

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

Fiscal Year 1999 Annual Report



Annual Report
Fiscal Year 1999

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

Vicki Spriggs, Executive Director

P.O. Box 13547

Austin, Texas 78711-3547

(512) 424-6700

fax (512) 424-6717

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**Texas Juvenile Probation Commission,
Fiscal Year 1999**

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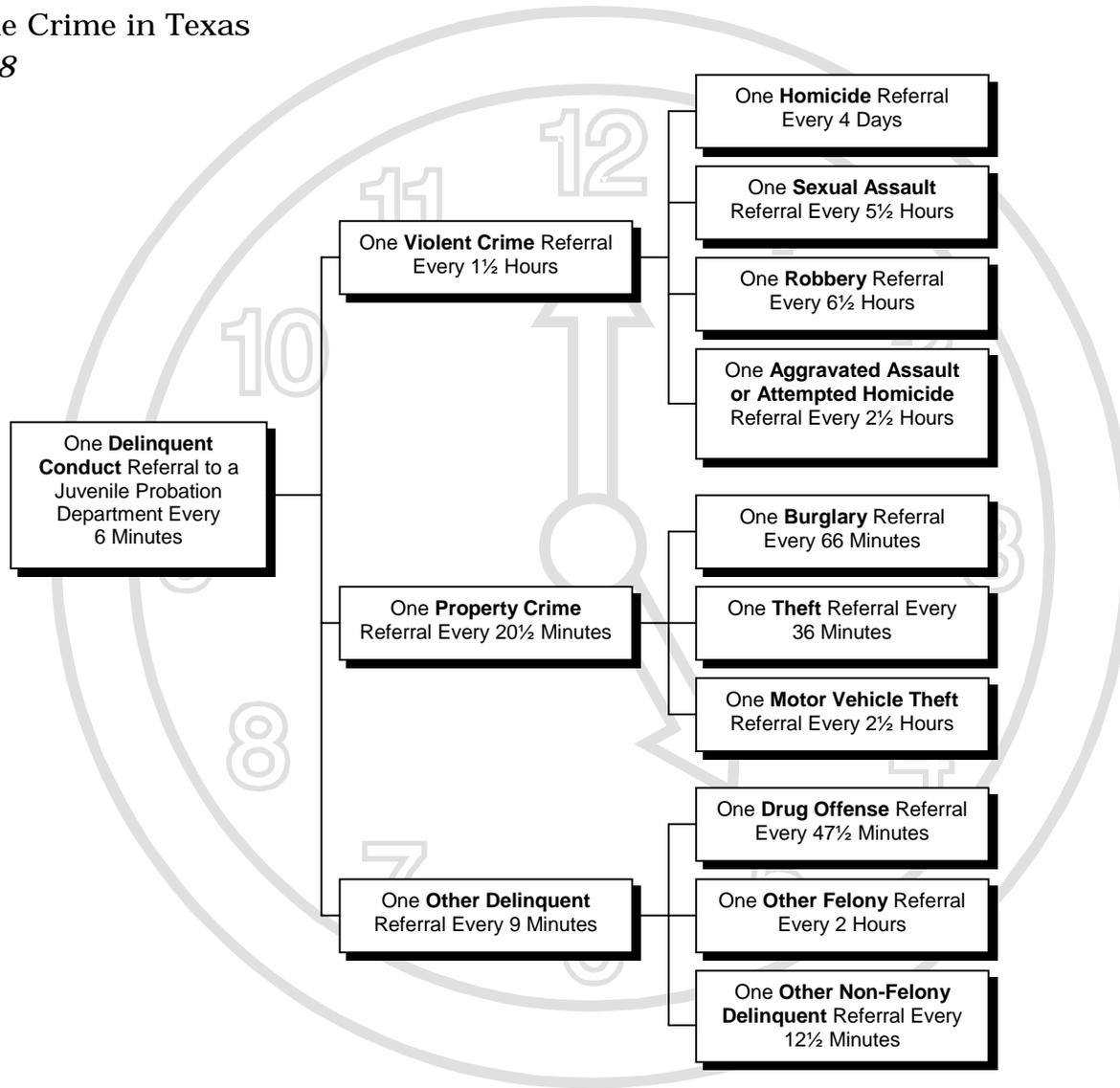
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Juvenile Crime Clock

Delinquent Juvenile Crime in Texas

Calendar Year 1998



Director's Welcome



Before addressing where we are in the present and where we are going in the future for this, the last Texas Juvenile Probation Commission annual report of the century, I will address where we were.

In 1995, major reforms were made to the juvenile probation system. These reforms included the development and implementation of the Progressive Sanctions

Guidelines for handling juvenile cases and the creation of juvenile justice alternative education programs.

These issues continued to be a focus of both the 75th and 76th legislative sessions. During the 75th legislative session in 1997, TJPC was given the authority to investigate abuse and neglect cases that occur in any facility operated by a juvenile probation department.

Texas juvenile probation was presented with a year of changes in 1999. It was the year that juvenile probation departments began submitting detailed, electronic juvenile case file data to us monthly. It was also the year that our commissioners voted to allow TJPC to provide every juvenile probation department in the state with funds to establish an Internet account and an Internet address. This action resulted in every juvenile probation department being able to communicate with TJPC electronically for data transmission or general information purposes.

Nineteen ninety-nine was also a year of assessment and continuity. During this year the substance abuse projects funded with Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse funds were evaluated and almost half of the projects were considered to be models for juvenile substance intervention for the rest of the nation. TJPC's piloting of family preservation programs was in the second year and was already producing excellent results. The Strengthening Our Capacity To Care (SOCC) Program entered its third and final year. Operated through the Texas A&M University Agriculture Extension, this program was successful in reducing the delinquent activity of the majority of youth in the program.

What do we look forward to in the year 2000? We look forward to refining our risk assessment system used to determine which juvenile probation departments are monitored and to assessing the needs of our special offender populations to make sure the proper interventions are available. We look forward to assessing and addressing the issues related to Progressive Sanctions and the expanding number of juvenile justice alternative education programs.

We also look forward to continuing our work with all entities in the state committed to making a qualitative difference in the life of a child. We want the right things to happen for the Texas juvenile who ends up at the door of a juvenile probation department.

The last century was a great one. We expect the next one to be even better. Please join us in our work of identifying and addressing the needs of Texas juveniles. The old fight is a good fight - see you on the front lines.

Vicki Spriggs
Executive Director

TJPC Mission

The mission of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) is:

to work in partnership with local juvenile boards and juvenile probation departments to support and enhance juvenile probation services throughout the state by providing funding, technical assistance, and training; establish and enforce standards; collect, analyze and disseminate information; and facilitate communications between state and local entities.

