

ANNUAL REPORT  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
JUVENILE  
COURT

FOR THE YEAR

1930



CLEVELAND . . . OHIO

**PERSONNEL**  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

HARRY L. EASTMAN, *Judge*

G. L. SPENCER, *Chief Clerk*

T. L. LEWIS, Chief Probation Officer

J. B. SELLER, Asst. Chief Probation Officer

ELEANOR R. WEMBRIDGE, Referee for Girls

ALMA M. LUCHT, Receiving Secretary

M. E. BUEHRLE, Supervisor of Neglect Department

RICHARD D. WACHTELL, Complaint Clerk

M. S. LAIRD, Statistician

A. E. PATTON and PETER DI LEONE, JR., Bailiffs

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**PROBATION OFFICERS**

LOTTIE BIALOSKY, *Supervisor*

MAUD ADELSTEIN

MARIE G. BIGHOUSE

FLORENCE A. DELANEY

INEZ E. FAIRFAX

ESTHER M. GREENE

HAZEL K. HITE

ANNA M. MARRER

L. PEARL MITCHELL

MARY A. NEARY

FLOY RUSSELL

DOROTHY E. SPARROW

LEOTA STEEVER

JOHN S. BECKA

FRED W. BOEKE

R. A. DAMBACH

W. T. HUGHES

BENJ. G. KAHN

HARRY WEINBERG

WM. A. HISCOX

---

**MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT**

NELL F. COLLOPY, *Director*

MRS. M. KELLEY, *Receiving Secretary*

---

**VISITORS**

MYRA L. MYRICK, *Supervisor*

ELEANOR CHOPARD

ANNA FAY

FRANCES FERAN

HAZEL GEISLER

CECELIA HARTMAN

CLEMENTINE KENT

CATHERINE HORNING

ANNA L. KELLEY

MARY MACK

ANN RYAN

MABLE SHEPHERD

HELEN SILVER

DORA SMITH

TAMARA TROF IMOV

KAYE WEISS

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**DETENTION HOME**

LAURA A. MARLOW, Superintendent (Resigned April 1, 1931)

T. E. BROWNING, Superintendent (Appointed May 1, 1931)

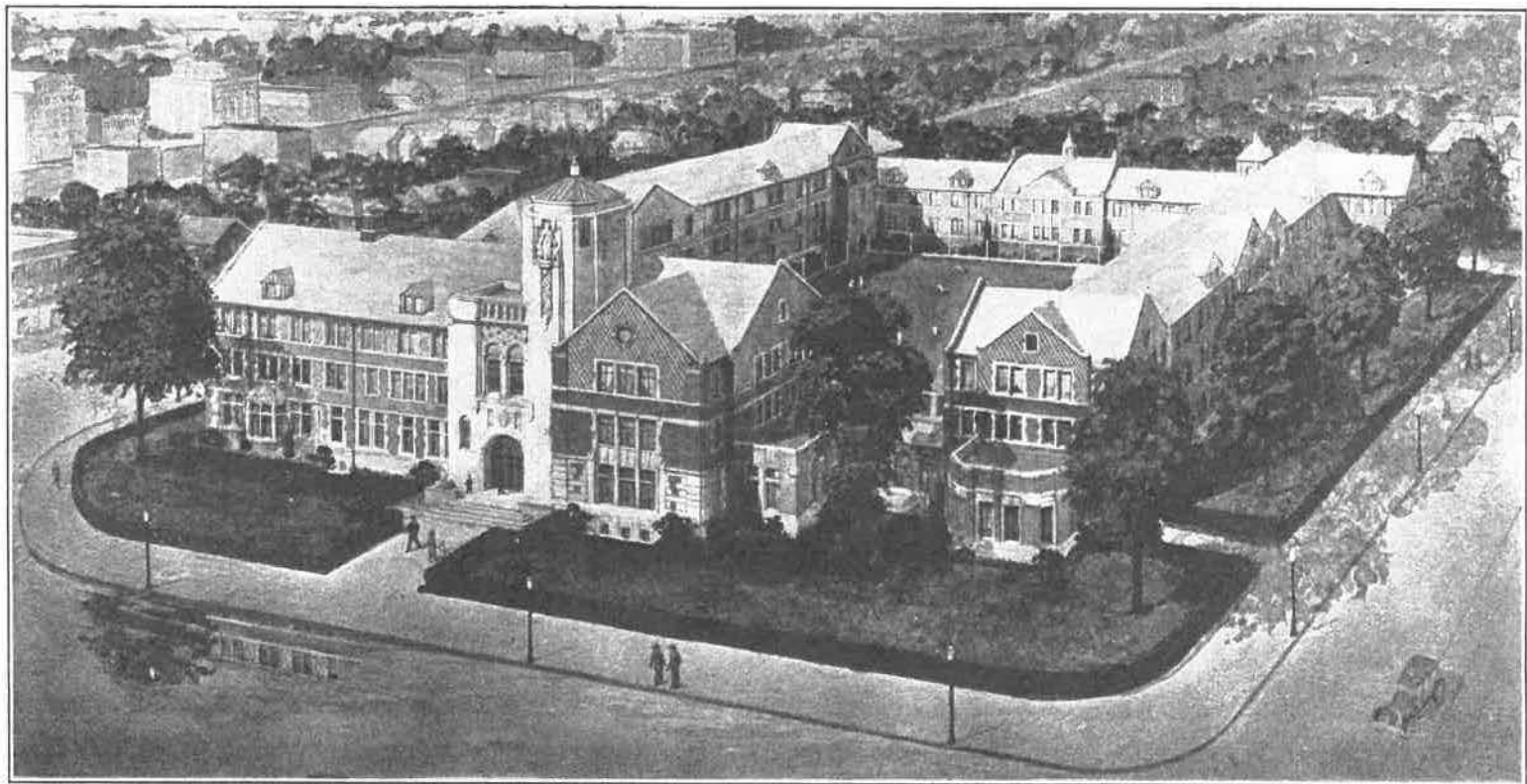
ELIZABETH H. SHEA, Asst. Superintendent

DR. C. J. CASSIDY, Physician

DR. A. T. CHILDERS, Psychiatrist (Resigned Sept. 1, 1930)

DR. DONALD LINARD, Psychiatrist (Appointed Oct. 1, 1930)

EDITH DOMBEY, Psychologist



COUNTY WELFARE GROUP

## NEW JUVENILE COURT AND COUNTY WELFARE BUILDINGS

On the opposite page is shown the architect's drawing of the exterior of the new County Welfare Buildings authorized by the bond issue of November, 1930. The Frank W. Bail Co. are the architects and R. Franklin Outcalt, associate architect. Construction plans are now going forward under a Building Commission composed of J. H. Harris, Chairman, Walter E. Cook, Joseph F. Gorman, Thomas Coughlin, Herman Kregelius, W. F. Eirick and John J. Mahoney.

The Administration Building will contain the Juvenile Court and its Probation and Mothers' Pension departments. To the right in the picture is the Detention Home. To the left, facing on Cedar Avenue, is the County Child Welfare Board's home for dependent children. At the rear is a service building containing laundry, kitchen and dining rooms. The quadrangle formed by the buildings will surround a play ground.

The buildings provide segregation of dependent and delinquent children as well as separation by sex and age classifications. Each building contains school rooms, medical wards and gymnasium facilities. All dormitories provide natural light and ventilation from three sides.

No attempt has been made to follow any historical style or architectural precedent. The exterior has been simply designed to express the functions of the various buildings. Pitch roofs lend a domestic atmosphere and the space is utilized for mechanical heating and ventilating equipment. The buildings are fireproof throughout. The exterior walls are faced with brick and trimmed with stone. On the administration building tower a sculptured mother and her children symbolize the care and guidance which is the primary function of the whole project.

Over two years were spent in studying the present and future needs of agencies using the buildings. Similar buildings throughout the country were studied and their best features adopted.

When completed Cuyahoga County will have a group of welfare buildings to which her citizens can point with pride as symbolical of her leadership in community social work. The practical advantages of grouping together related branches of county welfare will make possible a cooperation and an economy of means and effort. The modern facilities provided by the buildings will raise the quality and effectiveness of the work.



*Report of the*  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1930\***

**VOLUME OF CASES** Few persons realize the volume and variety of cases that come before the Court. During the past year the welfare of over twelve thousand children has been affected by the Court or its departments. About one-third of these were dealt with unofficially, and another one-third were children in families receiving Mothers' Pensions. Of the remainder, one-half were delinquents while the rest were either dependent or neglected.

**SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE COURT** While Juvenile Court is concerned with the enforcement of laws, it approaches its problems from a social rather than a legal angle. Those who think of the Court as dealing only with delinquents are overlooking other functions which affect the welfare of a far greater number of children. Almost three-fourths of the juveniles dealt with officially during the year were in cases other than delinquency. In numbers dealt with, Juvenile Court is the largest child welfare agency in the County.

