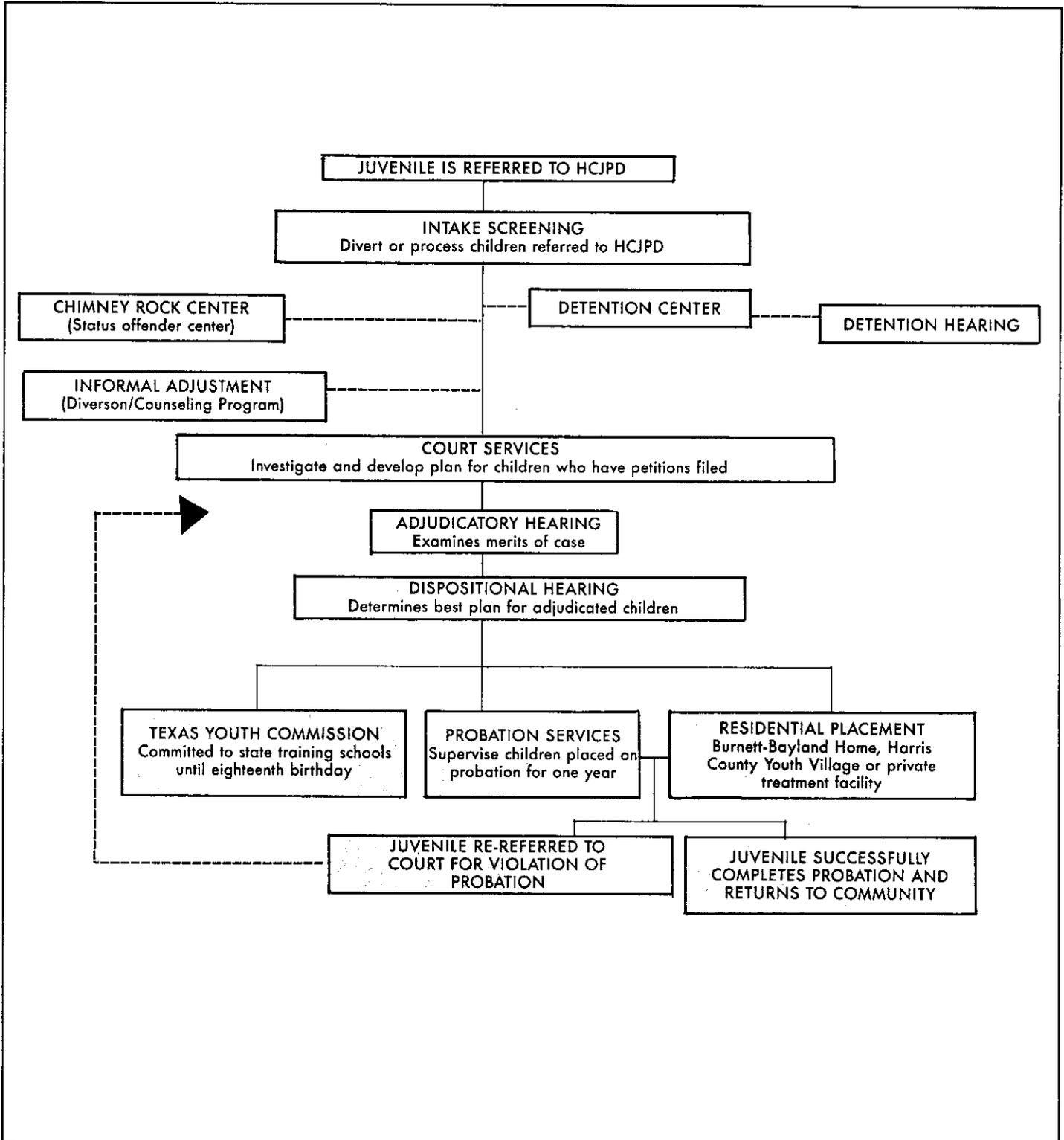
actually placed outside of the home in a private county or state home or institution.

This Division seeks placement when it has been made clear

that the child can no longer adjust in the home with rules of probation, and secondly, that no community based treatment is available. Then and only then is long term residential treatment investigated and secured.