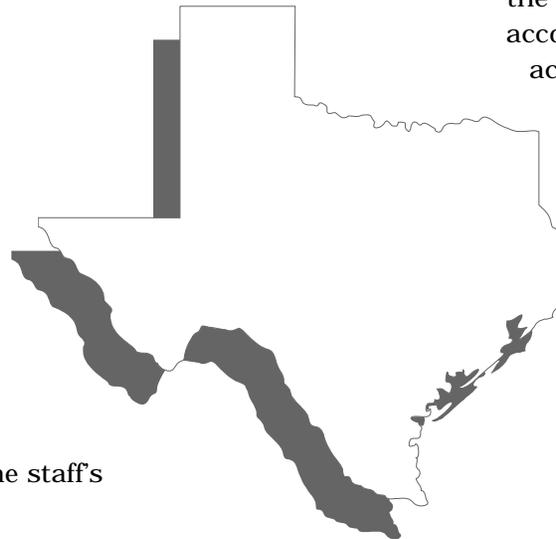
TJPC Philosophy

To carry out the mission, The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission values a high degree of personal responsibility and professionalism. We promote staff growth and development; facilitate quality interaction among staff, field, and related entities; foster teamwork; respect diversity; and encourage participatory decision making and innovative approaches to problem solving.

TJPC creates an environment that recognizes the importance of family in the staff's

personal lives and in their interactions with each other. The actions of our agency impact the juvenile justice field, children, the public, and state government entities. Specifically, relating to:

- the juvenile justice field, TJPC values: the need for local solutions for local problems; limited and efficient state government; timely and professional customer service; the field's involvement in agency decision making; and cooperative and personal relationships.
- children, TJPC values: the care, protection, and the mental and physical development of children; early identification and intervention for children at risk; the supervision of children within the context of community and family whenever possible; and the safety, supervision, and appropriate treatment of children who need to be removed from the home.
- the public, TJPC values: citizen protection and safety; the efficient use of tax dollars; accountability for outcomes; and open access to juvenile justice information.



- state government entities, TJPC values: cooperation and collaboration; and positive interaction with state leadership resulting in and sound policy and budgeting decisions.

Overview

Fiscal year 1999 proved to be another eventful year for TJPC. Some very noteworthy events occurred:

- Juvenile justice alternative education programs (JJAEPs) served significantly more students than their first year, fiscal year 1998;
- Fiscal year 1999 agency appropriations exceeded any year in the past in part due to an increase in appropriations for the operation of post-adjudication facilities built with TJPC funds;
- The TJPC monitoring procedures were revised by the implementation of a risk assessment system. As a result, for the first time, some departments completed a desk review rather than an on-site monitoring visit; and,
- Standardized reports were no longer collected from juvenile probation departments. Instead, monthly electronic case file extracts are submitted enabling TJPC to do much more detailed statistical analysis.

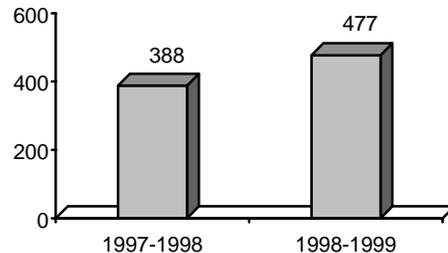


Programs and Field Services

JJAEPs

Juvenile justice alternative education programs – or JJAEPs – provide continued education services for youth that have been expelled from the public school system. JJAEPs were designed both to ensure classroom safety by enabling school districts to remove disruptive or dangerous students from the regular classroom and to ensure that an educational setting is provided for those students which may otherwise fall through the cracks of the system.

Number of Mandatory Full-Time Equivalent Students Served by JJAEPs Using State Funds per School Year



Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs Operated during Fiscal Year 1999

<u>Mandatory Counties (population greater than 125,000)</u>	<u>Non-Mandatory Counties (using TJPC grant funds)</u>	
Bell	Hidalgo	Atascosa
Bexar	Jefferson	Brooks
Brazoria	Lubbock	Grayson
Cameron	McLennan	Hardin
Collin	Montgomery	Hill
Dallas	Nueces	Houston
Denton	Smith	Matagorda
El Paso	Tarrant	Rusk
Fort Bend	Travis	Upshur
Galveston	Webb	
Harris	Williamson	

Given the type of school violence that has occurred throughout the nation during recent years, we understand the need to provide expelled youth alternatives to regular classroom settings. Research indicates that students are safer and commit fewer crimes while in school than while away from school. Communities benefit when children are in a supervised school environment rather than expelled and unsupervised on the streets.

The 74th Texas Legislature mandated that the juvenile boards of the twenty-two largest counties, those with a population greater than 125,000, operate JJAEPs for expelled youth. These twenty-two counties received state funding to operate the programs. In addition, nine other counties under 125,000 were awarded grant funding to operate their own programs.

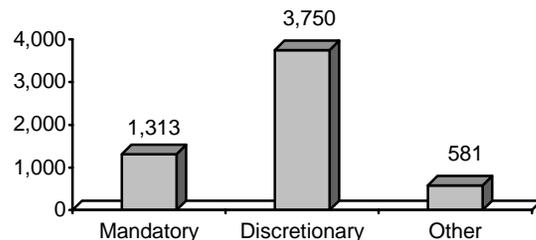
In addition to providing funding and program oversight, TJPC offers technical assistance to the JJAEPs throughout the state. A set of minimum standards specific to the programs was developed by a workgroup consisting of field practitioners and staff from TJPC and the Texas Education Agency. These standards provide a system of accountability consistent with the Texas Education Code, and are monitored annually by TJPC.

The first JJAEPs began operating in Texas in 1996. In fiscal year 1999, the 31 JJAEPs in operation served 5,644 students. Approximately 66 percent of the students were expelled from the school districts for discretionary reasons, most commonly for serious or persistent misconduct.

Reasons for Placement

Mandatory: student required to be expelled from school by Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code;
Discretionary: student expelled per independent school district policy;
Other: student placed in JJAEP either by the court or voluntarily

Reasons for Placement in JJAEP
 School Year 1998-1999



Standards for Juvenile Justice

To meet its primary mandate to improve and standardize Texas juvenile probation services, TJPC, with assistance from local representatives, established standards for juvenile justice. These standards serve to guarantee uniform, quality services across Texas and to further the pursuit of excellence in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

Chapter 37 of the Texas Administrative Code includes all adopted standards. Standards address juvenile probation, juvenile pre-adjudication secure detention facilities, juvenile post-adjudication secure correctional facilities, juvenile justice alternative education programs, and housing non-Texas juveniles in Texas correctional facilities. In fiscal year 1999, a new set of standards were adopted and partially implemented – the case management standards.