**CO-OPERATING AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

**SOURCES OF COMPLAINTS** The Court is in intimate contact with every Community Fund and other welfare agency in the county, especially those concerned with children. The upper half of the chart, in figure 1, shows the agencies filing complaints last year. The social agencies shown at the top of the chart not only filed about 12% of the cases heard, but often directed parents, relatives and citizens who brought complaints. These agencies are of great assistance to the Court, not only in reaching its decisions, but also in carrying them into effect. Their knowledge of, and experience with particular families and their problems are valuable both to the Judge and the Probation Officers. In dealing with dependent and neglected as well as delinquent children, they are frequently able to present well developed plans for solution. Frequently a solution is worked out through conferences in which the Probation Officer and agency workers devise a program in which each agency accepts responsibility for carrying out certain parts of an integrated plan.

The Court co-operates closely with the various Boards of Education in the county. While the bulk of complaints from this source are for truancy or other delinquencies committed on school property, they are also instrumental in discovering many instances of dependency and neglect.

About half the cases filed were brought in by various law enforcement officers, including store and railroad detectives, as well as police and county peace officers. The bulk of these cases are delinquencies, but they include also a considerable number of dependencies and some fewer neglects.

Parents, relatives and citizens filed less than one-third of all cases.

**DISPOSITION OF AGENCIES** The lower half of figure 1 shows the agencies and institutions to which children were paroled or committed. Many children were paroled to one or both parents. The major part of them were neglected children from broken families paroled to the mother or to relatives.

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\*The detailed tables, upon which this report is based, are on file in the Statistical Department, Room 201, where they may be studied by anyone interested.

# Community Agencies Co-operating with Juvenile Court in 1930

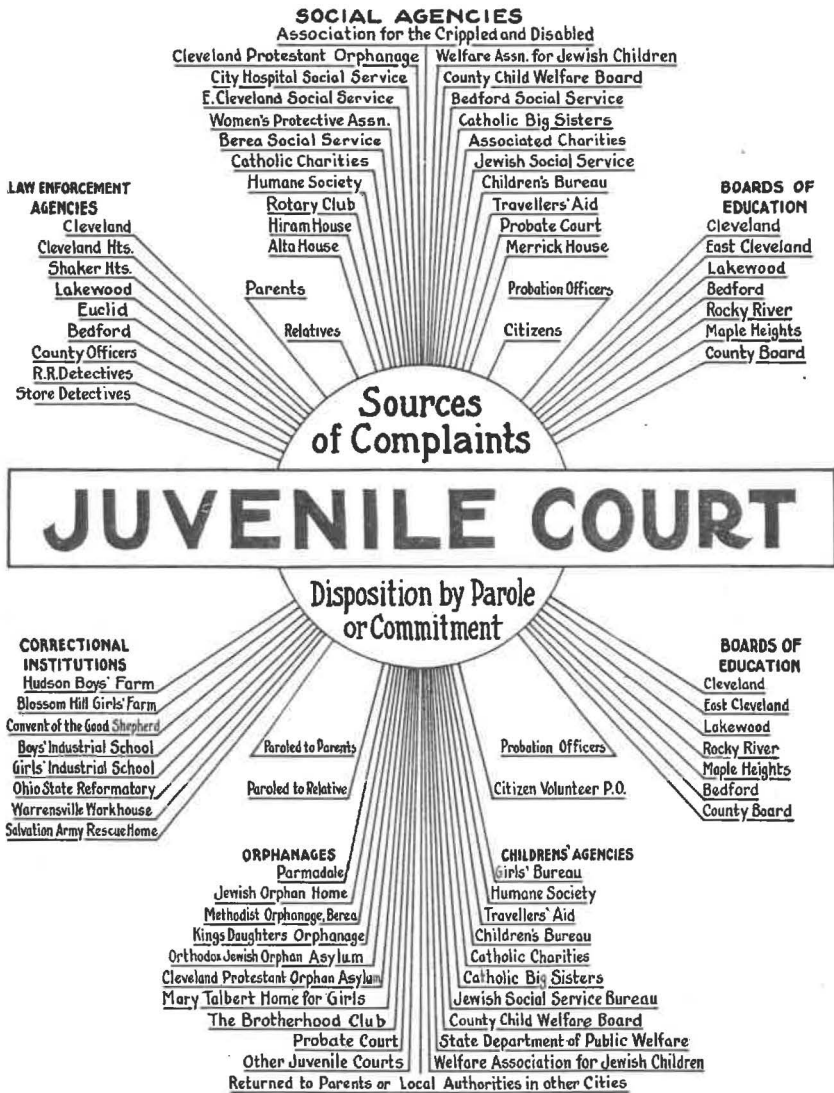


Figure 1

Somewhat more than a quarter of the children, largely delinquents, were placed under supervision of Probation Officers.

Many other children were committed to the custody of Community Fund and other child caring agencies and orphanages. These are included in the large group shown in the lower center of the chart. The attendance departments of the various school boards accepted supervision of a considerable group, principally truants. Correctional institutions shown on the left of the chart include those for adults as well as for juveniles.

Were it not for the existence and co-operation of the many agencies shown on this chart the Court would be greatly hampered in its work. By specializing in par-

particular types of service, the agencies accomplish results that can not be attained by a probation officer who must necessarily accept a diversity of service.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT** The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court is consolidated with the Court of Insolvency and the same Judge presides over both Courts. The last Legislature passed an act to abolish the Insolvency Court in this County at the end of the present judicial term in 1934. The same act created a Juvenile Court which will begin to function when the Insolvency Court passes out of existence and will take over the functions, work and records of the present Juvenile Court. The Judge will then be elected solely as a Juvenile Judge.

The personnel of the Court consists of a Chief Probation Officer, an Assistant Chief, nineteen Probation Officers and one Girls' Referee. An office force of 16 is maintained.

The Mothers' Pension Bureau, also administered by the Judge of the Juvenile Court, consists of a Director and a staff of 21.

The Detention Home is under the direction of the Court and has its own staff. It is in charge of a Superintendent and an Assistant with a corps of Supervisors and minor employees. A physician and nurse look after the physical well being of the Court's charges. A Psychiatrist and a Psychologist serve the Court and the Mothers' Pension Bureau.

**THE RECEIVING SECRETARY** An ever increasing number of people bring their problems and perplexities to the Juvenile Court for advice and counsel. A portion of these problems lie outside the jurisdiction of the Court. Some are trivial and others, though serious, are better handled through some other social agency. Others again require careful consideration and sometimes considerable investigation. These, as well as all cases of less serious misbehavior, are usually first given unofficial hearings and only when these fail are they made official by the filing of affidavits.

**VOLUME OF INTERVIEWS** The Receiving Secretary is usually the first person interviewed by the officer or citizen wishing to make a complaint. Nearly 10,000 such interviews were recorded this year. No account was kept of interviews in which no action was taken, but they probably equal the above number. The recorded interviews were disposed of as follows: One-half were set down for unofficial hearing, one-fourth were made official and the others either referred to social agencies, where it was felt that the desired result could be obtained without court action, or referred to other courts having jurisdiction over the complaint. All active probation cases were referred to the Probation Officer in charge.

## UNOFFICIAL CASES

These cases always exceed the number of official complaints. Over two-thirds of them were for delinquency.

**UNOFFICIAL DELINQUENCY** Unofficial complaints against boys numbered 2,503, against girls 575. Among boys over half the complaints were for some form of offense against property, such as stealing and destruction of property. Truancy, incorrigibility and disorderly conduct also were frequently given unofficial hearings.

Over half of all the girls cases were for truancy. Incorrigibility followed, while stealing, destroying property and disorderly conduct were other frequent complaints.

Complaints were dismissed for lack of cause in 156 cases. About one-quarter of all cases where cause of complaint was substantiated were dismissed after the children were admonished and warned. In many cases the parents agreed to make restitution for the damage done and no further action was taken. These include property damage and small thefts.

**UNOFFICIAL** It is the practice of the Court to carefully consider a neglect complaint  
**NEGLECT AND** before any official action is taken. Nearly one-quarter of all unofficial  
**DEPENDENCY** cases during the year were for neglect. The usual procedure is to  
 notify the parent (usually the father) to appear before the Chief  
 Probation Officer together with the complainant.

At these conferences the facts are fully examined. Legal obligations to support the children are pointed out to the offending parent. Especial care has been exercised during the past year because of the industrial depression and the extreme difficulty of finding employment. If the parent expresses his willingness to contribute according to his means a sum is agreed upon to be paid weekly. Where parents are separated this is usually paid through the office of the Chief Probation Officer. This leniency encourages regular payments and controls the sums paid. The Chief Probation Officer collected \$46,063.81 in this manner during the past year. But if the parent fails to fulfill his agreement, the case may be made official. A large number of cases are satisfactorily disposed of in this manner.

