

**TEXAS
JUVENILE
PROBATION
STATISTICAL
REPORT**



Calendar Year 1997

**TEXAS JUVENILE
PROBATION COMMISSION**

TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION STATISTICAL REPORT



Statistical and Other Data on the Juvenile Justice System in Texas for Calendar Year 1997

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Acknowledgment

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission expresses its appreciation to the many chief juvenile probation officers, juvenile court judges and others whose prompt and continued submission of their statistical and other data have made this report possible.

Table of Contents

Forward	4
Texas Juvenile Probation System - 1997	
Introduction	6
Juvenile Boards.....	6
Juvenile Probation Departments	7
Statewide Juvenile Activity - 1997	
Juvenile Referral Activity	13
Juvenile Detention Activity.....	17
Juvenile Disposition Activity.....	19
Supervision Workload Activity	21
Summary.....	23
Glossary of Juvenile Justice Terminology	24
Texas Juvenile Crime Clock	26
Appendix (by County)	
Juvenile Probation Referral Activity	28
Juvenile Probation Detention Activity	37
Juvenile Probation Disposition Activity	46
Juvenile Probation Supervision Workload Activity	55

Forward

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission's (TJPC) seventeenth annual statistical report provides information regarding the magnitude and nature of juvenile criminal activity and the juvenile probation system's response. This information is offered to help assist the state's effort to improve the juvenile justice system and reduce juvenile crime in Texas.

During calendar year 1997, police agencies in Texas arrested 179,631 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17. Of this number, 70,097 were warned and released, handled in justice and municipal courts or diverted, and 109,534 were referred to juvenile probation departments. In addition to police agency referrals, social agencies, parents, schools, the Texas Youth Commission (TYC), and others referred another 16,598 juveniles, for a total of 126,132. This is a 2,930 (2.3%) decrease in total referrals from the previous year, which is the second decrease of referrals in Texas in two consecutive years.

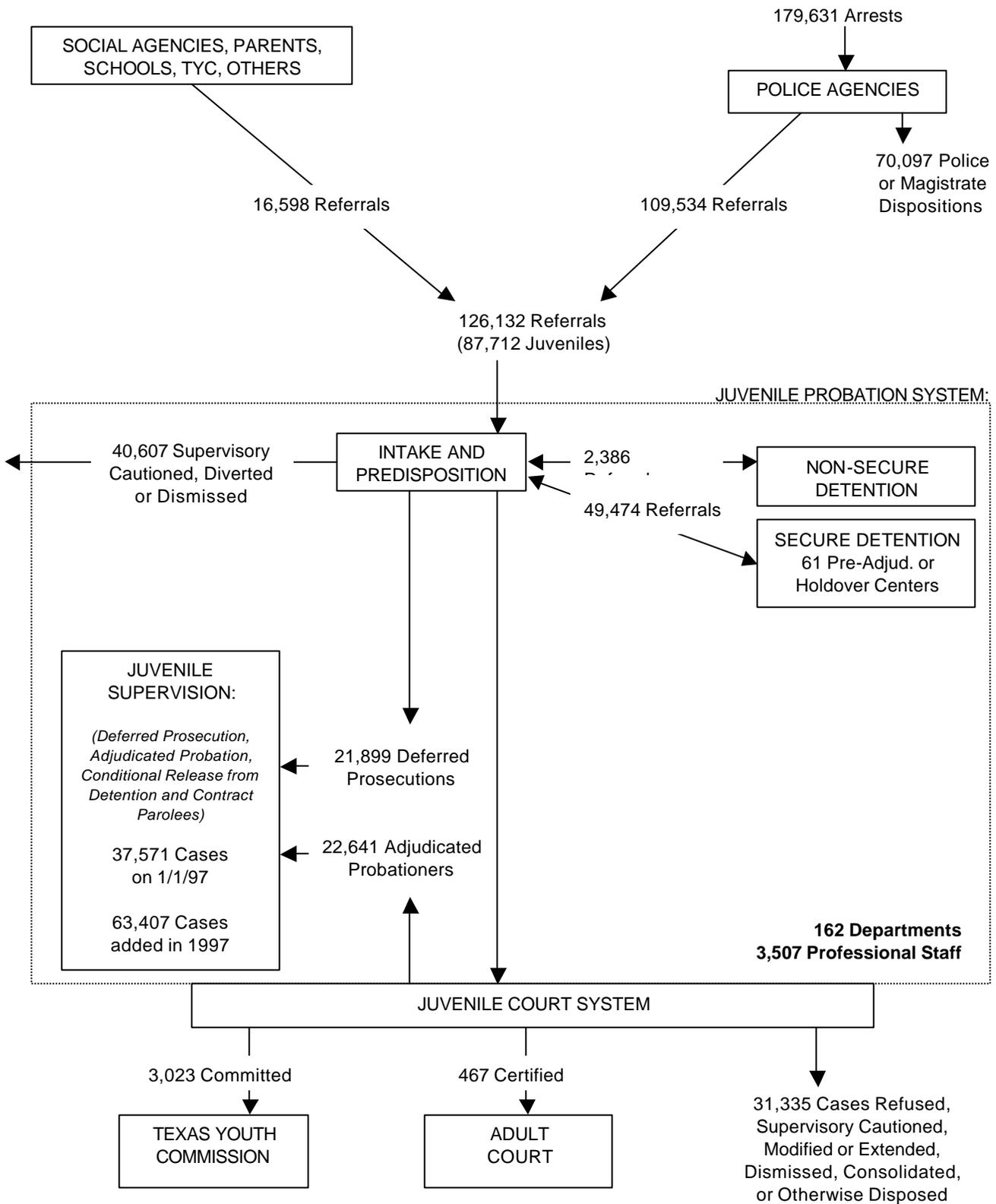
A total of 2,315 juvenile probation officers in 162 departments covered all of Texas' 254 counties. In addition, there were 114 corrections officers, 350 residential program officers, and 728 certified plus 748 part-time or on-call detention staff to assist in supervising juveniles held in the state's county-operated juvenile secure facilities (51 pre-adjudication and holdover facilities and 20 post-adjudication facilities). In addition to the county-operated facilities, private contractors provided services for juveniles in 10 pre-adjudication or holdover facilities and 15 post-adjudication facilities.

In 1997, 51,860 juveniles were detained prior to adjudication hearings. A total of 49,474 were held in secure juvenile detention centers and 2,386 juveniles were served in non-secure detention such as foster homes and emergency shelters. An additional 961 could have been held in non-secure facilities if such facilities had been available. Approximately 34% of all juveniles in secure facilities were released in less than one day.

Juvenile probation departments disposed of 40,607 referrals by giving a supervisory caution, diverting to other agencies for treatment, or dismissing the complaints, and initiated 15,598 deferred prosecutions or other temporary supervisions under guidelines of their juvenile boards.