Case management standards require the following:

- *Formalized screening process for all formal referrals;*
- *Strategies in Juvenile Supervision (SJS) evaluations performed on juveniles on Progressive Sanctions Levels 4 and 5 (Level 3 juveniles to be added during fiscal year 2000);*
- *Written case plans for all juveniles receiving court ordered supervision;*
- *Periodic review process for written case plans;*
- *Supervision levels determined by written case plans; and,*
- *Written exit plans for juveniles released from court ordered supervision.*

Monitoring

To ensure and facilitate local compliance with its standards, a team of TJPC staff monitors each juvenile probation department. These staff act as liaisons between TJPC and the 168 juvenile probation departments and their juvenile boards and juvenile judges. They review fiscal and program operations and provide technical assistance and consultation in areas such as case record management, personnel development, budget preparation, fiscal planning, community education and project development.

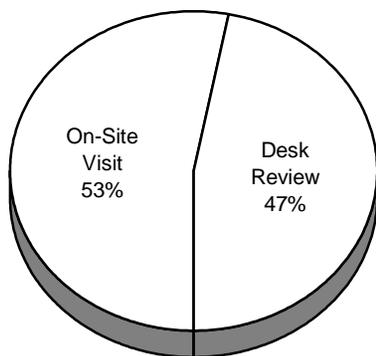
Until fiscal year 1999, every department received an on-site monitoring visit on an annual basis. However, based on recommendations from the State Auditor's Office, a risk assessment instrument was created that indicated

which departments would receive an on-site visit, and which would receive an in-house desk review.

Departments chosen for a desk review completed a *TJPC Standards Self-Review Checklist* and returned it to TJPC along with copies of supporting documentation relating to issues such as policy and procedures manuals, samples of juvenile case plans, service provider contracts, and juvenile board meeting minutes.

In addition to annual monitoring visits and desk reviews, the TJPC monitors also conduct unannounced visits to juvenile facilities. These visits are conducted to ensure that health and safety standards are complied with in each facility.

Percent of Departments Receiving an On-Site Visit vs. Desk Review



Abuse and Neglect Investigations

The Texas Family Code requires that TJPC investigate allegations of abuse and neglect in secure juvenile facilities. According to the statute, a report of abuse or neglect in a public or private pre- or post-adjudication facility shall be made to local law enforcement for investigation and the local law enforcement subsequently notifies TJPC of any report the agency receives.

TJPC standards require the facilities to comply with the Texas Family Code and also make a report of allegations of abuse or neglect within 24 hours to TJPC. They must also report incidents of death, suicide, attempted suicide, and serious injury within 24 hours. Incidents of escape must be reported within six hours of the occurrence.

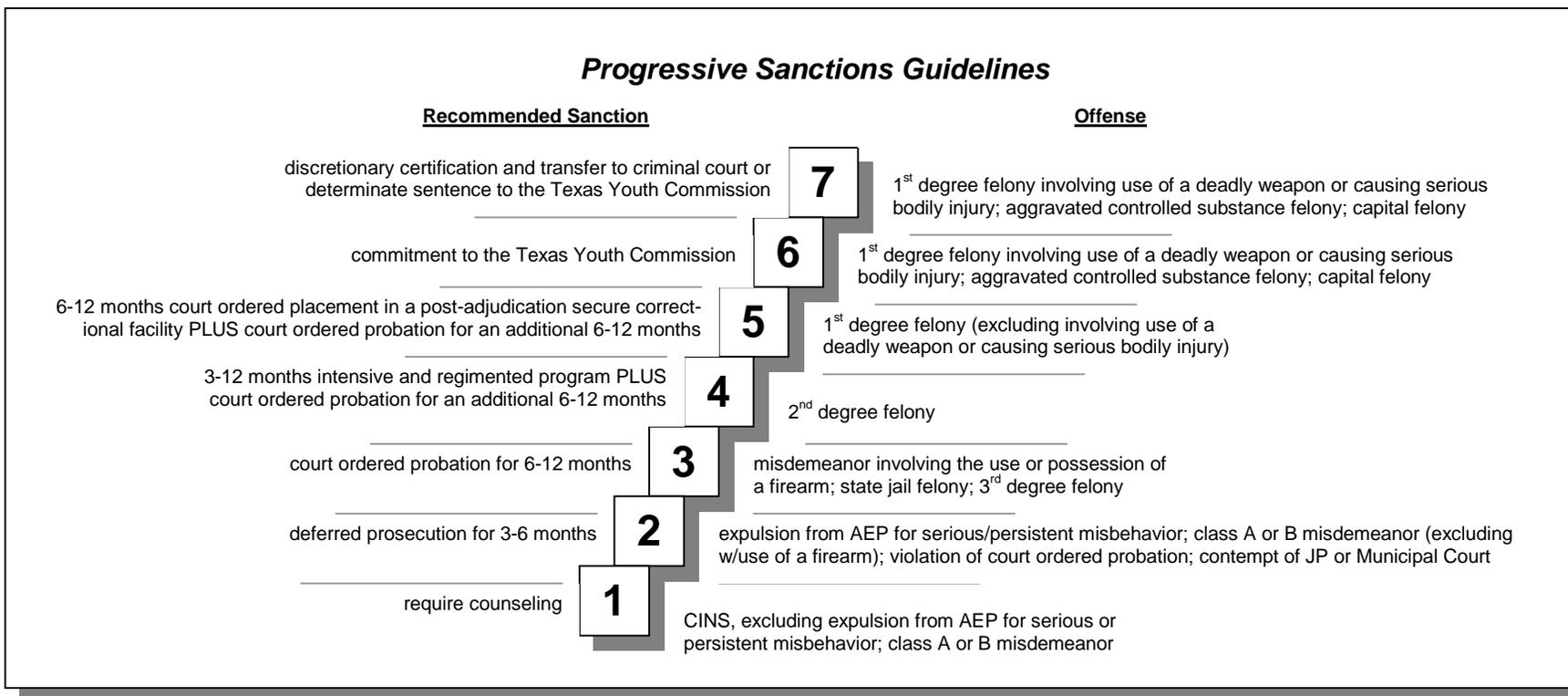
Progressive Sanctions

The Progressive Sanctions Model was designed to provide guidelines for uniform and consistent consequences for juvenile offenders throughout Texas. The guidelines were first implemented on January 1, 1996.