Sometimes the accused parent fails to appear or, if he does, adopts a defiant attitude. In such cases he is held for court and an affidavit filed against him.

There were few unofficial dependency cases and in almost all of these a satisfactory adjustment was reached without official court action.

### CASES OFFICIALLY BEFORE THE COURT

The following table shows in detail the number and kind of cases brought before the Court by the filing of an affidavit, together with the number of children involved.

<i>Complaint</i>		<i>Cases Filed</i>	<i>Juveniles Involved</i>
Delinquent Boys .....	2024		
Delinquent Girls .....	538	2562	2562
Dependency .....		484	919
Neglect .....		657	1480
Consent to Marry .....		37	37
Adults tending to cause delinquency.....		7	-----
Total cases filed .....		3744	4998

**NUMBER OF** During the year there were complaints filed against 2,275 delinquent  
**DELINQUENTS** juveniles consisting of 1,756 boys and 519 girls. Only one-third of  
 these children had ever appeared in Court before. Few boys and no  
 girls had appeared more than three or four times.

### DELINQUENCY

**DEFINITION OF** Children are never considered as criminals before the Juvenile Court,  
**TERMS USED** although some of the offenses would be classed as criminal if com-  
 mitted by an adult. The statutes describe such acts as "delinquen-  
 cies." Unfortunately, it is impossible to describe specific forms of delinquency without  
 using terms which are usually taken to mean criminal acts. The reader is requested to  
 bear this in mind whenever such terms are used in this report.

**BOYS'** Almost two-thirds of the complaints in boys cases have to do with property  
**OFFENSES** offenses of some kind, stealing, robbery, etc. Auto stealing is the most  
 frequent of this type of delinquency. Burglary and larceny were second

highest. Miscellaneous property offenses included destroying property and tampering with autos.

The next large general group is made up of social offenses and misdemeanors, totaling 663 cases. These cases ranged from boys who were beyond parental control to runaways, truants and those charged with driving automobiles under age and with disorderly conduct. Carrying concealed weapons, discharging fire arms and turning in false fire alarms accounted for a smaller number of cases.

Far fewer sex charges were brought against boys than among girls, in fact, only one-fourth as many. Intercourse was charged in slightly more than one-half of these cases while immoral practices with men or among themselves constituted the balance.

More frequently than sex offenses occurred acts of violence against the person, such as assault and battery, assault to rob or rape, stabbing, shooting or manslaughter.

**GIRLS OFFENSES** As among boys the charges most frequently brought against girls were for incorrigibility, truancy and running away. More frequently than any one of the above charges appear sex offenses among girls, nearly one-fourth of the total offenses. In most of these cases men were charged with contributing to the delinquency of the girls while occasionally women or boys were brought into the case.

A small number of stealing, forgery, obtaining money under false pretenses and robbery cases were brought before the court.

**RUNAWAYS** Most of the runaway boys coming before the court were from outside the county, some coming from as far as Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma. New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan furnished the largest number. They were picked up in this county and held for return to their own homes or local authorities. Girl runaways, on the other hand, were almost entirely local.

## SOCIAL FACTORS IN DELINQUENCY

**SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS** The Court, through its Probation Officers, makes a thorough investigation, not only of the charge recited in the complaint, but also of the social and moral background of each child brought before it. This information is necessary in order that the Court's disposition may be made to safeguard the child from further trouble and correct, in so far as is possible, the conditions that induced or encouraged it. This information is submitted to the Court by the investigating officer.

**VOLUME OF SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS** The Court's Probation Officers serve all citations and subpoenas and at the same time make the social investigation. During the past year 3611 such investigations were made and in addition 1183 subpoenas and other papers were served. These investigations necessitate visits to homes, relatives, schools, social agencies, hospitals and other sources. Interviews are also held with delinquents and contributors in the detention home and county jail.

A summary of the facts developed by these investigations yields some interesting results.

**ECONOMIC CONDITION** "Dependent" families who were receiving assistance from charitable agencies, or who had received such help within a year, and families whose incomes were barely sufficient to cover the minimum necessities of life constituted over 70% of the families from which all delinquents came. Delinquents came from only 34 families that might be classed as well-to-do or better.

**RENTING AND HOME OWNERSHIP** Housing conditions furnish some agreements and some sharp contrasts. Delinquencies in families living in rented quarters were twice as prevalent as in families owning or buying their own home. Home ownership among the families of delinquents connotes a high degree of per-

manent residence, but may be an adverse influence if it tends to fix a family of growing children in a neighborhood unfavorable to their social development.

**AGES OF DELINQUENCY** Delinquency is an adolescent phenomenon and little of it appears until the child enters that stage. Before that time the principal complaints are truancy and incorrigibility among both boys and girls. Stealing, fighting and running away from home are additional complaints against boys of this age.

After twelve years comes a decided increase among both boys and girls. Last year 122 boys 12 years of age appeared before the court. The number of 13-year-old boys was almost double and the number in each succeeding age group increased to a maximum of 419 sixteen-year-old boys. The number of seventeen-year-olds coming before the Court was smaller.

Girls showed exactly the same trend increasing to a maximum at sixteen and decreasing thereafter.

**GANG DELINQUENCIES** Group or gang activities in delinquency are more common among boys than among girls. Less than 6% of all girls appeared in groups. Nearly half of all delinquent boys appeared in gangs. These groups had from 2 to 11 members. Practically all gang delinquencies are some form of stealing. Neighborhood gangs, including youngsters from 9 to 17 years old, are responsible for 389 of the 551 complaints of burglary and larceny, robbery, house breaking and car breaking reported during the year. Gangs committed 226 of the 338 auto thefts and 139 of the 242 cases of miscellaneous stealing.

**BROKEN HOMES** Slightly more than half of the delinquents appearing in Court were the products of broken homes. This affected girls somewhat more than boys. Death of one or both parents account for 29%.

**DIVORCE AND DESERTION** Parents were divorced in 10% of the total delinquents. Desertion and separation were reported in slightly over 5% of the entire delinquent group.

**PARENTAL CONDITION** Approximately half of the delinquent children appearing were living with both their own parents. About 13% of all children were living with one step parent. Of the remainder, 415 children were living with their mother only and 166 were living with their father only. In either case the parent and child may have been maintaining a home, sharing the home of relatives or boarding. More than two hundred children were living in homes of relatives or in boarding homes. A small number were living in institutions or adoptive homes or were married and living away from home.

**PARENTAL CARE** The fact that delinquents are almost equally divided between broken and unbroken homes suggests the question of whether or not parental care or its absence is a real factor in delinquent behavior. A superficial glance at the figures might tempt the conclusion that broken homes were as good as unbroken ones as far as delinquency was concerned. Nothing would be farther from the truth. The alternative conclusion that unbroken homes are as little protection from delinquency as broken homes would be nearer the mark, for it would be at least partially true. The possession of two parents is of no advantage without intelligent guidance. Some unbroken homes are, in fact, no better than broken homes. In the final analysis, delinquency is the result of defective homes, and neither wealth, education, nor any other material advantage can compensate for a lack of good example, firm and just discipline, high moral values and understanding love, and these may exist, despite adverse circumstances even in the homes of the poor and lowly.



**DELINQUENT FAMILIES** There are a certain number of families from which children, one after another, appear in Juvenile Court. The past year an effort was made to learn, at least approximately, how large this group is. It was found the families of one-fourth of all delinquents had been known to court by reason of the appearance of one or more children previously. This group constitutes one of the most serious problems of the Court. These families are practically all from the under-privileged, dependent or marginal groups in the population. Economic instability, social inadequacy and frequently low mentality are impediments to their social regeneration. Some of these delinquencies are only minor, such as truancy, runaway, etc., but the portion committing more serious offenses may easily develop into adult criminals. How large this latter group is may be inferred from a comparison of from how many of these families other delinquents have been committed to reform institutions. It was found that in 43.9% of these families one or more children had previously been committed to a reform institution.

This type of family makes the greatest demands upon the Probation Officers' resourcefulness and patience, and are the most discouraging. Long continued effort in close cooperation with every available agency is necessary to produce results. Co-operation of the family is often weak or totally lacking and there may even be passive opposition or active resistance to the efforts of the officer. In extreme cases a commitment may be found necessary in order to remove the probationer from an unfavorable environment it has been found impossible to change.

**DELINQUENTS FROM NEGLECT AND DEPENDENT FAMILIES** Frequently the cause for delinquency is found to originate in neglect or dependency. During the past year the delinquency cases in which the families had been previously known to the

323. Probably two-thirds of these children would not have become delinquent had there been available facilities for permanently removing them from inadequate homes and unfavorable surroundings and placing them in a better environment.