Juvenile prosecutors, independently or through their juvenile courts, entered 6,301 deferred prosecutions and 22,641 probation orders bringing the total number of cases supervised to 63,407 (with additional conditional release from detention cases and contracted parolees). Juvenile courts also committed 3,023 juveniles to the Texas Youth Commission, certified 467 juveniles to stand trial as adults, and refused prosecution, dismissed, gave supervisory caution, modified/extended, consolidated, or otherwise disposed of another 31,335 cases.

Movement of Juveniles 1997



Texas Juvenile Probation System - 1997

Introduction

During calendar year 1997, TJPC collected statistical data regarding juveniles referred to the juvenile justice system from the 162 probation departments that cover all Texas counties. TJPC also surveyed the departments to obtain supplemental information. The statistical activity reports and the 1997 resource survey are the primary sources of this report.

Caution should be used in drawing general conclusions from juvenile probation statistics. The following data portray neither everything juvenile probation departments or courts do, nor how much time they spend on activities not represented by the statistics. There is no reliable way to ascertain the time spent by juvenile probation officers or juvenile judges in counseling, study, and research.

At least three factors are not represented in the juvenile probation activity statistics, and should be considered when evaluating them:

1. Juvenile probation officers in multi-county departments spend more time traveling than do officers in single-county jurisdictions.
2. A number of the juvenile probation officers serve both adult and juvenile capacities due to limited resources, and often operate under widely varying authorities and policies.
3. The juvenile justice system operates under the rules and authority of Title 3 of the Texas Family Code. Emphasis is placed on the rehabilitation of the juvenile through accountability, guidance, counseling, diversion, and treatment. Many of the cases statistically reported as being disposed as "supervisory caution" or "dismissed or otherwise disposed," in fact occasion extensive rehabilitative efforts on the part of the juvenile probation system.

Juvenile Boards

State law creates a juvenile board in every county. The board is responsible for designating juvenile judges, appointing the chief juvenile probation officer, and setting the policy and budget for the juvenile probation department. Texas has 190 juvenile boards (38 multi-county boards and 152 single county boards). Juvenile boards met an average of 5.1 times during 1997. TJPC provides funding and technical assistance to juvenile boards.

Juvenile Probation Departments

Structure and Staffing. Juvenile probation departments carry out the policies of juvenile boards and deliver services to juveniles referred to juvenile courts. There are 115 single county departments and 47 multi-county departments. Multi-county departments range from two to six counties. Twenty departments had only one professional staff member; 27 had no clerical support.

The workload of juvenile probation was managed by 4,528 salaried employees (3,507 probation and detention personnel and 1,021 clerical or other support staff). In addition, there were 748 hourly detention childcare workers. Ninety-seven departments used 2,685 volunteers, interns or case-aids for a total of 144,870 hours served. Twenty-one departments served both adult and juvenile probationers, while 15 of these combined departments used separate juvenile probation officers.

Juvenile probation salaries averaged \$43,507 annually for chief juvenile probation officers, \$26,464 for certified intensive supervision juvenile probation officers, \$24,795 for certified juvenile probation officers, \$20,619 for certified detention child care workers, \$22,970 for certified corrections officers and \$27,699 for department-run residential program staff.

Juvenile Probation Salaries

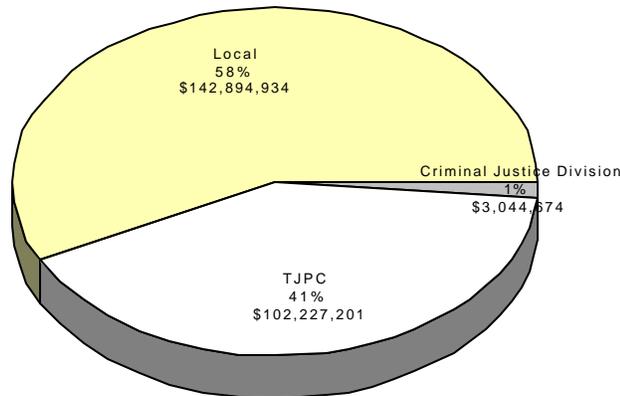
Staff	# in State	Low	High	Average
Chief	162	\$15,000	\$93,396	\$43,507
Administrative	486	\$17,200	\$83,220	\$35,253
ISP Officer	215	\$18,000	\$40,353	\$26,464
Probation Officer	1,452	\$16,640	\$40,380	\$24,795
Correction Officer	114	\$12,200	\$31,812	\$22,970
Residential Officer	350	\$14,560	\$55,653	\$27,699
Detention Officer	728	\$12,200	\$39,960	\$20,619
Uncertified Detention Officer	748	\$4.75	\$12.62	\$6.98

Education, Training, and Certification. During 1997, TJPC certified 306 juvenile probation officers and 383 detention child care workers. In addition, 163 departments provided 149,396 hours of training to 4,098 staff for an average of 36.5 hours of training per staff member towards meeting TJPC standards. Thirty-four percent of the juvenile probation departments have an in-house training program approved by TJPC.

Fifty percent of the training was provided in-house and the other 50% was provided outside of the departments. The TJPC, through 14 regional, 39 statewide, 4 on-site training sessions, and 10 agency sessions conducted training for 2,792 participants for a total of 29,464 contact hours. This comprised 40 percent of outside training provided to the departments.

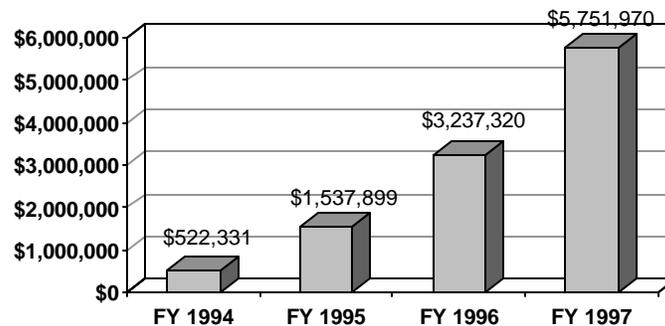
Funding. The chart below shows funding available for juvenile probation services. Total funding increased approximately 37% from 1996. The Commission is the primary agency through which state funding for juvenile justice is channeled to the counties. During fiscal year 1997, TJPC sent over \$102 million dollars (more than 99% of its budget) to county juvenile probation departments for services to troubled youths and their families. Much of the increase in state funds went toward new programs serving juveniles at lower progressive sanctions levels.

Juvenile Probation Funding - FY 1997
(Total Funds \$ 248,164,809)



Federal Funding: Title IV-E. State agencies were mandated by the 73rd Legislature to maximize the use of federal funds. Beginning in September 1993, TJPC contracted with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to access federal funds. These funds can reimburse juvenile probation departments approximately 50 percent of the foster care and placement cost of adjudicated juveniles who are eligible to participate in the Title IV-E program. In fiscal year 1997, 47 participating departments received over \$6.5 million in reimbursements for the placement costs of 408 children. The amount of funding received has more than doubled nearly every year as more and more counties begin to realize the benefits of the program.