From early intervention programs to secure incarceration, the services are designed to assist youth at each sanction level. The guidelines were designed to balance public

protection, rehabilitation and accountability, while still providing juvenile justice professionals the opportunity to exercise their own discretion and flexibility.

Juvenile probation departments are required by statute to report Progressive Sanctions levels and deviations to TJPC. Mandated to analyze this information, the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council periodically publishes activity reports relating to the guidelines.

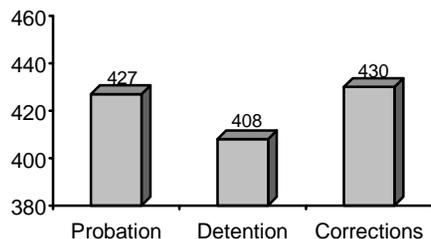


Training and Certification

TJPC plays a vital role in the professional development of Texas juvenile justice practitioners by requiring continuing education for all probation, detention and corrections officers. Training is provided for juvenile judges and all levels of juvenile probation personnel.

TJPC requires that all Texas juvenile probation officers are certified as having earned necessary academic degrees and having completed 40 hours annually of approved continuing education. Corrections, detention and institutional childcare personnel are also TJPC certified. Training provided by TJPC is offered at little or no cost to probation staff and judges.

Number of New Officer Certifications



Through the agency's certification and training program during fiscal year 1999, 2,185 Texas probation personnel received 36,260 hours of training. During this time, TJPC's training curriculum was offered in 59 statewide, regional and local workshops.

In fiscal year 1999, TJPC certified 1,265 new officers. All juvenile officers must be re-certified every two years. During fiscal year 1999, TJPC re-certified 1,171 officers.

Assistance and Information

TJPC is Texas' central clearinghouse for juvenile justice information. It offers legal and technical assistance, information, and consultation to lawmakers, probation departments, judges, prosecutors, reporters, students, researchers, or to anyone with a legitimate request for assistance. TJPC staff includes professionals widely experienced in juvenile law, program development and application, research and data management, personnel development and fiscal planning.

In addition to the law library, TJPC maintains resources including textbooks, reports, research papers, news clippings and videotapes. Information is periodically distributed to the juvenile probation field, state agencies and other interested parties in *TJPC News*, a quarterly newsletter.

The TJPC web site, located at www.tjpc.state.tx.us, is utilized by people around the world for information relating to legislative news, recent juvenile cases, publications, statistics and more. Juvenile probation departments are able to access the latest information about the agency and receive the latest updates to the CASEWORKER data management program.

Secure Facilities Registry

Pursuant to mandates set by the 75th Texas Legislature, TJPC created a statewide registry for all public and private secure juvenile and holdover facilities in Texas. The statewide registry functions as a database of information about each secure juvenile facility operating in the State. Under the Texas Family Code, no child shall be placed into a secure facility that is not registered.

Multiple parties utilize the Secure Facilities Registry. The information is utilized by TJPC and juvenile justice practitioners to track the number and types of secure juvenile facilities that provide residential programs and services for juvenile offenders. Law enforcement agencies utilize the information to distinguish between those facilities certified by local juvenile boards and registered by TJPC from those residential facilities licensed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

The statewide registry has been operational since September 1997. The registration application was modified during fiscal year 1999 to target specific programs and program services in order for counties to make a more educated

decision on where to place a juvenile based on his or her individual needs.

Registry information was included in the *Texas Juvenile Probation and Registered Facility Directory* for the convenience of the juvenile probation field.

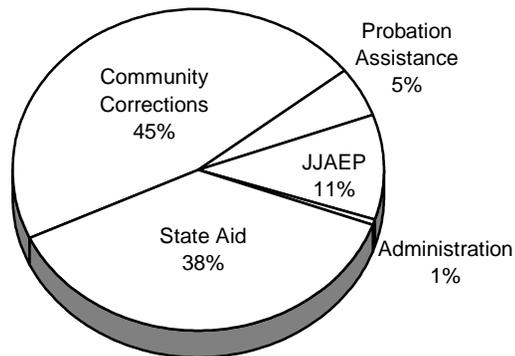
	Post-Adjudication	Pre-Adjudication	Holdover
Total Number of Registered Facilities in State	42	58	8
Number Publicly Operated	25	46	7
Number Privately Operated	17	12	1
Number of Beds Available	1,811	1,950	40
Number Children Served (Calendar Year 1998)	3,782	42,542	684
Average Cost Per Day	\$79.42	\$72.82	\$73.33

Funding and Grants

Allocation of State Funds to Local Communities

TJPC works closely with its partners in local communities to help them achieve the highest standards. To do this, TJPC allocates funds to juvenile boards for the operation of their probation department's programs and services for troubled youths and their families. The Commission is the primary agency through which state funding for juvenile justice is channeled to the counties.

*Allocation of TJPC Budget, FY 1999
Total Appropriations: \$93,900,612*



State and Local Funding of Juvenile Probation System, Fiscal Year 1999

State Funding	
State Aid	\$30,015,973
Community Corrections	29,970,493
Title IV-E Funds	11,239,722
Progressive Sanctions JPOs	5,072,327
Progressive Sanctions ISP Officers	1,225,800
Operating Costs for Juvenile Facilities	7,070,300
Construction of Facilities	1,092,022
JJAEP Start-Up and Construction	4,883,069
Substance Abuse Projects	2,093,868
Challenge Grants	1,355,454
Buffalo Soldier Projects	250,000
Border Projects	242,835
Family Preservation	210,000
SOC Prevention Programs	140,000
Other	1,191,000
Local Funding:	\$175,387,297
Total	\$271,440,160

In fiscal year 1999, TJPC sent nearly one hundred million dollars to county juvenile boards for their local probation departments. Total revenues appropriated to TJPC have increased 368 percent since the beginning of the decade, from \$20,062,039 in fiscal year 1990 to \$93,900,612 in fiscal year 1999.

State funds account for only about 35 percent of total funding for juvenile probation. Approximately 65 percent of the total is provided by local Commissioner's Courts

from county revenues. Juvenile boards work closely with the Commissioner's Courts to set budgets for the operation of the local juvenile probation departments using both local and state funds.

Community Corrections

TJPC was appropriated \$43,617,311 of Community Corrections Assistance Funding for juvenile probation departments in fiscal year 1999. The funds are intended to enhance the quality of services available to youth at risk of commitment to the Texas Youth Commission, with a goal of reducing commitments. TJPC must meet mandated performance targets concerning successful completions of probation and residential diversionary placements.