**GEOGRAPHY OF DELINQUENCY** Of the total delinquents appearing in Court during the year, the residences of 5% were outside the county. Practically all of these were runaways.

The following table shows the distribution of cases among the larger municipalities of the county.

**TABLE II**  
**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY BY MUNICIPALITIES IN 1930**







<i>Municipality in which delinquent resided</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Cleveland .....	2204	1739	465
Lakewood .....	67	56	11
Cleveland Heights .....	22	18	4
Garfield Heights .....	21	18	3
East Cleveland .....	15	11	4
Euclid .....	15	12	3
Parma (township and village) ..	12	8	4
Shaker Heights .....	5	4	1
Bedford .....	5	4	1
All other political subdivisions ..	36	24	12
<b>Total Cuyahoga County .....</b>	<b>2404</b>	<b>1894</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>Residing outside Cuy. County ..</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Grand total all delinquency .....</b>	<b>2562</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>538</b>

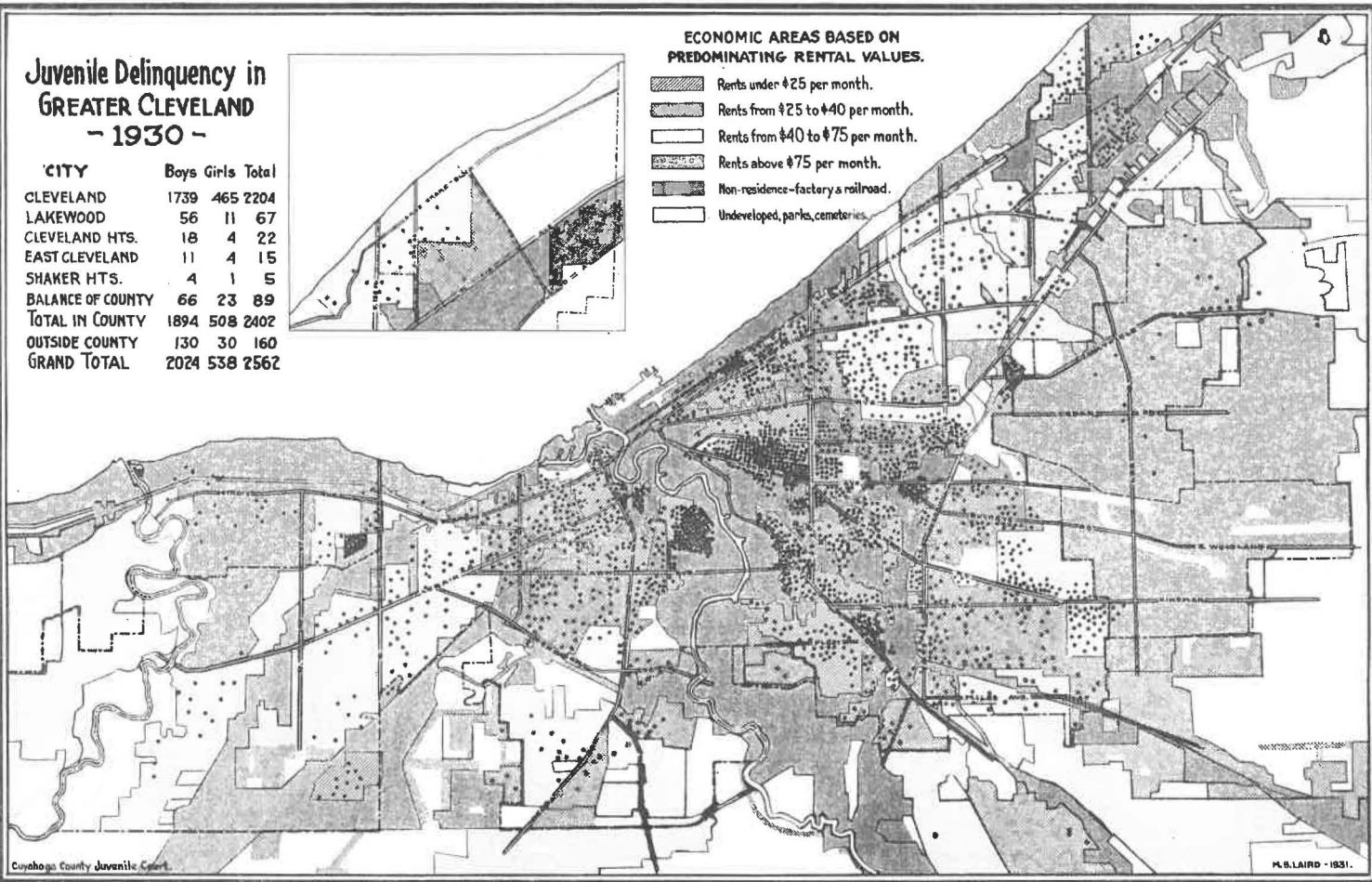
# Juvenile Delinquency in GREATER CLEVELAND - 1930 -

CITY	Boys	Girls	Total
CLEVELAND	1739	465	2204
LAKEWOOD	56	11	67
CLEVELAND HTS.	18	4	22
EAST CLEVELAND	11	4	15
SHAKER HTS.	4	1	5
BALANCE OF COUNTY	66	23	89
<b>TOTAL IN COUNTY</b>	<b>1894</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>2402</b>
OUTSIDE COUNTY	130	30	160
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>2562</b>



## ECONOMIC AREAS BASED ON PREDOMINATING RENTAL VALUES.

-  Rents under \$25 per month.
-  Rents from \$25 to \$40 per month.
-  Rents from \$40 to \$75 per month.
-  Rents above \$75 per month.
-  Non-residence-factory & railroad.
-  Undeveloped, parks, cemeteries.



Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

M. S. LAIRD - 1931.

Figure 2

**DELINQUENCY AREAS** The map shown at figure 2 is designed to show the areas of greatest delinquency within Cleveland and its major suburbs. Each dot represents a delinquent and is placed as near as possible to his actual residence. Those familiar with the city will easily recognize that the portions of the map most closely dotted represent sections of the city where congestion is also greatest and poverty most frequent.

The largest and heaviest grouping of dots will be observed in the angle formed by Clark Ave. and the Cuyahoga River. This is the most densely populated portion of the city. At the center of this cluster are 39 acres of residence property in which the density of population is 104 to the acre. The population is cosmopolitan, largely representative of central and north western Europe. Most of the adults are employed at common labor in the large factories in the Cuyahoga Valley and along the Scranton Road gully. In many families both parents are employed and the children are largely left to their own resources.

Let the above described area be designated as "A" and contrasted with another area which will be called "B," and which approximates "A" in population and in the general character and antecedents of the inhabitants, but differs mainly in that the population is less dense and are better off in the economic sense. Such an area is one lying south of Gay Avenue to the City limits and east of E. 93rd St. to the corporation line. Gay Ave. is not shown in the accompanying map, but lies south of Union Avenue about one-third of the distance between Union and the city limits.

The following table is arranged to show the similarities and contrast between the two areas.

**TABLE III**  
**Effects of Congestion and Poverty on Delinquency**  
**in groups of similar social origin.**

<i>Items compared</i>	<i>Area "A"</i>	<i>Area "B"</i>
Net residential area .....	480 acres	1105 acres
Total population, 1930 census.....	28,173	26,376
Population density per net acre.....	58	24
Delinquent boys — 1930 .....	154	29

In Area "A" there is one delinquent boy for each 3.8 acre, while in "B" there is only one to each 38 acres. In "A" there is one delinquent to every 183 persons in the total population, while in "B" the rate is one to every 910. Both sections border industrial areas and both are traversed by railroads. The rental values of homes in "A" are \$25 a month or lower and the family incomes vary between \$500 and \$1400 a year under normal industrial conditions. The rental values of homes in "B" are from \$25 up to \$40 a month and incomes range from \$1500 to \$2500 a year. In both areas the workers are mechanics or common laborers and are from like or similar racial stocks.

The second heaviest delinquency area lies south of Central Ave. to the Kingsbury Run gully and extends from E. 9th St. to E. 55th St. It includes the major portion of the Third Police Precinct, frequently referred to as "The Roaring Third." The net residential area is 481 acres and the population 33,602. The population density varies from 41 to 95 per acre with an average of about 60. During 1930, 169 delinquent boys were reported from this area, or one to every 2.8 acres, and one delinquent to each 196 of the total population.

Lakewood has a small area of delinquency near the plant of the National Carbon Works, in what is known as "The Birds Nest." The section between W. 117th St. and Bunts Road, from Detroit Avenue south to the N. Y. Central Railroad contains 46 delinquents, 68% of all delinquents in that municipality.