Title IV-E Funding - FY 1994-FY 1997



Residential Placements. Funds for residential placement of juveniles on probation were available in 141 departments. One hundred twenty four departments used TJPC funds, 33 used federal funds administered by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office, and 84 used funds from the counties or other sources. Counties without residential placement funds are forced to seek out alternatives to residential placements, such as finding free placements in the private sector or committing to the Texas Youth Commission juveniles who need to be removed from their homes.

A total of 5,898 juveniles were placed in residential facilities, including foster homes and emergency shelters. This is an increase of 8.2 percent from 1996, due to increased placement funds provided by the counties. The average days in placement remained the same as 1996, 121 days. In fiscal year 1997, 28 percent of state probation funds were budgeted for placement services.

Juvenile Probation Placements

Type of Facility	Number of Placements	Percent of Total	Average Days In Placement	Average Cost per Day
No Cost Private*	515	8.7%	106	NA
No Cost State*	198	3.4%	116	NA
County Operated Non-Secure	498	8.4%	105	\$81
County Operated Secure	1,353	22.9%	117	\$77
Privately Operated Non-Secure	1,579	26.8%	124	\$69
Privately Operated Secure	796	13.5%	120	\$81
Foster Homes	258	4.4%	166	\$53
Other Residential Facility	701	11.9%	134	\$81
TOTAL	5,898	100.0%	121 (Avg.)	\$75 (Avg.)

* Services provided by state facility, charities, insurance, etc.

Services. All departments provide at least basic services to some degree. The table below shows the extent of some services available.

Probation Services

Services Provided	Depts. Reporting Service Available Outside the Dept.	Depts. Reporting Service Available Within the Dept.	Juveniles Served Within the Dept.*
School Truancy Services	95	62	4,242
In-Home Family Preservation Services	83	21	995
Cultural Sensitivity Training	32	6	1,583
HIV/AIDS Education	55	47	16,418
Primary Prevention Program	42	61	113,238
First Offender Program	67	60	9,866
Victim/Offender Mediation	32	28	898
Conflict Resolution/Skill Training	42	46	4,440
Teen Court	42	8	312
Parenting Classes	98	52	4,084
Emergency Shelter	107	11	4,756
Foster Home Program (65 homes in state)	19	9	23
Financial Restitution (collected \$2,187,142)	NA	155	16,118
Community Service Restitution (performed 589,520 hours)	NA	152	23,126

* Not all departments were able to give a precise number of juveniles served.

Probation departments also worked closely with independent school districts. Of 126,132 referrals in 1997, 44,353 were behind one or more levels in school. In addition to working with local school districts, probation departments also work closely with state child protective services. In 1997, of the 126,132 referrals, 3,680 were suspected of being a victim of sexual abuse, 7,688 physical abuse, and 8,005 emotional abuse. Also, 28 departments reported that they were unable to provide services to 6,407 runaways.

As required by the 70th Legislature, probation departments now assess court and probation fees against adjudicated juveniles. Probation fees are also permissible in deferred prosecution cases. In 1997, departments collected \$221,178 in court fees in 9,064 cases; \$860,856 in probation fees in 13,747 cases; and \$312,280 in deferred prosecution fees in 9,857 cases.

Gangs. In the last decade, felony referrals have increased 18 percent, while violent offense referrals increased a staggering 134 percent. However, since 1995, referrals have started to go back down. Felony referrals have decreased 20 percent and violent offense referrals have decreased 15 percent in the last three years. While all violent crimes may not be attributed to gang activity, analysis indicates that much of the increase in the last ten years was directly related to two major factors: growth in gang related crimes and involvement in substance abuse. These impacted both violent and property crimes. Urban and rural counties alike experience problems with gangs and substance abuse.

The 1997 statewide resource survey resulted in 66 percent of the departments being able to clearly identify a total of 2,683 juvenile gangs in their combined jurisdictions (up 20 percent from 1996). Eighty-five percent of the departments reported evidence of juvenile gangs in their jurisdictions (i.e., groups wearing the same colors, claiming allegiance, flashing signs, etc.), and 80 percent had evidence of illegal gang activity (i.e., graffiti, unusual number of assaults, drive-by shootings, etc.).

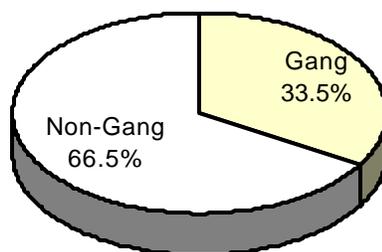
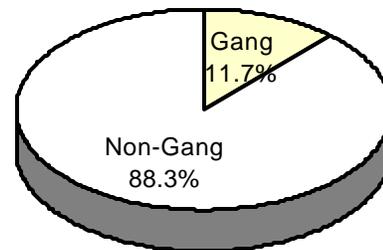
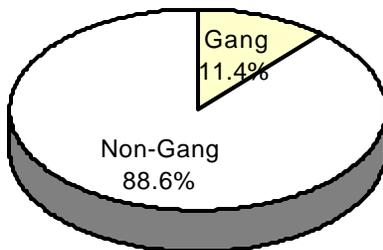
The impact of these gangs is evident. According to the resource survey referenced above, gang activity represents approximately 11 percent of all referrals and probationers. In addition, it represents nearly 34 percent of all commitments to TYC. These figures are significantly lower than 1996 percentages. Gang members are not a large part of total activity, but their involvement continues to be in the more serious felony crimes resulting in both formal probation and commitment to TYC. While 139 departments showed evidence of gang activity, only 23 departments had a specialized officer to supervise or work with gang members. Only 18 departments operated a gang program in their area and 67 departments had access to a program operated by another agency in their region.

Juvenile Gang Involvement

Gang Member Referrals - 1997

Gang Member Probationers - 1997

Gang Member Commitments - 1997



Substance Abuse. In 1997, of the 126,132 referrals local probation departments handled, 3,082 showed symptoms of inhalant abuse, 20,163 drug abuse and 12,924 alcohol abuse. Drug or alcohol tests were used in 94% of the juvenile probation departments and were administered on 41,581 referrals statewide.

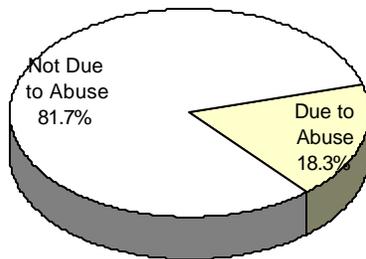
Local probation departments provided substance abuse services to 19,242 juveniles and spent \$9,957,741 on treatment. This was an increase over the number served in 1996 of 50%. There were 1,357 juveniles placed in 92 different residential substance abuse facilities, and 3,501 juveniles were placed in 86 different non-residential programs.

The true cost of juvenile involvement in substance abuse can be measured more completely by the number of referrals whose involvement in such abuse is the direct cause of their criminal behavior.