<b>PLACEMENT ACTIVITY</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of Youths Placed</b>
Buckner Boys Ranch .....	1
Burnett Bayland Home .....	82
Casa Phoenix .....	2
DePelchin Faith Home .....	2
Devereux Foundation .....	5
Edgemeade of Texas .....	2
Elan I .....	2
Florence Crittendon .....	1
Gulf Coast Trade Center .....	47
Harris County Youth Village .....	202
Hope Center for Youth .....	17
Houston Marine Institute .....	12
Jackson Group Home .....	1
Lena Pope Home .....	1
Meridell Achievement Center .....	2
Mary Lee Foundation .....	2
Mapleridge .....	1
Meadowbriar Home for Girls .....	4
New Horizons .....	1
O & S Foundation .....	3
Summit Oaks .....	18
Vernon .....	10
<b>Number of Placements .....</b>	<b>418</b>

# CASE FLOW CHART



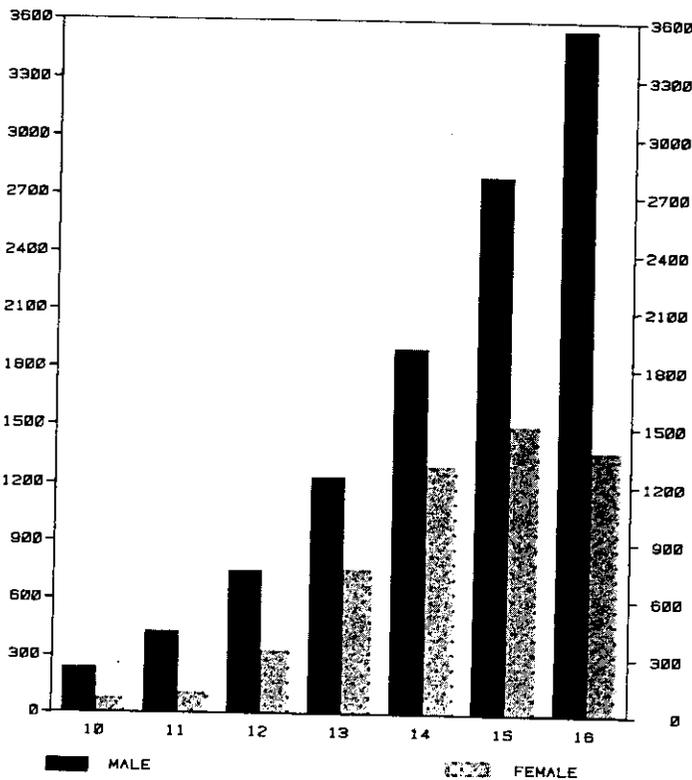
# STATISTICAL PROFILE OF REFERRALS

## 1984 Referrals Parents' Marital Status for Youth Referred to Court

One or both parents dead .....	11%
Divorced or single .....	57%
Married and together .....	29%
Missing .....	3%