There is considerable increase in delinquency in certain recently built sections of the city, notably the Brooklyn section and Parma on the west side and in the territory lying between the eastern extensions of Buckeye, Kinsman and Miles Avenues. Observation indicates that a large part of this delinquency is among the older members of families formerly living in the more congested central areas who have improved their economic condition sufficiently to remove to better neighborhoods. There is a noticeable tendency for such families to locate farther out along the car lines they are accustomed to use. The older children have established friendship in their old neighborhoods to which they return and with these old associates and in these familiar neighborhoods they frequently indulge in delinquent behavior.

**INTELLIGENCE CLASSIFICATIONS** Sociology is now well past that somewhat ingenuous period when an Intelligence Quotient was considered the master key to explain every kind of social misfit. It is now generally admitted that, taken alone, the intelligence quotient is of little value, but that it is an important factor when correlated with other social data, and it is so used by the Court. Not every child can, or needs be given an intelligence test, but the more serious cases are tested or the results of recent tests are secured.

We have intelligence quotients on about 61% of the children who came before the Court in 1930. These tests revealed the fact that only 21% of those tested were normal or superior. The remaining 79% were either dull-normal (25.47%), borderline (27.89%), or sub-normal (25.28%).

The real value of the intelligence quotient is as a help in deciding the kind of treatment to which the individual is most likely to respond. And that only when considered with other factors in the social environment.

## DISPOSITION OF DELINQUENTS

**RETURNED TO HOME SUPERVISION** The final disposition of nearly 27% of all the delinquents coming before the court was to return them to their homes in charge of either parents, relatives or social agencies. Parents who have been careless, or ignorant of the unsocial tendencies of their children are generally sufficiently aroused to take matters in their own hands after the inconvenience of having to accompany them to court. The investigation by the probation officer serves to awaken the better type of parent to the dangers of the situation and when this is done parole to the parent is usually successful. But even in paroling to parents the Court sometimes adds the conditions of costs, fine or damages. Again, where a change of environment or associations seems desirable, the parole may be conditioned on an agreement by the parents to make such change even though it involves sending the child to a boarding school or to relatives outside the city for a stipulated time.

A larger percentage of boys than of girls are paroled to relatives. This results from a difference in the relative bulk of offenses disposed of in this manner. These are principally minor property and social offenses among boys, but mostly truancy and runaway among girls. The totals paroled to parents, relatives and citizen volunteer probation officers were 414 of which 392 were boys and only 22 girls.

Probation to interested social agencies was the disposition in 179 cases. These agencies included the Cleveland Board of Education, the Humane Society and the Woman's Protective Association, now the Girls' Bureau.

**PAROLED TO PROBATION OFFICERS** The court retained under supervision of its probation officers 1,061 children, 41% of all delinquents. About one-fourth of these children were paroled for general supervision of the probation officers, but in the remaining cases some special care or conditions were required. Costs or small fines and costs were assessed in some cases while damages were paid in others.

These payments are used as a method of probationary discipline. Nothing unreasonable is expected of the probationer, and payments are regulated by the individual circumstance and may be suspended in whole or in part on the recommendation of the supervising Probation Officer. During the year \$5,009.09 was collected and disbursed in this manner.

Placement of a child in a different home or environment is advisable in a greater number of cases than is at present possible. Every experienced probation officer can cite numerous instances where removal from unfavorable environment has been the salvation of a boy or girl. Formerly the court was able to find a reasonable number of homes in the country, among relatives or in other private families. The recent depression has decreased the possibility of such placement materially during the past year.

Placement outside the city, either among relatives or in institutions like the George Junior Republic, The Childrens' Village at Dobbs' Ferry or similar schools were made in the cases of 10 boys and 7 girls.

Feeble minded delinquents are one of the most trying problems of the Court. The present overcrowded situation in the State institutions for the feeble minded make it impossible to place as many delinquent children as require such care. Seven boys and five girls were probated during the year at the direction of the Court. A greater number should have been probated had there been room for their admission. State reform institutions will not accept feeble minded delinquents and their presence at large in the community is a menace to social order.

**RETURNED TO OTHER CITIES** There were 93 boys and 26 girls from out-of-town returned to their home communities. With few exceptions these are runaways. When runaways are picked up here their parents are notified through their local authorities and requested to send transportation. Children are then placed on home bound trains in charge of conductors. Where transfer to another railroad is necessary the assistance of the Travelers' Aid is utilized. Frequently parents or officers come to Cleveland and take charge of the children.

**COMMITMENTS** Commitments to city or state reform institutions were made in 21% of all delinquencies.

**HUDSON BOYS' FARM** The City Farm School at Hudson received 141 boys, which is over a third of all boys committed. These are mainly minor offenders or boys from unfavorable environments. During their stay at the school, efforts are made to change this environment by improving the home condition or getting the family to move to a better neighborhood. Except for 10 boys it was their first commitment. Ages ranged from 8 to 17 years, the greater number being 14 years old.

**BLOSSOM HILL GIRLS' FARM** Commitments to the City Girls' Farm at Blossom Hill numbered 57 which were slightly less than a third of all girls committed. Incurrigibility, runaway, truancy and sex offenses were the reasons for most of the sentences. Only one of these girls had been previously committed. Forty-eight girls were appearing in court for the first time and seven for the second.

**BOYS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL** Over half of the boys committed were sent to the Industrial School at Lancaster. The charge in most cases was for some form of stealing—burglary, larceny or auto theft. Violent acts, assault, manslaughter, incurrigibility and runaways accounted for the other commitments. A previous commitment either to Hudson Farm, Lancaster or some other institution had been made in 60 cases.

**GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL** Fifty-four girls were committed to the Industrial School at Delaware. Incurrigibility, runaway, truancy, sex offenses, stealing and forgery were the charges.

**CONVENT OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD** The largest number of commitments among girls was to the Convent of the Good Shepherd. The willingness of the good sisters to receive delinquent girls and the desire of their parents to keep the children in the city where visitation is easier may account for this larger number.

**OHIO STATE REFORMATORY** Twenty-two boys were committed to the State Reformatory at Mansfield. These had records of previous Court appearances of from one to eight times. Only one had not been previously committed. Two each had served three and four previous commitments.

**ADULTS CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY** One hundred and eighty-six adults were charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors. In most of the boys cases, parents were charged with permitting minors to operate motor vehicles. Several were for sexual offenses, contributing to truancy or some form of encouraging stealing.

The charge of contributing to the delinquency of girls was placed against 125 men and 13 women. Ninety-eight men and two women were involved in sexual complaints. The balance was distributed through runaway, incorrigibility, truancy, stealing and violating the liquor law.

### DEPENDENCY CASES

**VOLUME OF DEPENDENCY** During the year 484 dependency affidavits were filed involving 919 children. This is at the rate of 40 cases per 100,000 of population, a rate only exceeded twice in the past 17 years, first at the close of the World War in 1919 when it reached 42, and again in 1928, when it reached 43. Figure 3 shows the changing rates since 1921. The causes of increased dependency are considered on page 24.

**SOURCES OF COMPLAINTS** Social and child welfare agencies were the sources of 61% of all dependency cases brought before the Court. These totaled 295 during the past year. The Humane Society brought 121 of these and the next large group, 50 in number, came through Associated Charities visitors. The Association for the Crippled and Disabled filed 41 cases where the State was asked to provide orthopedic care for children whose families were unable to finance it. The Social Service Bureau of City Hospital filed 23 cases. The Cleveland Board of Education, 18.

Police authorities brought in 9% of the total. Parents were the source of only 40 cases, relatives of 43 and citizens 6.

**CAUSES OF COMPLAINT** Improper home conditions, involving immorality or alcoholism, and financial need formed the largest groups of causes. Financial need was undoubtedly a contributing cause in many cases where the direct cause was classified otherwise. Of the cases classified as directly due to this cause, 52 were crippled or disabled children made wards of the State in order to secure surgical or hospital care that their families were financially unable to provide. There remained 64 cases, largely composed of children in the care of Child Caring Agencies whose parents or relatives had been contributing to their support, but had ceased doing so either because of the depression and consequent lack of employment, or through carelessness or lack of interest. These agencies, themselves hard pressed financially and unable to continue to support these children in boarding homes, through a dependency action pass the burden on to the State Department of Public Welfare or the County Child Welfare Board. The latter organization received 78 children during the past year, not all of which became wholly a charge upon the County as it is the practice of the Court to require the parents of dependent children to contribute within their means toward the support of their children even when they are committed to public institutions.



Insufficient parental care formed the third largest group, about 20% of the whole. This classification includes a wide variety of causes ranging from moral indifference, through shiftlessness to the not infrequent cases where the mother is dead and a father tries to keep his children together but without arranging for their proper care and supervision during his absence. In the latter case there is grave likelihood of their becoming delinquent.