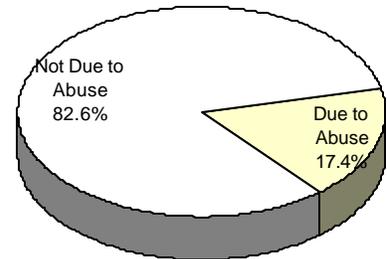
In 1997, 30,742 referrals came from homes with some suspected substance abuse problems, and 5,031 felony referrals, 11,261 other delinquent conduct referrals and 2,980 CINS referrals were directly attributed to the juveniles' substance abuse.

Substance Abuse Dependent Crime

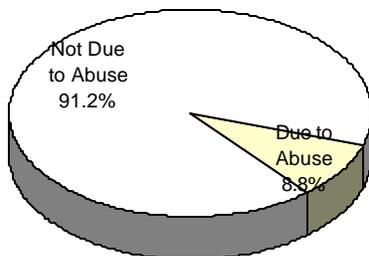
Felony Referrals



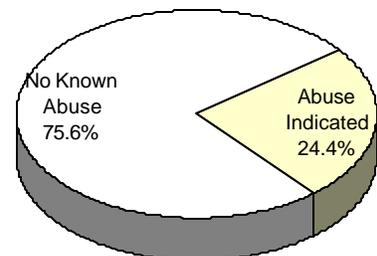
Other Delinquent Referrals



CINS Referrals



Substance Abuse Household (All Referrals)



Juvenile Probation Referral Activity

SUMMARY OF 1997 REPORTED ACTIVITY STATEWIDE TOTALS

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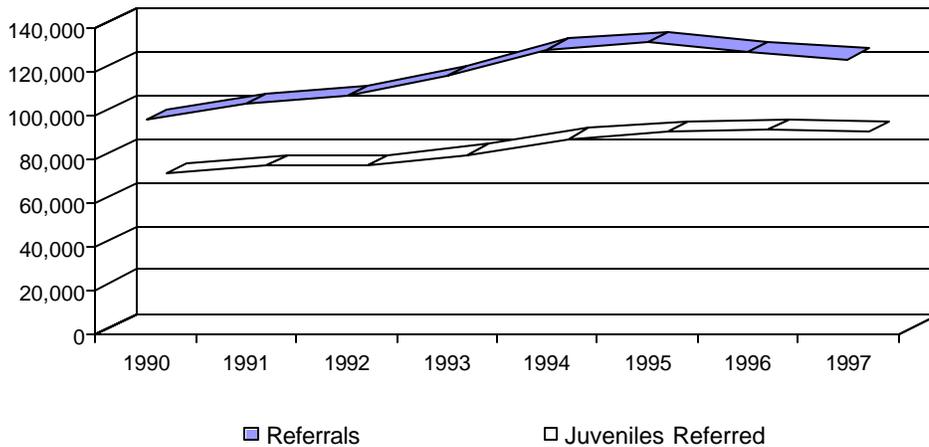
Statewide Juvenile Activity - 1997

Statewide data on referrals, detentions, disposition activities, and supervision workloads are contained in the four subsections that follow. Prior year comparisons are provided where possible. An abbreviated county-by-county summary of each of the four parts is located in the appendix.

Juvenile Referral Activity

There were 126,132 referrals to juvenile probation authorities in Texas, a decrease of 2.3 percent from 1996, the second decrease in total referrals since 1988. For the first time since reporting began, the number of juveniles referred decreased. There were 88,827 juveniles referred in 1996, decreasing 1.3% to 87,712 in 1997. Most juveniles referred were in-county residents (96 percent), and in regular school or alternative education (92 percent). The proportion of dropouts referred was five percent. Police agencies made nearly 9 out of 10 referrals.

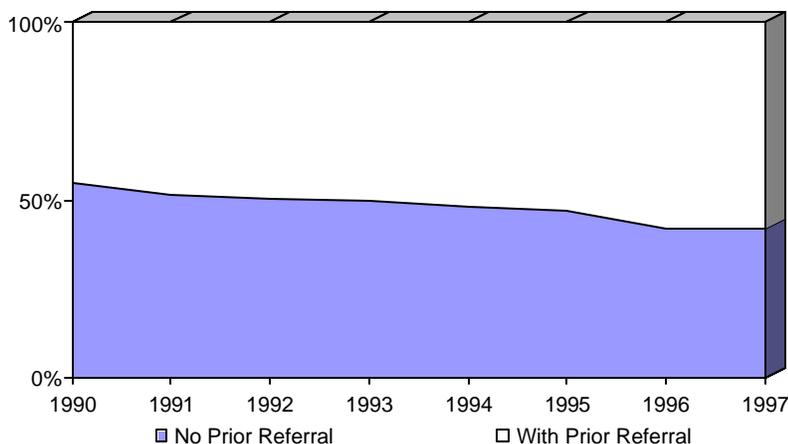
Referrals vs. Juveniles Referred



The percentage of referred juveniles with prior referrals was 58 percent, with 34% having been previously adjudicated by the courts. Fifteen percent of the referrals were previously committed to the Texas Youth Commission. The following chart illustrates that since 1990, the percent of total referrals

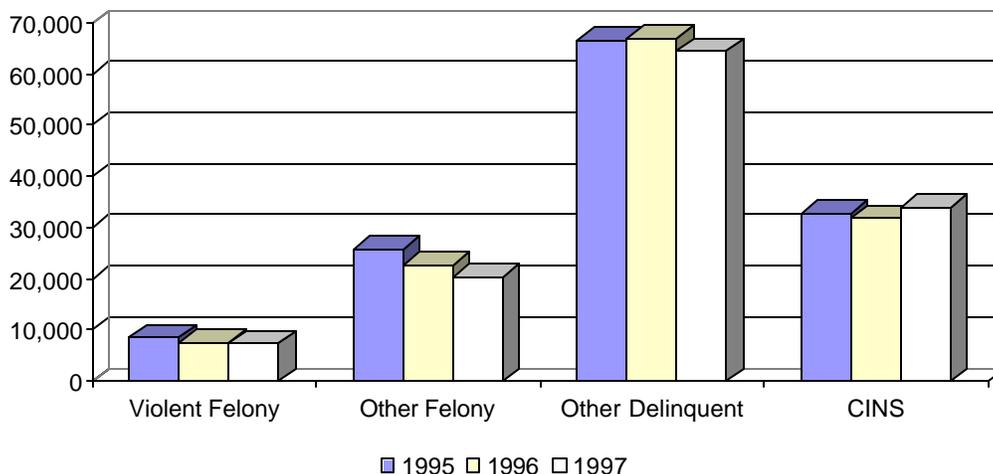
with a prior referral has continually increased. While the total number of referrals has decreased in the last two years, there were fewer juveniles entering the system for the first time.