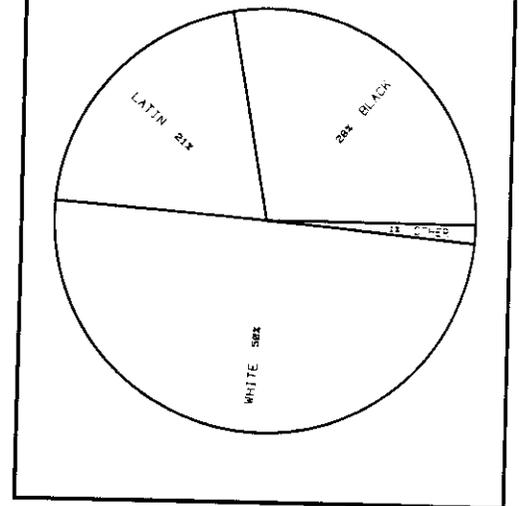
## AGE AT TIME OF REFERRAL

1984

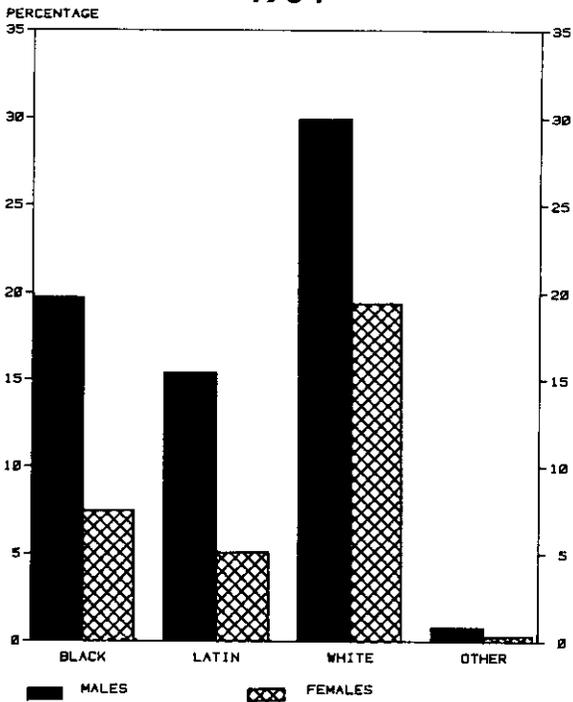


## RACE

1984



### RACE AND SEX 1984



### 1984 REFERRALS RACE AND AGE

AGE	Blacks	Hispanics	Whites	Other
10 years old	104	66	132	10
11 years old	220	111	201	11
12 years old	349	196	508	17
13 years old	590	397	984	18
14 years old	874	667	1620	51
15 years old	1170	910	2180	45
16 years old	1255	1087	2526	64

### 1984 REFERRALS SCHOOL DISTRICT AND RACE

School District	Black	Hispanic	Race White	Other	Total
Aldine	138	143	466	16	763
Alief	75	27	389	9	500
Channelview	5	2	103	1	111
Clear Creek	13	6	195	2	216
Crosby	10	2	54	0	66
Cypress	37	43	457	8	545
Deer Park	0	28	269	0	297
Galena Park	23	33	225	0	281
Goose Creek	60	83	260	1	404
Houston	2951	1877	1521	60	6409
Huffman	7	3	42	0	52
Humble	7	8	132	2	149
Katy	20	14	173	1	208
Klein	25	16	304	14	359
La Porte	6	3	81	4	94
North Forest	301	7	67	2	377
Pasadena	20	152	669	26	867
Sheldon	6	3	74	1	84
Spring	14	9	203	2	228
Spring Branch	83	101	489	24	697
Tomball	15	4	22	1	42
Private/Parochial	87	75	291	3	456
Out of County	25	13	34	0	72
Not Available	640	777	1634	41	3092
<b>Total</b>	<b>4568</b>	<b>3429</b>	<b>8154</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>16369</b>

# INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

## DETENTION CENTER

The Harris County Juvenile Detention Center is located at 3540 West Dallas. It is a multi-purpose facility providing safe and secure housing for children awaiting juvenile court action or other administrative procedure.

The completion of the first phase of the new Detention Center in April, 1984, was one of the most important events in juvenile justice in Harris County. Begun in 1981, this \$11.2 million construction project alleviated crowded conditions that had existed since the 1970's.

The new 200-bed facility is divided into sections for secure detention, an Assessment Unit, and temporary, non-secure shelter. Two new gymnasiums, 13 multi-purpose activity rooms, a

separate intake section, and state-of-the-art electronic monitoring all enabled expansion of the programs and services offered youth who stay at the Center.

To accommodate the larger facility, in 1984 the Center's staff was increased by about 50%. Among new staff were an Administrative Psychologist (Ph.D. level), two Master's Degree level psychologists, caseworkers and recreation specialists. Over 100 volunteers boost program capability by providing recreational, cultural and educational classes, as well as one-on-one counseling.

Full-service, 24 hour programming begins with a medical-psychological assessment

for each child upon admission, followed by assignment to the most appropriate ten-bed unit. This diagnostic function of the Assessment Unit is key to all future programming for the child. Keeping the children in small, homogeneous groups facilitates programming as well as security.

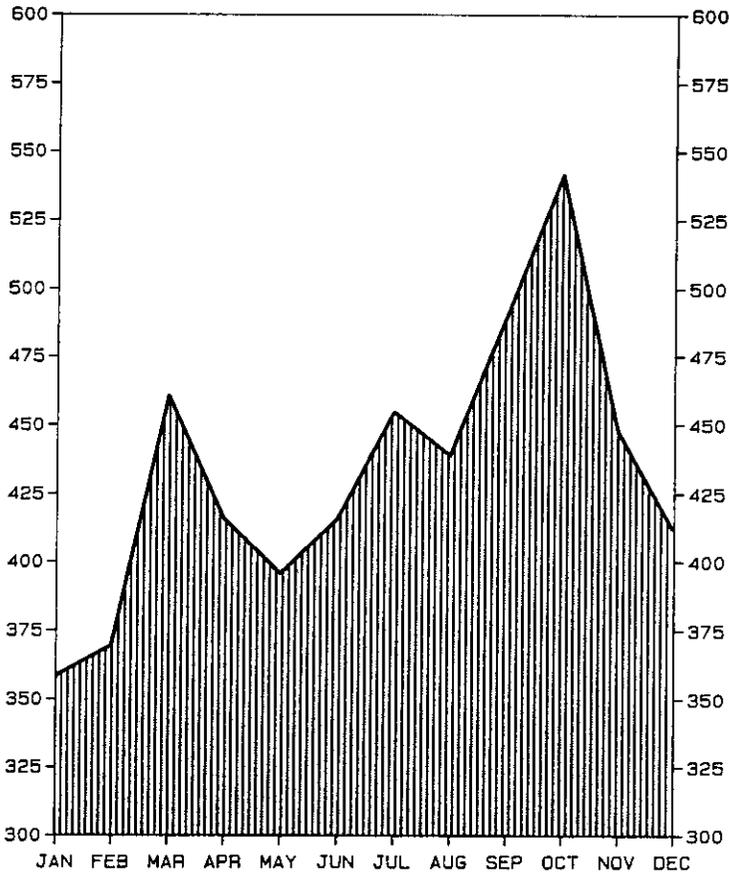
The Psychological and Social Services Unit provides assessment, group and individual counseling, crisis intervention services, and long-range case planning, as well as consultation for staff.