Approximately half of the Community Corrections funds in fiscal year 1999 were utilized for salaries and fringe benefits, 35 percent for residential services, and the remaining amount for non-residential services, travel, and operating expenses.

State Aid

State Aid funds are used for basic probation services and operations. During fiscal year 1999, 75 percent of the \$35,233,016 of State Aid funds distributed to local juvenile boards were used for salaries and fringe benefits.

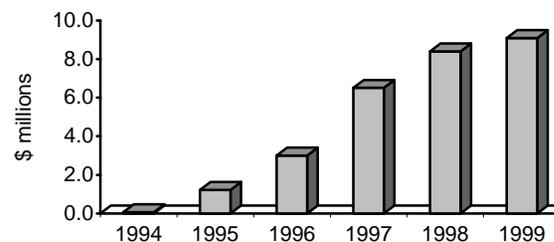
Progressive Sanctions

The 74th Texas Legislature appropriated an additional \$10.2 million dollars for the biennium in the Basic Probation category. The funds specifically addressed the Progressive Sanctions model. In fiscal year 1999, funds were distributed to juvenile probation departments to hire 184 probation officers to supervise offenders in the first three levels of Progressive Sanctions. Funds were also distributed for an additional 45 intensive supervision program officers to supervise offenders in the fourth level of Progressive Sanctions.

Title IV-E Federal Funds

Since 1992, TJPC has contracted with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to enable local juvenile probation departments to access Title IV-E Federal Foster Care funds. Through this

*Title IV-E Reimbursements
by Fiscal Year*



program, departments can be reimbursed approximately 50% of placement costs for eligible placements. Related administrative costs are also reimbursable at 50%, and training expenses at 75%.

The amount of reimbursements received by departments increased almost 150% over the last five years. Fifty-eight departments participated in the program in fiscal year 1999, requesting over nine million dollars in reimbursements. Reimbursements were received for the placement and related costs for nearly 500 children.

In addition to the financial benefit, program requirements have led to the enhancement of case management procedures for children in substitute care. Case plans and progress reviews are central to these procedures, as well as maintaining regular contact with all involved parties and placing an increased emphasis on the provision of services to the family.

Construction and Operation of Juvenile Facilities

The 74th Texas Legislature authorized \$37.5 million in general revenue bonds to TJPC to assist counties in the construction of secure post-adjudication correctional facilities. During fiscal year 1999, \$1,092,022 was dispersed to assist five of the nineteen facilities that were not open prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Once all facilities are complete, the bond project will have

Construction Bond Facility Schedule

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Beds</u>	<u>Date of Completion</u>
Bexar	96	April 1997
Cameron	32	May 1999
Colorado	100	March 1998
Dallas	96	August 1998
Denton	48	March 1998
Duval	48	October 1999
El Paso	58	November 1999
Grayson	40	December 1997
Gregg	40	August 1999
Harris	144	July 1998
Harrison	24	July 1998
Hidalgo	40	October 2000
Lubbock	48	January 2000
Nueces	85	July 1999
Randall	16	May 1998
Taylor	36	September 1998
Tom Green	48	August 1999
Travis	120	November 2000
Van Zandt	8	August 1998

added 1,114 new secure beds to the juvenile justice system in Texas.

In addition to construction funds, counties were allocated \$7,070,300 of TJPC funds during fiscal year 1999. These funds were used to reimburse departments for 25 percent of operation costs for the post-adjudication facilities.

Substance Abuse Projects

As a result of the 74th legislative session, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and TJPC established an interagency agreement providing approximately \$2.1 per year of the biennium for TJPC to fund substance abuse prevention and treatment services and residential treatment placements. The funds were re-appropriated for the 1998-1999 biennium.

With approximately \$1.3 million of these funds, eight

Substance Abuse Grants, FY 1999

<u>County</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
Comal	\$200,000	Lamb	\$192,444
Dallas	\$205,211	Randall	\$199,365
El Paso	\$183,139	San Patricio	\$200,000
Frio	\$77,000	Tom Green	\$101,799

prevention and intervention pilot programs were made fully operational. While programs were administered through Comal, Dallas, El Paso, Frio, Lamb, Randall, San Patricio, and Tom Green counties, prevention and intervention services were received in a total of 35 counties across the state through these sites.

More than 30,000 juveniles received substance abuse services during fiscal year 1999. In that same period, 86 counties placed 114 juveniles in substance abuse treatment facilities using these funds.

The projects have developed and updated their programs by examining the needs of youth and families in their area and looking at what works according to an independent outcome evaluation. In addition to substance abuse screening and assessment of juvenile offenders, they use innovative methods to engage youth and families in services and to interrupt negative behavioral trends.

Each of the involved juvenile probation departments interface with schools and other local agencies to plan and carry out their projects. They are working together toward a full continuum of substance abuse services for youth and their families.

In addition to the eight prevention and intervention projects, nearly \$700,000 of the funds were made available for residential drug treatment reimbursements. Eighty youth were placed from 47 departments using the available funds.

Challenge Grant

The Challenge Grant Program was created in 1987 to provide services to multi-problem juveniles who were under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts and who were also identified as being abused, neglected, mentally ill or retarded. Previously, these types of multi-problem children often were committed to the Texas Youth Commission because the lack of funding and local resources left no locally based alternatives. In fiscal year 1999, the Challenge Grant Program provided residential and community-based services in eighteen departments for an average of 54 children each month.

Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Projects

The 74th Legislature established the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Project. The Buffalo Soldiers were chosen as the basis of the program because of their rich and significant contributions to our nation and state's history. It is a history of courage and leadership from the perspective of these African-American soldiers.

The project targets at-risk males between the ages of ten and seventeen in Washington, Bexar, Dallas, Tom Green and Tarrant counties. Referrals to the program come from probation departments, schools, churches, and civic groups. Serving predominantly minority youth, the program curriculum is based on eight core elements: empowerment, identification of self and culture, decision-making, team building, community awareness,

socialization, values clarification, and expectations for the future.

Fiscal year 1999 was the last year that TJPC funded the programs, with \$250,000 allocated. Oversight of the programs was transferred to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services beginning in fiscal year 2000.

Border Children Justice Projects

Border Children Justice Projects were created more than a decade ago to address crime problems unique to the Texas/Mexico border and to provide a more humane response to Mexican children who violate United States laws. The programs also serve children from the U.S. who violate Mexican laws. TJPC provides discretionary funds to these programs to improve the rehabilitative efforts of Texas and Mexican authorities. A substantial economic savings is achieved by combining resources in Texas and Mexico.