Percent of Referrals with Prior vs. No Prior Referral



Offense Distribution. Texas experienced its second year in a row of decreasing juvenile referrals. The most notable changes in referrals in 1997 over 1996 were the decreases in total referrals of 2.3%, in felony referrals of 9.7%, and in total delinquent offense referrals of 5.2 percent. This was the third year felony referrals decreased after its first decrease in 1995. In line with the noteworthy decrease in felonies, violent felony offenses decreased 4.1% from 1996. Increases were shown in the status offense referrals category (up 6.1% from 1996) and the Aother@CINS offense referrals category (up 7.4% from 1996).

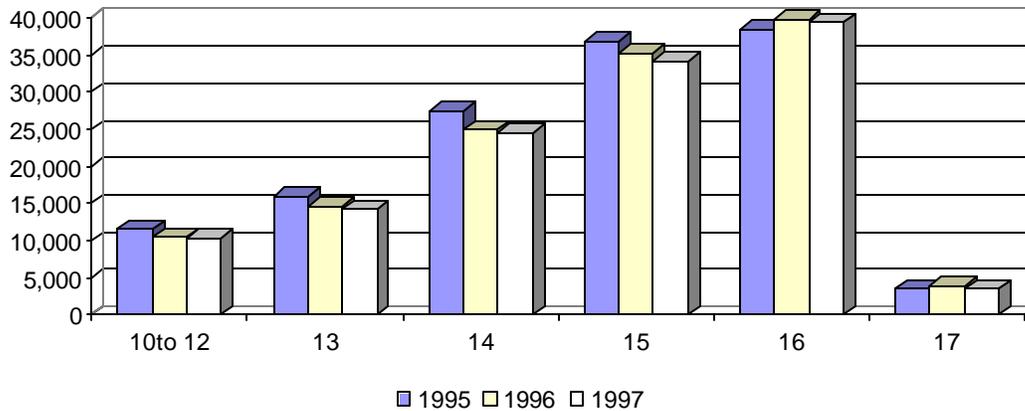
Offense Distribution of Referrals



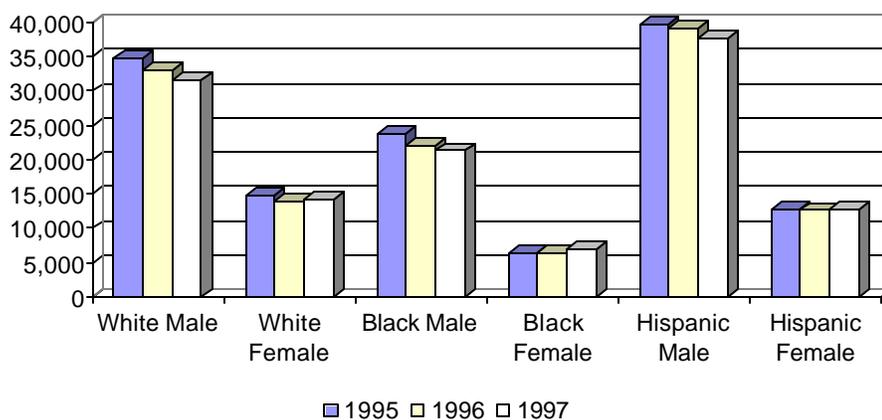
Age, Sex, Race Distribution. Every age category of referrals to juvenile probation, from 10 through 17, showed decreases in referrals. Age 17 (where the offense was committed before age 17) had the greatest decrease of 9.8% from 1996, while age 12 had the slightest decrease of only 0.1 percent.

In the sex and race categories, each female category showed an increase in referrals, while each male category decreased. The category of “black female” was the only one to increase in 1996, and again had the largest increase in 1997, 10.3 percent. The “white male” category showed the greatest decrease of 4.9 percent.

Age Distribution of Referrals



Sex and Race Distribution of Referrals



Juvenile Probation Detention Activity

SUMMARY OF 1997 REPORTED ACTIVITY

STATEWIDE TOTALS

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Juvenile Detention Activity

Of the 126,132 juveniles referred, 74,272 were immediately released to their parents or other responsible adults. The remaining 51,860 were detained: 49,474 were held in the 61 pre-adjudication secure residential facilities or holdover facilities, and 2,386 were placed in non-secure alternatives to detention.

While referrals decreased 2.3% from 1996, the incidence of secure detention increased 1.2% due to the expansion in the number of secure detention beds available in the state. Juvenile probation departments and privately operated facilities anticipate construction of 346 new pre-adjudication secure beds during 1998.

The use of non-secure alternatives decreased 13% from the preceding year due to the expansion of secure facility options. Thirty-four percent of all juveniles securely detained were released in less than one day. Only two percent, or 961, of the juveniles securely detained could have been placed in alternative non-secure settings had they been available, compared to 1,752 juveniles in 1996.

Secure Juvenile Residential Centers

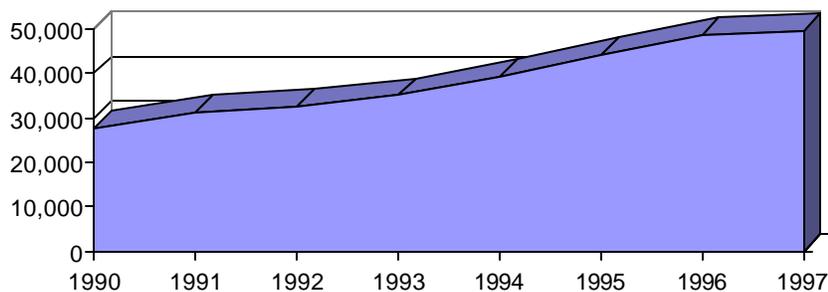
96 Secure Residential Facilities in Texas:

- n 35 post-adjudication secure facilities
- ! 61 pre-adjudication/holdover secure facilities
- i county that contains both pre- and post- facility

This table is not available through the TJPC web site for the 1997 Statistical Report. Please contact TJPC if you would like a copy of the table.

These 96 facilities served 232 counties, provided 3,215 beds (1,832 pre-adjudication and 1,383 post-adjudication), and detained 57,886 juveniles for 962,290 days at an average contract cost of \$74 per day for pre-adjudication and \$82 per day for post-adjudication (includes probation referrals, TYC juveniles, those under federal jurisdiction and juveniles in transit). Twenty-five were operated privately; counties operated 71. Some pre- and post-adjudication centers may be located in the same location, but operate separately.

Referrals in Juvenile Detention Centers



Juvenile Probation Disposition Activity

SUMMARY OF 1997 REPORTED ACTIVITY

STATEWIDE TOTALS

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Juvenile Disposition Activity

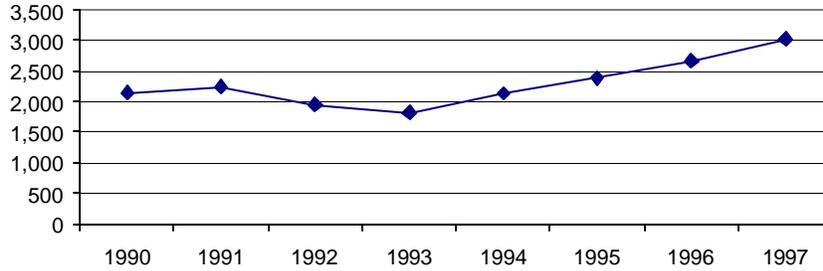
Dispositions were made in 119,972 juvenile cases. Juvenile probation departments disposed of 56,205 of these cases, with 9,261 cases dismissed or withdrawn, 31,346 cases given supervisory caution, and 15,598 cases placed on deferred prosecution.