Abandonment and desertion formed 17% of the year's dependency. This includes foundlings and possibly illegitimate children left in institutions and hospitals. This includes not only the children of unmarried mothers, but also those of women since married and children born outside of legal marriage to married women, and those widowed, divorced or otherwise separated from their husbands. In 18 cases the children had been deserted by both parents.

Abuse or cruelty and actions to compel medical or surgical care totalled 35. The question of custody was involved in some of the cases.

**PREVIOUS DEPENDENCY** In nearly 15% of all cases the family had previously appeared in court on dependency charges. Four cases appeared twice during the present year.

**DEPENDENCY AND BROKEN HOMES** Dependency is found to be more frequent in broken homes than in those which remain intact. Death is the most frequent cause of family break-ups.

**DEATH** The death of the mother seems to contribute more to dependency than that of the father or of both parents. In the latter case relatives or institutions usually take charge of the children, whereas when the mother dies the father too often attempts to keep the home together without furnishing adequate care and supervision for the children.

**DESERTION** Desertion by one parent was found the next largest item in broken homes. The number of wives deserting their husbands was surprisingly large, but no statistics were kept on this item because its importance did not become apparent until the tabulation was well under way.

**DIVORCE** Divorce was the third largest item in broken homes. It is not demonstrated that divorce has any greater significance than any other form of separation between parents, and its incidence is less than had been supposed.

**SEPARATION** Separation by mutual agreement was reported in some cases and separations due to the confinement of one of the parents in hospitals, or prisons in others.

**PARENTAL CONDITION** In only 106 cases were the children living with both parents together. The largest single group were those living either with relatives or in private boarding homes under the supervision of a child caring agency.

**ECONOMIC CONDITION** Poverty or near-poverty is the background of 87% of the year's dependency.

**ADULT CONTRIBUTORS** Fathers were charged with contributing to the dependency of the children in 25 cases, mothers in 88 cases and both parents together in 14 cases. Step-parents or unrelated adults were named in 20 cases. Complaints against fathers concerned most frequently alcoholic excesses or lack of parental care. Alcoholism and sexual immorality were alleged against a large number of mothers and the unrelated adults are practically all men paramours of the mothers. Both alcoholic excess and immorality is frequently alleged where both parents are named.

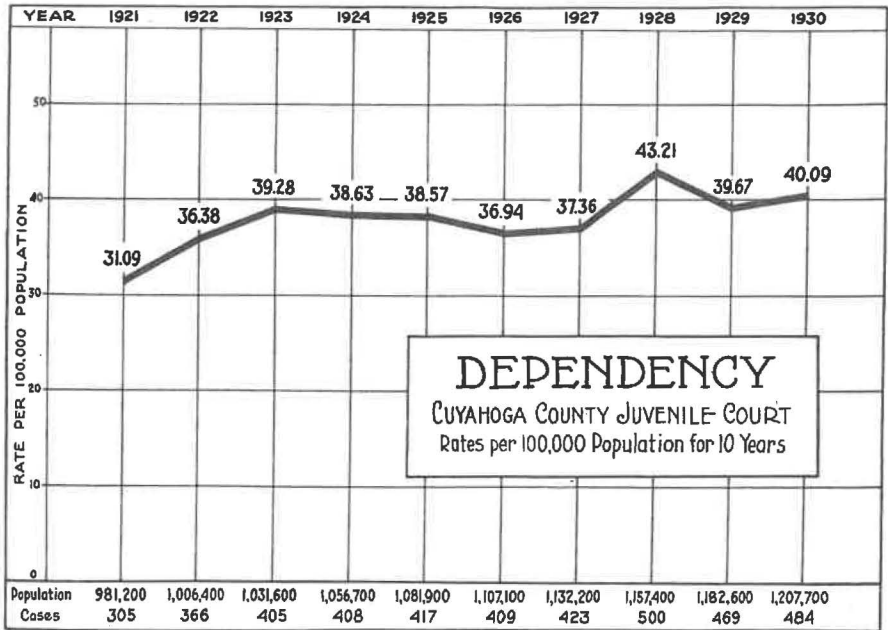


Figure 3

**DISPOSITIONS OF ADULTS** Workhouse commitments were given 37 of these people. Suspended workhouse sentences were given in 62 cases. Most of these were suspended on condition that the parents give proper parental care to the children, or that they contribute stated sums through the Court for the support of children under the care of child placing agencies, or that they return to their places of legal residence outside the county.

**DISPOSITIONS OF CHILDREN** Seventy-five children (8%) were paroled to their parents, relatives or interested citizens. Another 4% were paroled under supervision of child welfare or social agencies. The attendance department of the Cleveland Board of Education took charge of 5; Catholic Big Sisters 11; the Girls' Bureau 14; and the Welfare Association for Jewish Children 7.

Child caring agencies received custody of 525 children, 57% of all appearing as dependent. Of these the largest group, 305, were committed to the Cleveland Humane Society for temporary care, medical attention or to be placed for adoption. The County Child Welfare Board received custody of 78 and the Childrens' Bureau of 77, both for temporary care. The Catholic Charities received 7 and the Cleveland Protestant Orphanage 1 to be placed for adoption. The next largest group was the 52 committed to the State Department of Public Welfare for orthopedic care. For temporary care the Jewish Orphan Home received several children and the Orthodox Jewish Orphan Asylum and the Kings Daughters Orphanage one each.

The Court committed 5 boys to the Hudson Boys' Farm and 2 girls to the Blossom Hill Farm at Brecksville.

Children placed under the supervision of Probation Officers numbered 193 or 21%. One hundred and nine of these were for supervision in their own homes, 8 were to be given medical or surgical attention, 74 were to be placed in homes of relatives or others, and 2 were to be probated for admission to the Institution for the Feeble Minded.

**DEPENDENCY TRENDS** Figure 3 shows the curve in dependency cases per 100,000 population during the the past ten years. The rise to the 1923 peak is presumably due in some measure to the dissolution of war time marriages and the post-war let down in moral standards responsible for an increase of illegitimacies. The curve generally declined until 1927. The sharp rise in 1928 reflects the special activity of several child caring agencies to secure state aid for underdeveloped, crippled and disabled children. The uptrend in the present year is largely due to the industrial depression and the financial inability of relatives and private organizations to continue the support of dependent children.

## NEGLECT COMPLAINTS

**NUMBER AND SOURCES OF COMPLAINTS** The Court received 657 neglect complaints during the year, concerning 1480 children. Over three-quarters of all complaints were filed by mothers. Child caring agencies brought other complaints to compel parents of children in agency custody to contribute to their support and in other cases the complaints came from relatives under similar circumstances.

**CAUSES OF NEGLECT** Neglect complaints are legal actions to compel parents to contribute to the support of their minor children. They are never made where there is no family discord. The causes for discord are many and several are usually operating at the same time. Five causes seem to be most frequent in the following order. Economic and social inadequacy, sometimes termed shiftlessness. Shiftlessness on the part of the father constituted by far the greatest proportion of cases. Intemperance of one or both parents appeared frequently as did abuse, immorality and quarrelsomeness. In 145 cases only one of the above causes were alleged, two in 196 and three in 191 cases. Shiftlessness was not only the cause most frequently noted, but was frequently the only cause given, and was seldom missing in combination with other causes. There were numerous minor causes but the above were the most frequent.

**BROKEN FAMILIES AND PARENTAL CONDITIONS** In only 132 cases were the parents living together, and in some of these the children were in other homes or in institutions. In most cases the children were living with the mother only and in some they were in other than the parents' homes.

Only 55 homes were broken by death, usually that of the mother. The most numerous causes of broken homes were separations, divorces and desertions.

**PREVIOUS NEGLECT** Out of the total families dealt with in neglect, about 23% had previously appeared in this Court on the same complaint. Five cases appeared twice during the year.

**DISPOSITION OF ADULT CONTRIBUTOR** The object of a neglect action is to obtain support for the child. Punishment of the adult is resorted to only when other means fail. Suspended sentences or continuances are given to secure this object. Payment through court was frequently ordered in these cases. The Court collected \$156,339.76 during the year by this method, the money being turned over to mothers, relatives or agencies having custody of the children.

For violation of support orders made by the Court, 123 commitments were made for varying periods. The law directs the payment of an allowance of 50 cents a day for each day of confinement for the benefit of neglected families. For this purpose the Court received from the County Commissioners and distributed the sum of \$11,659 during the year.