We look forward to the completion of the total project in 1985, and are confident that this institution will be a source of pride for Harris County and a standard-setter for juvenile detention.

Admittance to Detention By Offense	
Offense	Frequency
Murder .....	28
Arson .....	30
Assaults-Felony .....	132
Misdemeanor A/B .....	11
Misdemeanor C .....	189
Sexual Assault .....	61
Robbery .....	158
Burglary .....	731
Theft-Felony .....	91
Misdemeanor A/B .....	545
Misdemeanor C .....	125
Car Theft .....	213
Joyriding .....	114
Drugs-Felony .....	52
Misdemeanor A/B .....	249
Misdemeanor C .....	190
Inhalants .....	44
Alcohol .....	12
Other-Felony .....	172
Misdemeanor A/B .....	657
Disorderly Conduct .....	91
City Ordinance Violations .....	46
Violation of Probation .....	163
Status Offenses	
Runaway .....	577
Other .....	12
TYC Runaways .....	113
Administrative Actions .....	12
Other Authorities .....	388



**DETENTION CENTER**  
ADMITTANCES PER MONTH  
1984



**Veronica E. Morgan-Price**  
Referee

While detained, each youth has a detention hearing before the Referee of the Juvenile Court.

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 been convicted of a penal offense punishable by a term in jail or prison and is likely to commit an offense if released.

**Time in Detention by Admission, 1984**

Time In	Male	Female	Total
Less than 24 hours*	1802	540	2342
1 Day	577	168	745
2 Days	276	109	385
3-5 Days	277	78	355
6-10 Days	302	49	351
11-30 Days	642	93	735
31-44 Days	118	18	136
45 Days or more	130	25	153
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4124</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>5202</b>

## BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME

Burnett-Bayland Home, at 5600 Chimney Rock in southwest Houston, is a community-based residential treatment center. Children, ages 10 to 17, are sent to Burnett-Bayland by the Juvenile Court. Here, they attend neighborhood schools, enjoy community activities and home visits. Although they have engaged in some form of delinquent conduct, the Court has determined these children do not require a more secure environment.

During 1984, Burnett-Bayland Home continued program and staff development. With budgetary approval of several major renovation and remodeling projects, the total facility was upgraded.

Additional staff training resulted in the certification of two staff as Parent Effectiveness Training (P.E.T.) instructors. Two other staff were certified as Advanced

Lifesavers with the American Red Cross. These staff, in turn, provide this training to other personnel.

Every staff member at Burnett-Bayland is considered an integral part of the treatment team. This important team concept is used to develop an individual treatment plan for each child and to implement that plan. Child care staff, caseworkers, administration, ancillary staff and volunteers all work together to build a broad, coordinated base of support and resources for the child.

A complete multi-media area was developed with equipment purchased by a donation from the Homer's 1984 golf tournament. Other organizations, such as the Junior League, Houston Rotary Club, Juvenile Court Volunteers and the American Red Cross provided vital programs and services for

the children. Two H.I.S.D. tutor-counselors offered remedial education, including computer education for those children who were interested.

Casework and treatment services continue to expand with such programs as Juvenile Fire Setters Prevention and the Juvenile Alcohol Awareness Program. Group, family and individual counseling services continue to be key elements in the therapeutic program.

During 1984, a total of 120 boys were in residency at Burnett-Bayland Home. The average length of stay was 9.7 months. The racial breakdown was 30% white, 54% black, and 16% hispanic.