Juvenile prosecutors resolved an additional 16,739 cases. Prosecutors disposed of 2,228 cases with supervisory caution and 4,681 with deferred prosecution. No probable cause was deemed on 3,481 cases, while 6,349 cases were refused and non-suited.

The remaining 47,028 cases were resolved by the juvenile court. Of these, the court ordered supervisory caution to 1,007 cases; deferred prosecution on 1,620 cases; adjudicated to probation 22,641 cases; certified and transferred to adult court 467 cases; adjudicated and committed to TYC 3,023 cases (2,766 of these with indeterminate sentences and 257 with determinate sentences); and refused, consolidated, dismissed or otherwise disposed of 18,270 cases.

The number of juveniles certified to stand trial as an adult decreased 20.7% from 589 in 1996 to 467 in 1997. While certifications decreased, the rate at which juvenile courts committed offenders to TYC as a percentage of delinquent referrals increased from 2.74% in 1996, to 3.00% in 1997.

Commitments to the Texas Youth Commission

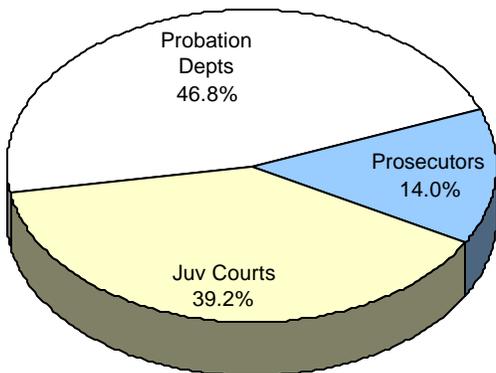


The increase in commitments to TYC was partly due to several factors. One major factor is the lack of viable alternatives to commitment of children to TYC. In 1997, 367 of the 3,023 commitments to TYC were due to lack of suitable alternative placement resources available at the time of disposition. Another factor is that public sentiment to *Get tough* on crime has added pressure to the juvenile justice system to remove juvenile offenders from their communities. However, there are also several factors that contributed to the diversion of a number of juveniles from commitment to TYC.

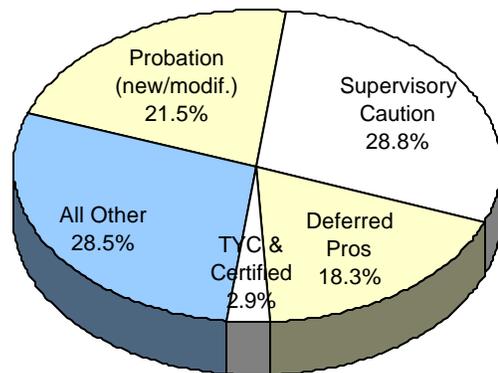
- T 3,843 juveniles on probation were placed in secure post-adjudication correctional facilities;*
- T Over 5,600 referrals were diverted using expanded Intensive Supervision Programs;*
- T Approximately 700 juveniles per month were active on community-based probation using electronic monitoring devices;*
- T over 1,490 referrals were placed in residential placement centers using state provided community corrections funding.*

Breakdown of Juvenile Dispositions

Dispositions by Source



Types of Dispositions



Juvenile Probation Supervision Workload Activity
SUMMARY OF 1997 REPORTED ACTIVITY
STATEWIDE TOTALS

Juveniles Adjudicated to Probation:

Beginning of Period		Added to Supervision During Period		Left Supervision During Period		End of Period	
Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
21,269	19,893	23,797	20,810	21,569	19,267	23,497	21,436

Unsuccessful Terminations	
Cases	Children
4,535	4,129

Juveniles Placed on Deferred Prosecution:

Beginning of Period		Added to Supervision During Period		Left Supervision During Period		End of Period	
Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
9,489	9,399	22,473	21,618	22,341	21,478	9,621	9,539

Unsuccessful Terminations	
Cases	Children
3,958	3,900

Juveniles on Conditional Release from Detention:

Beginning of Period		Added to Supervision During Period		Left Supervision During Period		End of Period	
Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
6,634	5,308	16,859	14,353	15,721	14,121	7,772	5,540

Juvenile Parolees Supervised by Probation Under TYC Contract:

Beginning of Period		Added to Supervision During Period		Left Supervision During Period		End of Period	
Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
179	178	278	263	193	177	264	264

Notes:

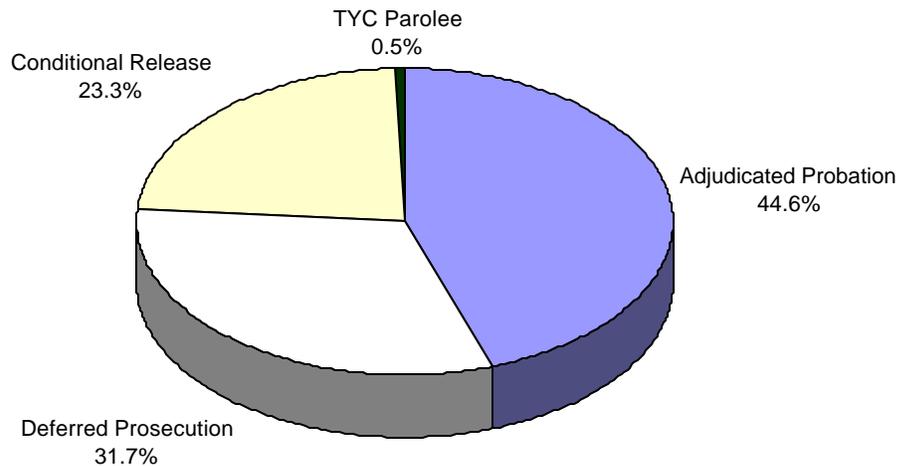
- ' Cases shown as added to supervision include both cases originally filed in a jurisdiction and cases transferred from other jurisdictions in or outside Texas.
- ' The numbers of children shown indicate the caseloads on supervision. If a child was added to two supervisions at the same time for two referrals, that child would count as two cases, but one child.
- ' It is possible that a juvenile may be counted in more than one category.

Supervision Workload Activity

On January 1, 1997, there were 37,571 cases of juveniles receiving active supervision from juvenile probation departments. During the year, 23,797 court ordered probations, 22,473 deferred prosecutions, 16,859 conditional releases, and 278 TYC parolees supervised under contract were added for a total of 63,407. This number of juveniles supervised is 25% greater than the total number supervised of 50,786 in 1996.