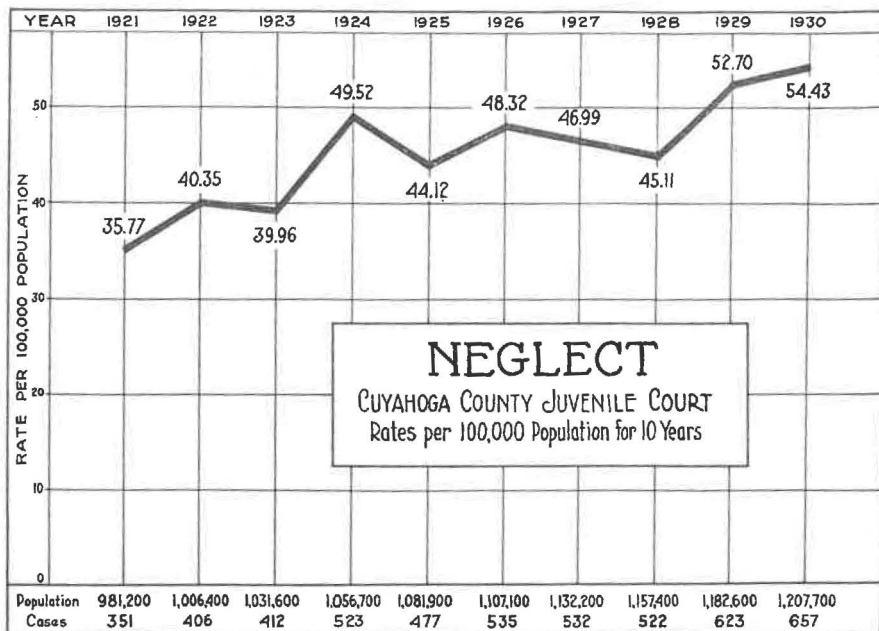


Figure 4

**NEGLECT TRENDS** Figure 4 shows the curve of neglect cases per 100,000 population during the past ten years. This curve is found to rise in periods of industrial depression and to fall when employment is good. During the past two years it has risen even higher than during the depression of 1924. The general trend is upward and will probably continue to rise with the increase of population or until industry discovers some method of stabilizing employment and wages.

### PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**VOLUME OF WORK** In addition to investigating new cases, official and unofficial, the probation department supervised 3414 children on probation during the year. In supervising these children the probation officers made 15,044 calls taking them into the probationers' homes, to their schools or places of employment, to social agencies, hospitals, social settlements and to the homes of relatives, pastors and others wherever the welfare and progress of the probationer could be advanced. In addition there were 9762 interviews at the Probation Office with the probationers, parents, relatives and other interested parties.

**CHARACTER OF PROBATION CASES** During the year there were 2,337 children on parole as delinquents and 1077 other children in dependency and neglect cases. More than a thousand cases were discharged from probation after a satisfactory period of adjustment had been made. In some cases the probationer was committed to institutions after having failed to respond to probationary treatment, or having reappeared in Court with another offense.

### THE DETENTION HOME

**REGISTRATION** A total of 3406 children were cared for at the Detention Home during the year. The average daily registration was 137. About 87% of the children cared for were delinquents, the remaining dependent and neglected children.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS** Practically all children remaining in the home 24 hours or longer are given a physical examination by the staff physician. A total of 76 defects were found among boys and 511 among girls. These figures cannot be taken to represent children as several defects were sometimes found in a single child.

The defects most frequently noted were in teeth, skin affections including acne scabies and vermin, and eye defects. Of glandular disorders, goitre was the most common. Developmental abnormalities as well as over or underweight were other causes.

Sixty-three children were sent to City Hospital for surgical or medical treatment and several to the City Health Dispensary to be examined for tubercular infection.

**PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS** Previous to this year, such psychiatric examinations as the Court was able to have made were secured through the co-operation of the Cleveland Child Guidance Clinic. One of their workers had served the Court on a part time basis. Beginning the first of this year, a full time psychiatrist was employed and suitable quarters were assigned for his use both at the Detention Home and at the Court House. Dr. A. T. Childers was placed in charge and served until September first when he resigned to become chief of the psychiatric staff operating under the Michigan Childrens' Fund. Dr. Donald H. Linard was appointed to fill this vacancy.

At present the function of the psychiatrist is mainly diagnostic. His study of the individual provides information extremely helpful to the Judge in making a disposition of the case, and to the parent and probationer in formulating a subsequent plan for the care and guidance of the subject. His services are available to all divisions of the Court, including the Mothers' Pension Department.

During the year the psychiatrist has had interviews with 569 new subjects and re-interviews with 60 previously studied. Besides written reports to the Court the psychiatrist held conferences with parents, probation officers, Mothers' Pension visitors, social workers and others directly interested in the welfare of individuals coming before the court.

He has also addressed various groups including the Court Staff, school principals and parent-teacher groups.

## MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT

**AMOUNT EXPENDED AND FAMILIES BENEFITED** During the year the Mothers' Pension Department administered pensions totaling \$494,999.75. This sum was distributed to 1059 mothers and benefited 3615 children under 16 years of age.

The average number of children per family was 3.4 and the average monthly pension \$49.15.

The amount paid in pensions in 1930 was 6.45% more than in 1929. The increases in the number of mothers on the roll at the close of the year was 68 more than at the end of the preceding year.

**CAUSES OF BROKEN FAMILIES** Of the 870 families on the roll at the end of the year the father had died in 682 families; in 95 he was mentally or physically infirm; in 52 he had deserted for a period of 3 years or more; and in 41 families the father was imprisoned.

**MOTHERS' PENSION ADVISORY BOARD** All applications are carefully investigated by the Mothers' Pension Visitors. The character of the applicant and her actual needs and resources are carefully studied. Every effort is directed to discover the really deserving among the applicants. The results are put in typewritten form and presented to the Mothers' Pension Advisory Board. This board is composed of men and women, representative of the religious and racial groups of the community, who are thoroughly familiar with social and economic conditions. The board members

carefully consider the investigation and may further interrogate the visitor who made it and the applicant herself. The board then makes a recommendation which is attached to the record and forwarded to the Judge for his information. Seven hundred and nineteen cases were presented to the Board during the year. Two hundred and sixty-six were recommended for pensions, not all of which had been heard by the Court at the close of the year.

**INVESTIGATIONS BY VISITORS** The department has fifteen visitors who investigate applications and supervise families receiving pension grants. The investigation of applications requires visits to applicants in their own homes, to relatives, references, agencies and individuals. Office interviews, telephone calls and letters constitute the other contacts the Bureau has with its clients. Case conferences with cooperating agencies numbered 32.

**SUPERVISION** Close contact is maintained by the Visitor with each pensioned mother under her supervision. Budgets are prepared, medical and dental care arranged, financial difficulties adjusted and numerous other services performed. Calls on such cases averaged 36 each working day. The total cost of supervision per week per child is only 32 cents. The pension per week for each child averages \$3.63, making the total cost to the County for maintenance and supervision for each child benefited \$3.95 per week. or \$17.13 a month.

### SOME CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**VOLUME OF WORK** The year 1919 was the busiest since Juvenile Court was established. In all 4318 cases were brought before the Court. During the next two years this number declined after which it gradually rose again to the present figure of 3703. The increases are not in delinquency. During the past six years delinquency has varied little, the average being slightly over 2500 cases a year.

Dependency and neglect cases have shown a steady rise and will probably continue to do so as the country becomes more densely populated and our social agencies extend their activities. It is through social agencies that most of these cases are brought to Court.

**CAUSES OF INCREASED DEPENDENCY** It is a question whether the actual causes of dependency have greatly increased or outrun the increases in population. Increased facilities for discovering need, as instanced by the Association for Crippled and Disabled, and the Rotary Club in seeking out children in need of hospital and orthopedic care account for part of the increase. In such a case, where the parents are unable to bear the full burden of the necessary expense, a dependency affidavit is filed and the child is paroled to the State Department of Public Welfare which pays for the required care out of public funds. The Court, at the same time, requires the parents to share the expense by reimbursing the State with an agreed sum within their means.

On the other hand, private agencies are finding the entire support of orphaned, deserted and otherwise dependent children, cared for in private boarding homes, a severe drain on their resources, and are more disposed to transfer the financial burden on the State while continuing to provide supervision over these children. On January 1st, 1930, there were 1000 such children under commitment to the State Department of Public Welfare for temporary care.

**COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD** In January, the County Child Welfare Board was organized under the control of the County Commissioners to care for children previously supported by the State and such agencies as the Humane Society. In February about 900 cases then under commitment to the State Department of Public Welfare and Humane Society were transferred to the County Child Welfare Board. Further cases were committed to this Board during the year so that on Dec. 31st, 1930, it had 1079 children under its care by commitment from Juvenile Court. The



Board will operate the home for dependent children which will be part of the new group of County Welfare Buildings now being erected at Central Ave. and E. 22nd St., pictured on our frontpiece.