Burnett-Bayland Home is a dynamic, developing, community-based treatment facility continuing to serve delinquent children and their families in Harris County.



BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME

## HARRIS COUNTY YOUTH VILLAGE

The Harris County Youth Village is located on a 73-acre campus on Clear Lake. In this relaxed environment residents participate in a wide variety of programs designed to meet their individual treatment needs. They are placed here for up to one year by the Juvenile Court for delinquent acts when adjudicated or requiring supervision.

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 an accredited Houston Independent School District component.

Residential care focuses on the development of a strong self-image and sense of responsibility. Social and recreational services focus on improving motor coordination, peer cooperation and social development.

The casework staff develops and implements 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.

The Youth Village served 321 residents during 1984. Of these, 74% were male and 26% were female. The ethnic breakdown was 47% black, 34% white, and 19% hispanic. The average daily population was 121, with the average length of stay 9.1 months.

The Youth Village treatment philosophy is holistic, the treatment method is behavioral. Responsible behavior and positive growth are reinforced by a token economy system. With

this system, the residents earn hypothetical dollars by exhibiting acceptable social behavior, good peer relationships, and task completions.

As the residents advance, the environment becomes more rewarding, in turn demanding a more mature type of behavior. This concrete approach has proved successful in modifying problematic behavior, fostering prosocial behavior and redeveloping responsibility for one's actions.

Emotional and physical outlets are provided through organized sports, recreational activities, and an indoor swimming pool. The residents may engage in creative arts and crafts. Other needs and interests are served through special evening and weekend programs.



HARRIS COUNTY YOUTH VILLAGE

# PROBATION

## FIELD SERVICES

The Probation Field Services Division provides up to one year of supervision to children placed on probation by the Courts and up to six months of supervision to children placed on informal adjustment supervision as authorized by Article 53.03 Title 3 of the Family Code. The primary function of the Probation Field Services is to rehabilitate through a systematic process of counseling and assistance aimed at positive reintegration of probationers into their community.

Six community based field offices located throughout Harris County provide a variety of

programs to best meet the youth's needs. During 1984, 1,285 new cases were assigned to the 35 probation officers and supervisors in this division. The average number of youths under supervision each month was 1,379, an increase of 87 per month over 1983.

The Informal Adjustment Program is for youths who have not been adjudicated, and acts as prevention and diversion from further formal involvement in the juvenile justice system. The six month program offers one to one supervision and various group counseling sessions. In 1984, 719 new cases were referred

to this program.

To assist with the specialized programs, the Field Services Division utilized 8,703 direct service hours from trained volunteers, interns, and graduate students.

Individual, group and family counseling services are provided by Houston Child Guidance and Hope Center for Youth. In 1984 the number of therapy hours provided were:

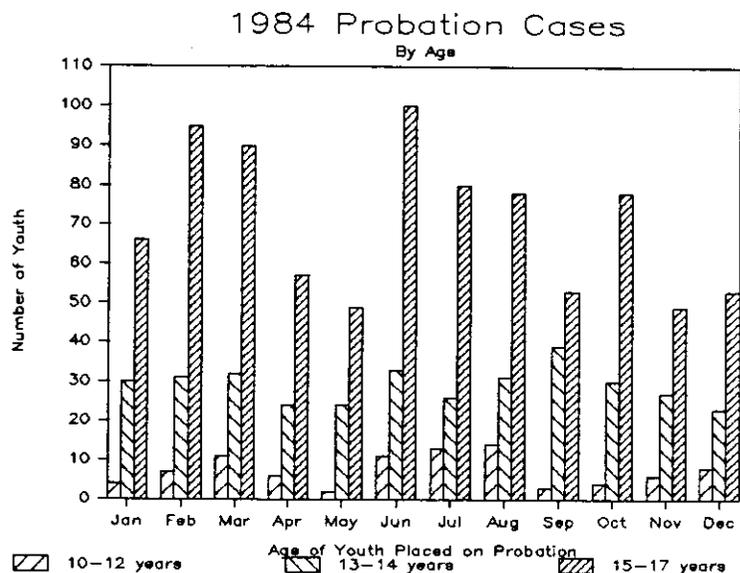
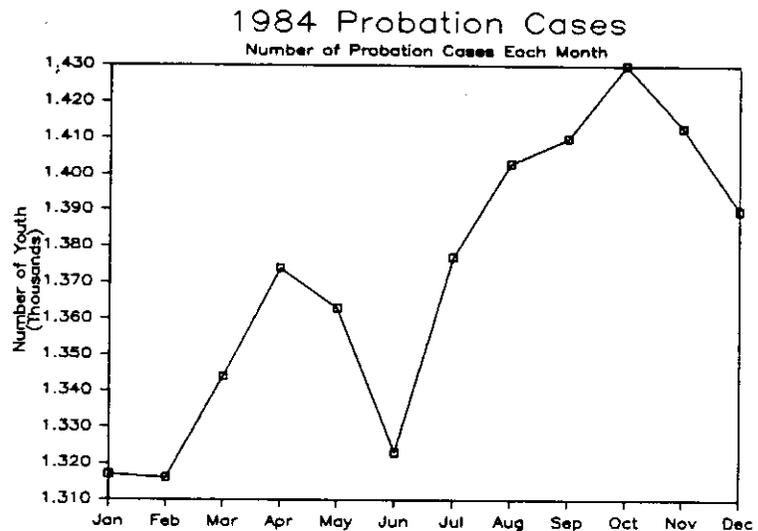
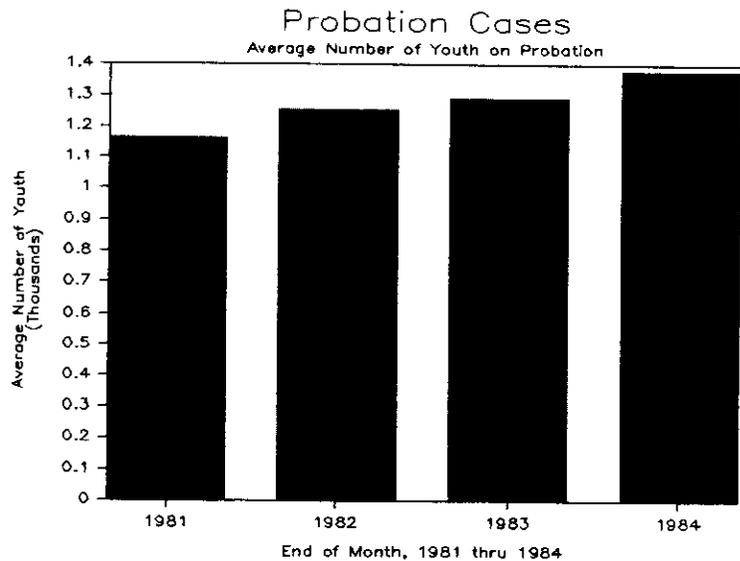
Individual . . . . .	412.5
Family . . . . .	1,490.5
Group . . . . .	363.0

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY
<b>Restitution (Monetary)</b>	Is the repayment of damages to victims by the juvenile offender as ordered by the Courts.	132 court orders totaling \$17,920.00 Monitors payments.
<b>Restitution (Community Service)</b>	In cooperation with the American Red Cross, youths are placed as Volunteers in non-profit community agencies.	207 youths provided 1,321 hours of service.
<b>Incentive Program</b>	A motivational tool, voluntarily participated in by youths. Special conditions must be met that may result in early termination of probation.	165 youths referred, 83 successfully completed program.
<b>Project. Y.E.S. (Youth Employment Service)</b>	Provides pre-employment training and helps place youths in jobs. Pay salary of \$3.35 per hour up to 250 hours as an incentive to employers to hire and continue employment.	123 youths referred.
<b>Rotary Boys Club</b>	Provides membership for boys to participate in educational and recreational activities including summer camp.	42 youths referred, 50 attended summer camp.
<b>Inhalant Abuse Program</b>	Provides crisis intervention, education and treatment programs for substance abusers and their families. Provided by the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans.	72 referrals.
<b>Vision Screening Program</b>	In conjunction with the University of Houston School of Optometry, youths are screened and treated for vision impairments, glasses provided.	146 youths screened, 33 follow-up examinations.
<b>Outward Bound</b>	In cooperation with Court Volunteer Services, youths are provided scholarships to attend a two week wilderness camping program in Colorado. Eight weeks of pre-training is also provided.	6 youths participated.
<b>Educational Workshops</b>	Are sponsored monthly by each CUPS Unit, attended by probationers and families. Topics: Drug Abuse, Parenting, etc.	2928 attended these in 1984.

Cases in the Probation Field Services Division have steadily increased in the last few years. In addition, the largest percentage of the children placed on probation is between the ages of 15-17 years old. The programs that are offered are based on the needs of the children. The employment program which began in July, 1984, was developed with the goal of preparing the 15-17 year old adolescent for the complex world of work.