During 1997, 4,535 (21%) of the 21,569 court ordered probations were unsuccessful in their completion of the program. These probationers were either committed to the Texas Youth Commission, transferred to an adult criminal trial, absconded and did not return to the program, or terminated early due to persistent non-compliance to program requirements. On December 31, 1997, 41,154 juveniles were under active supervision. Juvenile probation departments accepted 126,132 referrals and supervised 100,978 cases.

Supervision Workload

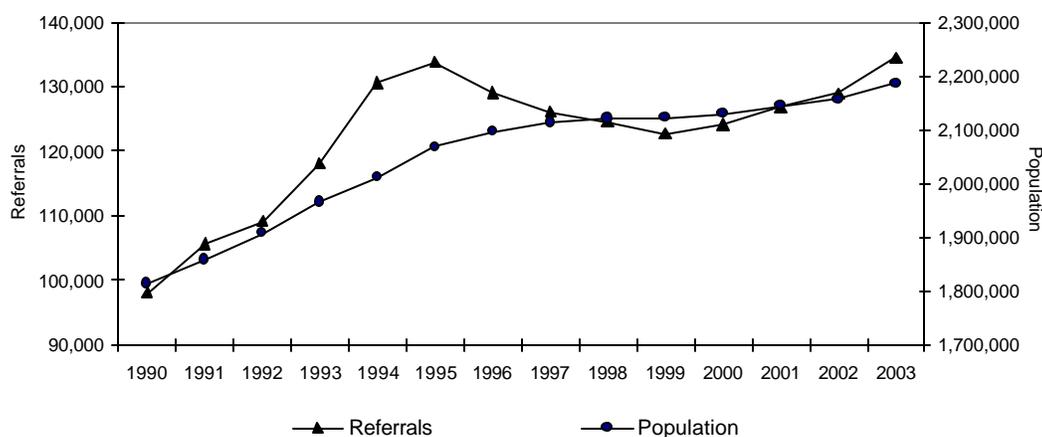


Summary

For the second year in a row, total referrals decreased. They were down 2.3% from 129,062 in 1996, to 126,132 in 1997. Likewise, most categories of offense referrals were also down, including violent felonies (down 4.1%), total felonies (down 9.71%), and misdemeanor classes A and B (down 8.4%). Increases were indicated in status offense categories (up 6.1%) and CINS that were "other than status offenses" (up 7.4%). While the total number of referrals decreased for the second time, *the number of juveniles referred decreased for the first time, 1.3 percent.* Of these juveniles, there were fewer juveniles entering the system for the first time.

Generally, changes in referrals reflect changes in population growth. The chart below compares the growth and trends of referrals and population based on past data and projections by the Criminal Justice Policy Council. Referral rates grew at a faster rate than population rates during the early and mid 1990's, but declined in the later years. Forecasts imply that rates may steadily begin to increase again, with referrals increasing to over 134,000 in 2003. The peak of historical data occurred in 1995, with 133,866 referrals.

Trends of Referrals vs. Juvenile Population (with Projections*)
1990 - 2003



* Population numbers and data for referrals past 1997 are projections (provided by the Criminal Justice Policy Council).

Limited funds for alternative out of home placements or community based programs and local communities' attitudes are direct causes of both increased commitments to TYC and certifications of juveniles to the adult system. Commitments increased almost 42% since 1990, and the number of juveniles certified for transfer to the adult criminal justice system increased 190% from 1990 (though there was a 21% decrease from 1996).

Glossary of Juvenile Justice Terminology

Adjudicated Probation - after going to court for an adjudication hearing on the facts, a judge may order this form of community-based supervision for a specified period of time, based on such reasonable and lawful terms as the court may determine. While on adjudicated probation, the offender may be required to participate in any program deemed appropriate, such as an intensive supervision program or residential placement.

Adjudication Hearing - hearing held after the announcement hearing where it is determined whether the child committed the offense named in the petition; the juvenile equivalent of a criminal trial.

Announcement Hearing - the first hearing in the Juvenile Court process at which time the judge determines if the Court needs to appoint an attorney, or if the family can retain their own.

Appeal - a complaint to a higher Court urging that it overturn the decision of a lower Court.

Certification Hearing - hearing held to determine whether the juvenile court will waive its jurisdiction so that an accused juvenile felony offender can be prosecuted as an adult. Certification is permissive and not mandatory under Texas law. Depending upon the type of felony committed, a juvenile as young as either 14 or 15 years of age can be certified to stand trial as an adult.

Child - in Texas, a person who is 10 years of age or older and under 17 years of age or a person who is 17 years of age or older and under 18 years of age who is alleged or found to have engaged in delinquent conduct or CINS as a result of acts committed before becoming 17 years of age.

Commitment - a child committed to the care, control and custody of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). All commitments to the TYC, except under the determinate sentencing act, are for an indeterminate term not to extend beyond the child's 21st birthday.

Commitment Performance Target - the target number of juveniles a probation department should recommend annually to the juvenile courts for commitment to the Texas Youth Commission.

Conduct Indicating a Need for Supervision (CINS) - public intoxication, truancy, running away from home, fineable only offenses that have been transferred to a juvenile court from a municipal or justice court, inhalant abuse, expulsion for violating a school disciplinary code, or a violation of a court order under the Services to At Risk Youth Programs.

Deferred Prosecution - a voluntary alternative to adjudication where the child, parent(s), prosecutor and the juvenile probation department agree upon probation conditions. Deferred prosecution can last up to six months. If the child violates any of the probation conditions, the state may elect to proceed with formal court adjudication.

Delinquent Conduct - violation of any law punishable by incarceration (except traffic laws), violation of juvenile court orders entered under Section 54.04 or 54.05 of the Texas Family Code (except by truancy, running away, or fineable only offenses), contempt of magistrate orders, D.W.I. and other related offenses and third offense driving under the influence of alcohol by a minor.

Department - a juvenile probation department organized in one or more counties and supervised by one or more juvenile boards.

Detention Hearing - hearing held to determine if a child will be held in detention pending future disposition of the case. A child shall be detained only upon an Order of the Juvenile Court or an alternative magistrate.

Determinate Sentence - sentence imposed on a juvenile offender for up to 40 years. The juvenile will first serve time in TYC but may later be transferred to adult prison and become subject to adult parole laws. A determinate sentence is only available for certain types of felony offenses.

Directive to Apprehend - an order issued by a juvenile court judge upon recommendation by a peace officer or juvenile probation officer to have a child apprehended and detained. A directive to apprehend must be based on probable cause.

Disposition Hearing - hearing held after adjudication where the judge decides what probation conditions will be imposed upon the child (and the child's family) or whether to commit the child to the Texas Youth Commission.

Diversionsary Placement - residential placement program for juvenile referrals using the state Community Corrections Assistance Fund. This placement is intended to be the last alternative to sending the offender to the Texas Youth Commission.

Guardian Ad Litem - an adult appointed by the Court to represent a child's interest in a judicial proceeding. A guardian ad litem is appointed when the child's parent is either not present or is incapable of making decisions in the child's best

interest.