Border Children Justice Projects, FY 1999

<u>County</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
Cameron	\$46,319	Val Verde	\$49,200
El Paso	\$42,600	Webb	\$44,716
Starr	\$30,000		

Border Projects operate in five Texas counties, but referrals are received from counties across the state. During fiscal year 1999, Cameron, El Paso, Starr, Val Verde, and Webb counties provided services, institutional placement and social work services to more than 230 juveniles and their families. TJPC published a report during the fiscal year detailing the nationally recognized Projects.

Family Preservation

During fiscal year 1998, TJPC implemented a project to provide funding for in-home based programs. The project continued in fiscal year 1999, with \$70,000 distributed to six local probation departments. Bexar, Denton, El Paso, Harris, Kaufman and Travis counties were awarded grants to provide intervention and prevention services. The programs target adjudicated youth at risk of placement outside of home and their families. Programs focus on preventing the removal of the child from the home, saving money in placement costs and preventing siblings from entering the juvenile justice system.

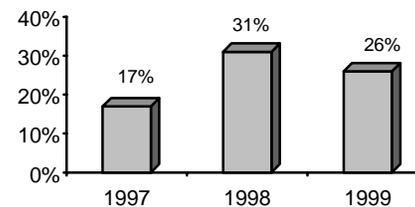
Departments receiving grants were each required to match the amount by \$30,000 in order to implement the programs. Only departments contracting with TJPC for the Title IV-E Program were eligible to apply. TJPC has contracted with the University of Texas Center for Social Work Research to conduct an intensive independent evaluation of the effectiveness of each local program.

Strengthening Our Capacity to Care Prevention Programs

The Strengthening our Capacity to Care (SOCC) Program offers prevention and intervention community services to at-risk youth and parents with the goal of increasing life skills of youth and parenting skills of adults. This three-year project is a state and local partnership between TJPC and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Local teams in 75 Texas counties recruited over 400 youth and 350 parents into this program over the three-year period. During the first year, only juveniles on Progressive Sanctions levels 1 through 3 were accepted in the program. During the second and third years, the program was extended to accept level 4 and 5 offenders as well. The program has shown an impact on recidivism

Recidivism Rate of SOCC Program Participants



rates among juvenile offenders.

Other significant SOCC results of youth include:

- 76% successfully participated in project activities
- 75% improved academic performance (up from 43%)

- 75% attended school (up from 36%)

Statewide Activity

Statistical reports containing county or statewide data are available upon request. Data is also available on the TJPC Web Site at www.tjpc.state.tx.us. The statistics in this section, unless otherwise noted, reflect calendar year 1998.

Caseload Management and Data Collection

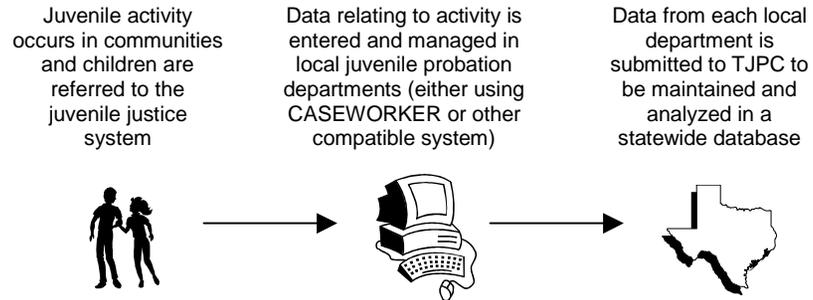
In 1985, TJPC initiated a computer program called CASEWORKER to facilitate and standardize the collection, storage and retrieval of caseload information. In order to keep up with the changing system, the program has evolved through many revisions since it was created. At the end of fiscal year 1999, CASEWORKER/4 was utilized by 246 of the 254 Texas counties.

CASEWORKER is an excellent tool for local departments to use for caseload management and tracking. It also builds a valuable database on juvenile crime and juvenile justice operations in Texas.

During fiscal year 1999, TJPC changed reporting requirements of local juvenile probation departments to collect case file data rather than standardized reports. Departments using the CASEWORKER program simply submit monthly case file extracts, while non-CASEWORKER users are required to submit selected case

file data elements in a comparable format. The expanded fields of data enable TJPC to undertake more comprehensive analyses of statewide juvenile justice activity.

Flowchart of Juvenile Justice Data



Arrests and Referrals of Juveniles

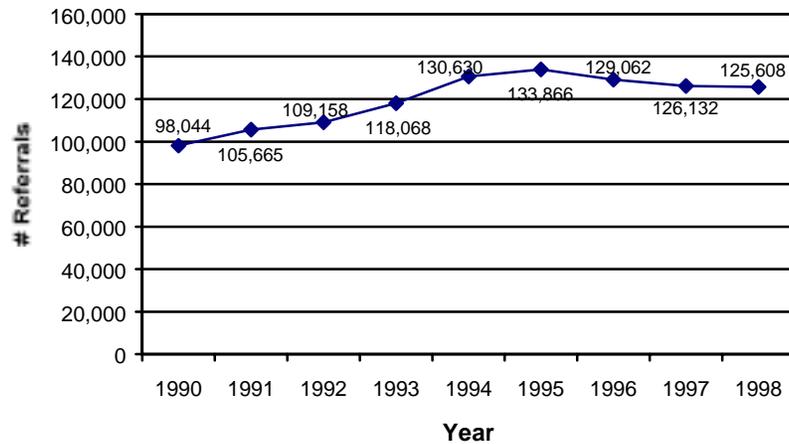
More than eight out of ten youths entering the juvenile justice system do so via law enforcement referrals. In 1998, police agencies in Texas arrested 172,441 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17. Of this number, 66,648 were warned and released, handled in magistrate courts or otherwise diverted from the juvenile justice system. The remaining 105,793 were referred to local juvenile probation agencies. An additional 19,815 juveniles were referred by social agencies, schools, parents and the Texas Youth Commission, bringing the statewide total of juvenile referrals in 1998 to 125,608.

For the third consecutive year, total referrals decreased. The 0.4% decrease in 1998 follows a 2.3% decrease in 1997, and a 3.6% decrease in 1996. Likewise, most serious categories of offense referrals were also down, including violent felonies (down 9.8%), total felonies (down 7.0%), misdemeanor classes A and B (down 4.4%), and status offense categories (down 7.1%).

Increases in referrals were indicated in violation of probation orders and contempt of magistrate orders (up 16.6%) and CINS that were “other than status offenses” (up 4.4%).