Red Cross provided pre-employment training sessions to assist the probationers in areas of how to find a job, how to fill out an application, how to interview, and how to keep their jobs. After completing the training, the 16 and 17 year olds were offered an opportunity to be placed in jobs.

Because the probation case activity fluctuates throughout the year, several programs are offered to assist the child in different stages of his probation period. For example, it is important for children to start and continue in school with good vision. In August of 1984, the University of Houston School of Optometry screened many of the children that had been observed to have vision problems. The goal was to enable the child to start the school year without this vision barrier. Other screenings were provided in December of 1984.



# CHILD SUPPORT AND FAMILY COURT SERVICES

## CHILD SUPPORT

The Harris County Child Support Division is responsible for the collection and disbursement of all court ordered child support payments. The majority of payments received and disbursed involve child support ordered in divorce cases. A youth's restitution payments may also be processed through this office, as well as court ordered payments

by a child's family for placement outside the home.

Located in the Family Law Center, this Division collected and disbursed approximately \$57,000,000.00 during 1984.

The Child Support office relies on a sophisticated computer system to process all incoming

support payments, to check for accuracy in dollar amounts, to record payments, and to mail the support check to the appropriate parties. Payees are ordered to pay an annual fee for this service, which is deposited in the County's General Fund. During 1984, approximately \$171,974.00 was collected.

## FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Family Court Services is responsible for investigating and preparing social studies in adoption and disputed child custody cases for the twelve District Courts who hear these cases. Some cases are also referred from the Probate Courts for investigation.

All referrals to Family Court Services are initiated by a court order. A specialized Intake Unit pre-screens all cases upon referral and directs cases requiring a written report to

court investigators for follow-up. Detailed factual social histories are prepared. Home visits are made in all cases, and information is obtained through all available resources for the social study. These reports are confidential to the Court and used to determine a plan in the child's best interest.

There were approximately 49,000 divorces in Harris County in 1984 involving 25,000 children. A total of 1,625 cases was referred to

Family Court Services in 1984. Of this number, there were 973 adoption and 652 disputed child custody cases. There were 52 children involved in custody disputes who were placed in custody of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer during the year. The majority of these children was allowed to remain in the custodial care of a parent or guardian, under supervision, with only 18 requiring placement in a private facility.

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

## TRAINING

The Training and Staff Development Division offered a variety of training opportunities throughout the 1984 calendar year including in-service training, workshops, and seminars.

The Texas Council on Crime and Delinquency and Sam Houston State University Training Academy assisted in the efforts of the Training Division to provide an intensive and comprehensive training program for all levels of probation staff. Included were sessions designed for child care staff, secretaries, supervisory staff, and line probation officers.

The goal of the Training and Staff Development Division is to meet the training needs of the staff by providing an inclusive training program as well as to fulfill 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 in-service training each year to maintain certification.

The Training and Staff Development

Division is also responsible for the Juvenile Alcohol Awareness Program. This program was implemented in March, 1983 by an initial funding grant from the Texas Commission on Alcoholism. Since September, 1983, when the initial funding period was complete, the Houston Regional Council on Alcoholism has provided a part time program coordinator for the program.

This program, as well as all the Probation Department's training opportunities for staff, is accredited with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Division is responsible for processing applications for employment, posting all open positions, coordinating screening committees, maintaining all personnel records, and ensuring that the Department follows all county personnel regulations. This Division works closely with the Harris County Personnel Office to

process hundreds of applicants reviewed annually.

In 1984 a total of 2,284 applications for employment or promotion were received. There were 131 employees hired at the entry level, and 37 employees were promoted to higher paying positions.

EMPLOYMENT & PROMOTIONS—1984	
<b>Probation Services</b>	
Entry level positions	
opened and filled	29
Upward mobility positions	
opened and filled	24
<b>Institutions</b>	
Entry level positions	
opened and filled	102
Upward mobility positions	
opened and filled	13

## RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Research and Systems Development administers the Project I automated Juvenile Justice information system, which tracks all events and services concerning all juveniles referred to the Department. This unit has primary responsibility for enhancements and modifications to the automated system through the assistance of the Harris County

Data Processing Department. The unit distributes a variety of automated information reports on a daily and monthly basis to appropriate personnel in all areas of the Department.

Research and Systems Development administers the Department's word processing system. Since 1982, this unit has trained 45 support staff in

the operation of the NBI word processing system and provides technical assistance to other services in applications particular to their areas.