Ideal Commitment - a commitment to TYC of a child whose Progressive Sanctions Guideline Level is a six or a seven.

Intensive Supervision Program - type of probation that is a cost-effective means of diverting juvenile offenders from committal to the Texas Youth Commission. Services provided vary from department to department, but common elements include reduced caseloads by specially trained probation officers and more frequent contacts between the juvenile and his or her probation officer.

Juvenile Board - a body established by law to provide juvenile probation services to a county or counties.

Juvenile Court - a court designated under Section 51.04 of the Texas Family Code, or by other law, to exercise jurisdiction over proceedings under Title 3 of the Texas Family Code.

Modification Hearing - hearing held when a child has been placed on court ordered probation and due to a change in circumstances, the original disposition requires amending. The disposition order is modified to reflect the change.

Petition - document filed by the District Attorney containing the child's name, date of birth, address, parent's name, and alleged offense.

Progressive Sanctions Guidelines - statutory guidelines for juvenile dispositions designed to give uniformity and predictability to juvenile punishments. There are seven progressively more restrictive sanction levels under the guidelines. An offender's sanction level will be based on the severity of the offense, the offender's prior history, individual circumstances and needs as well as the effectiveness of prior interventions.

Referral - (also called formal referral) any occasion when a child is brought to a juvenile probation department's attention for alleged delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision (CINS) and some contact by visit or interview occurs between the department and the juvenile or parents.

Residential Placement - child is placed in a non-secure facility (i.e., foster homes, alcohol and drug treatment facilities, halfway houses, MHMR facilities, etc.) or a secure facility (i.e., boot camps, secure county, state, or private facilities, etc.) either with or without a court proceeding.

Respondent - the juvenile who is the subject of a petition.

Revocation Hearing - hearing held to revoke a probation order and give a new disposition when a child has

violated the conditions of his/her probation.

Sealing - the closure of juvenile records from inspection made upon petition to the court, or upon the court's own motion.

Status Offenses - juvenile offenses that are not criminal when committed by adults; e.g. runaway or truancy.

Summons - advises the child's parents/guardian/custodian of when and where the child's court hearing is to take place (date, time and location). Summons is served to both the child and the parents(s) with copies of the petition attached.

Supervisory Caution - descriptive term for a wide variety of summary, nonjudicial dispositions that intake may make of a case. This may include referral of the child to a social agency or a community based first offender program run by law enforcement, contacting parents to inform them of the child's activities, or simply warning the child about his or her activities.

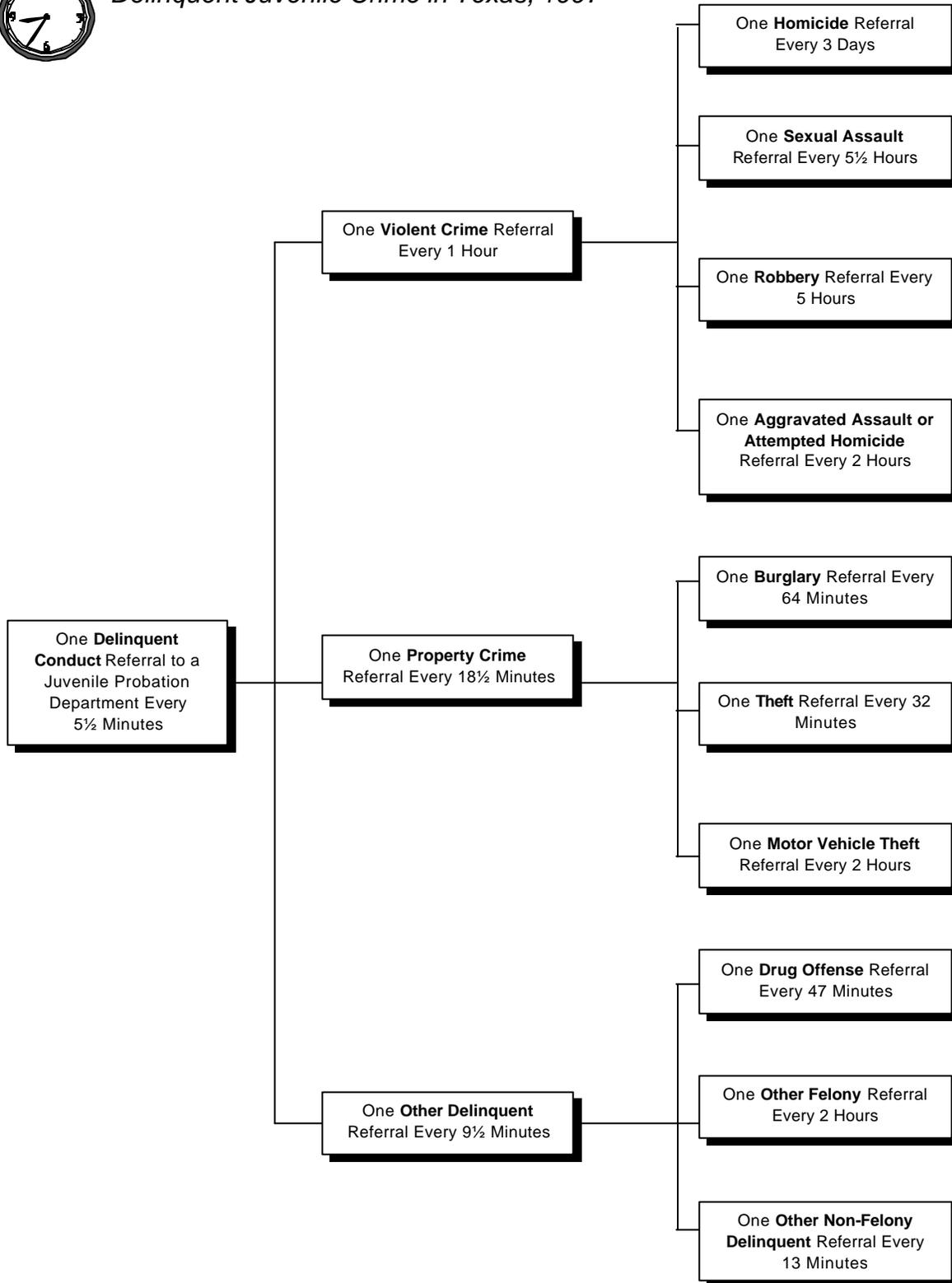
Writ - an order issued by a Court commanding that a certain act or acts be done or not done.

Writ of Habeas Corpus - an extraordinary writ ordering a public officer holding a person in confinement to bring the person before the Court. This is used to secure the release from custody of minors or adults being illegally held.

TEXAS JUVENILE CRIME CLOCK



Delinquent Juvenile Crime in Texas, 1997



Appendix (by County)

Individual county data is not available through the TJPC web site for the 1997 Statistical Report. Please contact TJPC if you would like this information.