While the total number of referrals decreased by less than one half of a percent, the number of juveniles referred

Total Referrals to Juvenile Probation



decreased 2.8%. Of the juveniles referred, there were fewer entering the system for the first time.

Profile of Juvenile Referrals, 1998

	Delinquent	CINS	Total
Age			
10 years	921	216	1,137
11 years	2,108	580	2,688
12 years	5,167	1,804	6,971
13 years	10,362	4,404	14,766
14 years	16,997	7,261	24,258
15 years	23,777	9,856	33,633
16 years	28,079	10,383	38,462
17 years	2,653	1,040	3,693
Sex/Race			
White Male	24,551	31,678	31,678
White Female	7,502	14,577	14,577
Black Male	16,510	20,376	20,376
Black Female	4,737	7,334	7,334
Hispanic Male	28,133	36,704	36,704
Hispanic Female	7,605	13,478	13,478
Other Male	784	1,009	1,009
Other Female	242	452	452
Referral History			
No Prior Referral	39,652	14,151	53,803
Prior Referral	50,412	21,393	71,805
School Status			
Regular School	80,006	31,449	111,455
Alternative Educ.	3,880	1,735	5,615
Dropped Out	4,136	1,094	5,230
Susp./Expelled	2,042	1,266	3,308
Total	90,064	35,544	125,608

Supervision, Detention and Court Activity

All of the 254 counties in Texas received services through 164 juvenile probation departments in 1998. These departments were staffed by a total of 5,677 employees, 1,843 of whom carried a probation caseload.

During 1998, 74,419 youths brought to juvenile probation agencies were immediately released to their parents or other responsible adults. The other 51,189 youths were detained prior to adjudication hearings in court. Ninety-six percent of these were held in secure

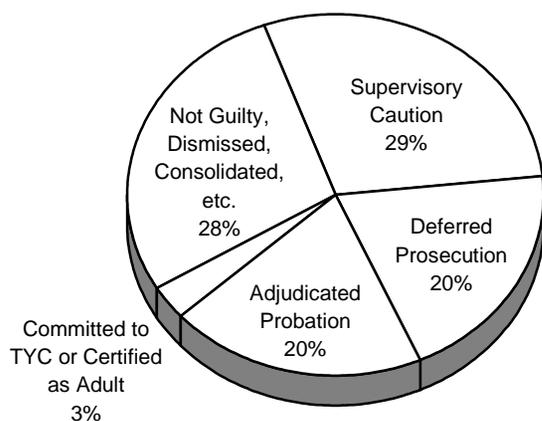
custody detention centers while the others were in non-secure alternative placements such as foster homes and emergency shelters.

Through a variety of services and procedures, juvenile probation agencies disposed of 57,944 cases, diverting them from already burdened juvenile court dockets. Such cases are often closed at intake after counseling with the youth and family, known as supervisory caution. Others may be referred to more appropriate social agencies for guidance or services, or they may agree to voluntary supervision programs, known as deferred prosecution, under guidelines set by local juvenile boards.

Of the 69,317 youths accused of delinquency and handled by juvenile prosecutors or juvenile courts during 1998, 25,342 were adjudicated to probation. During the year, juvenile probation departments supervised a total of 98,496 youth on some form of supervision, including deferred prosecution, court-ordered supervision, conditional release from detention and parolees supervised by probation under TYC contract.

In 1998, juvenile courts committed 3,416 juveniles to the Texas Youth Commission, certified 433 to stand trial as adults in the criminal justice system, and disposed of another 29,110 cases through refusal to prosecute, dismissal or consolidation of referrals.

Juvenile Dispositions in 1998



Statistics by County, Calendar Year 1998

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Anderson	4,592	249	130	0
Andrews	1,905	154	54	4
Angelina	7,543	311	120	12
Aransas	1,809	218	96	3
Archer	942	13	1	1
Armstrong	216	1	0	0
Atascosa	4,703	236	135	3
Austin	2,126	93	24	0
Bailey	865	31	13	3
Bandera	1,257	45	12	0
Bastrop	6,007	383	100	9
Baylor	388	12	1	0
Bee	2,920	284	121	4
Bell	23,342	1,463	494	30
Bexar	141,531	11,396	2,448	358
Blanco	749	29	13	0
Borden	87	0	0	0
Bosque	1,581	62	17	3
Bowie	8,209	808	280	13
Brazoria	25,212	2,487	1,253	38
Brazos	11,376	1,398	842	27
Brewster	876	12	7	0
Briscoe	197	8	2	0
Brooks	1,125	113	8	0
Brown	3,383	302	27	1
Burleson	1,575	96	19	2
Burnet	2,745	231	88	2
Caldwell	3,610	249	128	5
Calhoun	2,119	212	66	0
Callahan	1,450	40	30	3

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Cameron	35,944	1,906	804	48
Camp	1,020	41	4	0
Carson	713	1	0	0
Cass	3,050	141	34	11
Castro	1,234	91	62	5
Chambers	2,180	53	6	6
Cherokee	4,381	192	154	8
Childress	567	5	1	0
Clay	1,110	26	7	1
Cochran	594	28	5	0
Coke	303	18	0	0
Coleman	873	80	54	0
Collin	45,247	1,298	894	14
Collingsworth	361	6	5	0
Colorado	1,952	131	69	3
Comal	7,294	423	96	12
Comanche	1,235	57	17	3
Concho	266	1	0	0
Cooke	3,441	152	60	7
Coryell	8,404	255	50	9
Cottle	224	6	1	0
Crane	619	24	19	3
Crockett	466	11	1	0
Crosby	882	36	9	0
Culberson	509	33	16	0
Dallam	626	62	12	5
Dallas	212,036	9,763	4,422	331
Dawson	1,647	141	62	5
Deaf Smith	2,518	332	34	8
Delta	441	14	5	0

Statistics by County, Calendar Year 1998

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Denton	41,028	2,221	958	14
Dewitt	1,953	185	86	10
Dickens	204	24	2	1
Dimmit	1,359	63	14	2
Donley	279	6	0	0
Duval	1,603	93	34	0
Eastland	1,591	44	28	3
Ector	14,289	971	785	4
Edwards	262	10	0	0
Ellis	15,037	661	312	14
El Paso	80,782	3,088	2,116	58
Erath	2,865	133	10	1
Falls	1,903	44	36	3
Fannin	2,465	253	57	1
Fayette	1,981	68	47	3
Fisher	455	6	3	0
Floyd	1,038	75	9	3
Foard	181	1	1	1
Fort Bend	39,824	1,439	358	31
Franklin	801	82	6	0
Freestone	1,571	50	29	3
Frio	1,792	162	28	2
Gaines	2,017	116	24	0
Galveston	22,838	1,188	779	65
Garza	606	39	26	0
Gillespie	1,865	77	10	1
Glasscock	235	3	0	0
Goliad	681	63	7	0
Gonzales	1,993	144	34	2
Gray	2,205	182	52	4