All official Department statistics and research studies concerning juveniles are provided by this unit. In addition, this service prepares and monitors the Department's grants.

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## VOLUNTEERS

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Volunteers are vital to probation services. Hundreds of volunteers provide countless hours of their time for direct service in all areas of the Probation Department.

The two volunteer groups which provide services at the Department, are the Junior League and the Juvenile Court Volunteers. Both groups of volunteers are carefully screened, trained and assigned to an area in the Department where their skills can best be utilized.

The Junior League placed approximately 200 volunteers at the Department in 1984. Their focus is on assistance in probation and they function under the supervision of probation officers. The Junior League has been active with the Probation Department since 1966.

The Juvenile Court Volunteers, a United Way agency located at the Department, specializes in developing and implementing a variety of unique programs to youths who are in institutions or on informal adjustment.

Most youth referred to the Probation Department share three common problems which are the focus of the Court Volunteers' programs. These are to provide a positive adult role model, improve a youth's self-esteem and fill the need for individual attention and support.

The Juvenile Court Volunteers placed 138 volunteers in the Detention Center, Chimney Rock Center and the Youth Village in 1984. A total of 899 youths benefited from their special programs. Over 12,000 hours of volunteer service was

provided in the Detention Center, including holiday parties, exercise groups, educational programs, translator services and professional hairstyling.

The Chimney Rock Center programs of "Chimney Rockers" and the "Village Visitors" at the Harris County Youth Village were introduced in 1984 and are expanding their groups and individual volunteer activities for 1985.

Both volunteer programs offer the Probation Department the community input and support it needs to better serve our clients. The professionalism and dedication shown by all the Department's volunteers have proven to be an invaluable service.

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## INTERNS

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Fifteen colleges and universities from Texas and across the United States participate in the Department's Intern Program. Each area of the Department provides supervised on the job training for undergraduate and graduate students. During 1984, 63 students participated in either a semester or a year-long program.

The following colleges and

universities participate in the Intern Program:

Grambling State University  
Southwest Texas State University  
Texas A & M University  
Stephen F. Austin University  
Prairie View A & M University  
Houston Baptist University  
Sam Houston State University  
Texas Southern University  
Texas Women's University

University of Houston Main Campus  
University of Houston Clear Lake  
University of Houston Downtown  
Lamar University  
University of St. Thomas  
Penn State University  
University of Oklahoma  
Rutgers University

# FUNDING SOURCES

## HARRIS COUNTY

The Juvenile Probation Department receives the majority of its funding from Harris County. In 1984, the Department received approximately 5.65% of the County's \$272,186,174.00 General Fund budget. The total Department budget was \$15,393,456.00.

The Department is separated into eight separate budgets for accounting purposes. Each covers a specific program or division within the Department.

ACCOUNT	1984 ALLOWED BUDGET
Family Court Services	\$1,048,154
Juvenile Probation Department	5,733,252
Child Support	844,366
Juvenile Detention Center	2,861,511
Burnett-Bayland Home	1,349,201
Harris County Youth Village	2,209,833
Juvenile Group Home #5 (Informal Adjustment)	23,026
Comprehensive Child Care Services (Placement)	1,324,113
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>\$15,393,456</b>

## STATE GRANTS

Since 1981, the Texas Criminal Justice Division (CJD), created by the 67th Legislature, has had primary responsibility for provision of state funds to local units of government for Juvenile and Criminal Justice programs. In accordance with CJD directives, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the regional planning unit for Harris County, earmarks a portion of the region's grant allocation solely for Juvenile Justice projects. The Department operated two grants which received funds from CJD in 1984. These programs are:

- 1. PURCHASE OF SERVICES** **\$386,280**  
This grant provides funding to support probation services through contracts with other agencies for individual and group counseling, family therapy, emergency transportation of runaways and residential placements. Clients are referred to appropriate agencies by probation officers following a needs assessment.
- 2. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER STAFFING PROGRAM** **\$232,172**  
This grant provides funding for 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.

## TEXAS JUVENILE PROGRAM COMMISSION

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission was established by the Texas Legislature in 1981. Funds are available through the Commission, and it has been a major force in upgrading probation services on a statewide basis since its inception.

The upgrading of facilities and staff are of major concern to the Commission, and every county throughout the state has been able to upgrade their services because of the Commissions' leadership and involvement.

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission allocated to Harris County \$1,180,881.00 for the 1984-1985 fiscal year. These funds are for direct youth services, personnel, and training.