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Grayson	9,118	654	261	8
Gregg	10,811	775	404	12
Grimes	2,209	93	52	3
Guadalupe	9,869	761	238	17
Hale	4,118	233	84	15
Hall	330	4	3	0
Hamilton	687	35	2	1
Hansford	703	13	6	0
Hardeman	523	1	1	0
Hardin	4,780	343	135	12
Harris	327,484	19,959	5,025	779
Harrison	7,049	715	387	6
Hartley	350	15	3	0
Haskell	657	15	7	1
Hays	8,837	576	312	11
Hemphill	403	26	10	0
Henderson	6,807	341	138	11
Hidalgo	61,555	1,692	611	45
Hill	2,950	181	82	10
Hockley	2,938	48	30	9
Hood	4,478	339	45	15
Hopkins	3,064	248	126	7
Houston	2,163	93	23	7
Howard	3,344	384	277	10
Hudspeth	376	30	7	0
Hunt	7,791	523	327	3
Hutchinson	2,706	172	79	1
Irion	192	4	1	0
Jack	735	29	7	0
Jackson	1,417	105	17	8

Statistics by County, Calendar Year 1998

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Jasper	3,472	138	38	8
Jeff Davis	172	0	0	0
Jefferson	23,485	1,902	876	66
Jim Hogg	861	45	3	2
Jim Wells	4,699	446	85	2
Johnson	15,465	976	656	4
Jones	1,778	86	7	0
Karnes	1,602	138	39	0
Kaufman	8,618	418	164	10
Kendall	2,063	84	20	1
Kenedy	61	0	0	0
Kent	124	0	1	0
Kerr	3,924	353	211	8
Kimble	411	37	21	1
King	41	0	0	0
Kinney	309	6	3	0
Kleberg	3,269	246	8	0
Knox	489	11	2	0
Lamar	4,490	145	47	8
Lamb	1,671	72	28	11
Lampasa	1,491	190	66	4
LaSalle	708	20	6	0
Lavaca	1,712	54	24	2
Lee	1,609	72	22	3
Leon	1,551	59	0	0
Liberty	6,338	274	44	3
Limestone	2,333	106	82	3
Lipscomb	345	14	2	0
Live Oak	964	41	31	1
Llano	766	47	24	0

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Loving	15	0	0	0
Lubbock	23,785	1,616	1,028	54
Lynn	774	60	23	0
McCulloch	893	25	11	3
McLennan	19,003	2,267	1,777	66
McMullen	102	0	0	0
Madison	984	29	2	0
Marion	911	34	15	1
Martin	665	18	6	0
Mason	332	11	3	0
Matagorda	4,541	298	37	4
Maverick	5,424	282	50	7
Medina	3,789	164	111	5
Menard	249	14	9	0
Midland	14,426	1,063	1,034	12
Milam	2,578	86	55	1
Mills	408	31	3	0
Mitchell	810	97	9	3
Montague	1,564	62	18	1
Montgomery	26,140	1,427	400	29
Moore	2,258	215	11	5
Morris	1,344	65	21	0
Motley	124	11	1	0
Nacogdoches	5,588	306	72	14
Navarro	4,698	195	32	1
Newton	1,608	43	17	1
Nolan	1,726	381	30	5
Nueces	34,544	3,668	1,127	114
Ochiltree	1,061	59	24	2
Oldham	210	16	15	0

Statistics by County, Calendar Year 1998

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Orange	9,168	510	164	16
Palo Pinto	2,888	150	20	20
Panola	2,558	114	57	4
Parker	11,214	370	109	11
Parmer	1,257	37	12	1
Pecos	1,868	126	46	0
Polk	2,993	285	53	3
Potter	10,440	1,117	419	32
Presidio	1,004	7	0	0
Rains	767	34	8	0
Randall	10,895	732	264	6
Reagan	677	11	1	0
Real	203	7	0	0
Red River	1,260	95	5	1
Reeves	2,041	184	138	0
Refugio	777	87	11	0
Roberts	105	2	0	0
Robertson	1,811	75	74	6
Rockwall	4,832	212	106	8
Runnels	1,169	43	13	1
Rusk	4,884	246	44	4
Sabine	730	26	3	0
San Augustine	783	8	3	1
San Jacinto	2,094	38	7	2
San Patricio	8,610	611	363	12
San Saba	571	45	21	1
Schleicher	384	6	5	1
Scurry	2,031	186	14	5
Shackelford	323	6	0	0
Shelby	2,205	21	4	1

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Sherman	297	9	1	0
Smith	15,819	1,165	634	59
Somervell	785	44	9	2
Starr	8,410	425	78	10
Stephens	912	61	28	1
Sterling	196	2	3	1
Stonewall	188	9	4	1
Sutton	456	15	2	0
Swisher	965	66	39	1
Tarrant	144,559	7,952	2,848	201
Taylor	12,519	999	592	18
Terrell	153	3	3	0
Terry	1,630	122	62	2
Throckmorton	178	0	0	0
Titus	2,728	153	21	3
Tom Green	10,930	1,328	381	17
Travis	59,827	5,339	2,279	160
Trinity	1,167	63	30	0
Tyler	1,569	93	17	0
Upshur	3,465	213	37	1
Upton	631	37	7	0
Uvalde	2,821	273	30	2
Val Verde	4,729	261	100	8
Van Zandt	4,494	194	44	1
Victoria	8,625	1,069	566	22
Walker	3,812	150	58	5
Waller	2,520	97	37	6
Ward	1,517	128	54	0
Washington	2,885	131	43	13
Webb	21,296	1,759	870	16

Statistics by County, Calendar Year 1998

County	Juvenile Population	Total Referrals	Total Detained	TYC Commitments
Wharton	4,746	142	47	11
Wheeler	544	27	14	0
Wichita	11,865	814	548	11
Wilbarger	1,588	37	1	5
Willacy	2,432	84	20	1
Williamson	28,867	1,216	852	10
Wilson	3,794	326	57	1
Winkler	1,053	71	14	0
Wise	4,793	108	18	0
Wood	3,057	180	28	6
Yoakum	1,213	75	14	0
Young	1,785	117	53	2
Zapata	1,641	127	20	0
Zavala	1,591	49	14	1
Totals	2,073,693	125,608	48,975	3,416