Dependency complaints since 1920 increased gradually to 1928 when 500 cases were filed. The present year shows a slight improvement but the increase remains 41% over 1920.

**NEGLECT CASES** Neglect cases have shown a steady and marked increase year by year. In 1920 the cases filed numbered 326, while 1930 found 623 cases filed, an increase of 101% during a ten year period. During this period the population of the County has increased 27.3%. The city's population has only increased 13%, but that of the suburbs has jumped by 105.3%.

Neglect is largely influenced by density of population and employment. Character of population also has a strong influence. The causes of non-support are mainly economic and these adverse influences are at their maximum in densely populated cities. So that with an increase of population an increase in neglect is to be expected. The depression of 1924 found an increase in neglect of 60% over 1920. It had increased to 91% in 1929 and gained another 10% in 1930, raising the increase to 101%.

**Delinquency Rates per 100,000 of the total population.**

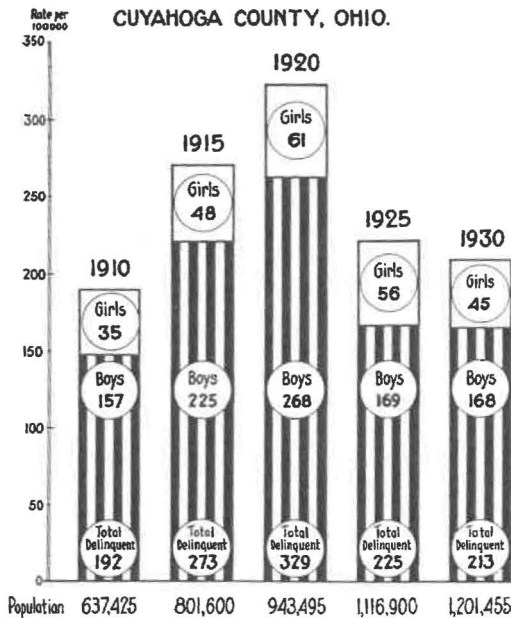


Figure 5

**DIMINISHING DELINQUENCY** The question most frequently asked by the average citizen is whether or not delinquency is increasing and why. It is a popular conception that the opportunities for delinquency in the community are increased with the gain in population and the wide-spread use of automobiles, movies and other popular forms of recreation. All of which is true and yet, delinquency has not kept pace with the increases in population. On the contrary, a reference to the graph shown at Figure 5 will show that delinquency, in proportion to the population, has very markedly decreased during the past decade. In fact, the figures for the past year are only 10% higher than they were twenty years ago, although the population increase is slightly over 88% during that period.

**DELINQUENCY TRENDS** During the decade from 1910 to 1920 delinquency showed an increase of approximately 71%. This includes the war period and its immediate after effects. Immediately preceding and during the war there was a tremendous disorganization of the social fabric of the community affecting adults and juveniles alike. The injurious effects on the adolescent portion of the population were more marked than on adults. Delinquency rose from 2001 cases in 1913 to a peak of 3502 in 1919.

Following the close of the war came a halt in the rising trend and by the end of 1922 delinquency had fallen over 12% from the 1920 level. The past two years have been 18% below 1920 and only 10% above 1910.

**CAUSES OF RATE DECLINE** It is difficult to designate any single factor or group of factors responsible for the decrease of delinquency. In general, it may be said that an enlightened and responsible social consciousness, definitely aware of some of its tasks and determinedly attempting to accomplish them, has brought about the improvement. But this generality needs to be analyzed into its component parts, and then it will be found that a wide variety of social activities share the accomplishment in differing proportions.

**DELINQUENCY AND RECREATION** Delinquent behavior is a spare time activity. The first real inventory of the spare time activities of Greater Clevelanders, both adult and juvenile was made by the Cleveland Foundation Recreation Survey in 1917. The report on "Delinquency and Spare Time" published in 1918, pointed out recreational sources of delinquency and recommended some means of combating them. Following these recommendations the welfare agencies of the city, both public and private, began the construction of a program with definite objectives. During the next three years delinquency declined 12%. The results, thus far accomplished, which have influenced the decrease of delinquency are briefly summarized below.

**BETTER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES** These include more and better equipped play grounds, swimming pools, ball diamonds and tennis courts. Much has been done by both school boards and municipalities throughout the county. Community center activities have been developed greatly within the last decade. Settlement Houses have studied intensively the needs of the communities they serve and in some instances have relocated to increase their effectiveness and to avoid overlapping and duplication of effort. Programs have been made to conform to the interest of the groups it was desired to reach. Summer camps have multiplied and been made possible to greater numbers. Civic and religious groups have united under the Welfare Federation and mutually divided their field and shared their social responsibilities. The accent placed upon, and the opportunities afforded for clean and healthy recreation has done much to reduce delinquency.

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES** These include a wide group of activities ranging between studies in Child Behavior by parent-teacher groups to the work carried on by the Child Guidance Clinic. The advances made by the various Boards of Education in adapting their curricula to the diverse needs of children of different mental and emotional make up have increased interest in school and lowered the truancy rate. Modern teaching methods have reduced the number of retarded pupils from 21% in 1924 to 16% in 1929.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** Another considerable influence on diminishing delinquency is the greater responsibility assumed by parents, schools and social agencies in pre-delinquent work. This involves a recognition of the fact that anti-social behavior is mainly the result of failures in training, discipline and social adjustment, and that the home or school should make an honest attempt to correct such failures before asking the Court to take over the task. This results in the Court receiving fewer

minor behavior problems. In a majority of the cases, a child brought to Court has previously been treated by one or more agencies without success. Sometimes the failure has been one of lack of cooperation on the part of the home. Then the authority of the Court is invoked, and the previous course of treatment is continued under the supervision of the Probation Officer. If the latter fails to win the necessary cooperation through persuasive methods, he may succeed through the suggestion that the child may have to be removed. Rarely do more drastic measures have to be taken.

Occasionally the home may be willing but totally inadequate to deal with the situation. Then the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the Probation Officer is taxed to the uttermost. Every effort is made to supplement and build up a proper home influence. Only when this proves impossible is institutional placement resorted to.

The cases in which other agencies do not succeed form the bulk of the complaints brought to court. These require special attention and though the volume of cases has decreased, the actual burden on the Court has increased because of the more intensive and highly specialized treatment required. To accomplish this end the Court has made use of every advance developed in the sciences of sociology, psychology and child training, has raised the standards of its probation service and, through the organization of a department of research and statistics, has begun a careful study and analysis of the delinquents brought before it with the object of developing new methods and techniques to more effectively meet and solve the problems presented.

**TRENDS IN DELINQUENCY** A study of apparent trends in the character of delinquency during the past six years shows some interesting facts. Offenses against property are increasing among boys and decreasing among girls.

Sex offenses have decreased both among boys and girls, although they form an important group among the latter. While this decline is gratifying it is still important to note that practically a quarter of all girls brought to Court are on sex complaints, the most numerous brought against them.

Social offenses, which include violations of ordinances, misdemeanors, runaways, truancy and incorrigibility is markedly decreasing among boys and increasing among girls. Truancy, incorrigibility and running away from home constitute the bulk of these complaints both for boys and girls.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** The real point of attack on delinquency is the pre-delinquent. Society can, to a great extent, control the conditions which lead to delinquency. To do so, an enlightened public must be created, whose attention has been directed to the social causes of delinquency and whose active support is behind those attempting to remedy these conditions. Too few citizens realize the great changes between the conditions that surrounded their own childhood and those that obtain today.

The prevalence of delinquency in poor and congested areas has already been pointed out. The consequences of poverty are not only a lack of material comforts, but of social and moral safe-guards as well. Frequently both parents are employed and there is an absence of supervision. Even when this is not the case, the home is small, crowded and without sufficient play space, so that the children are forced onto the streets, vacant lots, gullies, railroad and industrial property where there is no supervision and temptation is ever present. But the absence of parental supervision is not confined to the poor and congested quarters alone. The modern urban family, even among the better classes, live largely in small homes and apartments from which the children find escape only to the streets. Home life consists principally of eating and sleeping. Recreation, both of children and adults, is found outside the home.

It must be borne in mind that delinquencies are distinctly spare time activities. Most of the modern child's waking hours, outside of the time spent in school and meal times, is spare time. Few children have any regular home duties and fewer still outside

occupations with the exception of selling newspapers. The average child's spare time is estimated at forty-two hours per week. This is a conservative estimate as it ends the day at 9 P. M. Many children, especially delinquents, are outside the home much later, particularly in summer.

The problem is to make available to all children, but more especially to the under privileged, a varied and interesting recreational program for all their spare time. This is a large undertaking but should not be impossible with the cooperation of public and private agencies. Activities which furnish outlets for adventurous cravings are particularly needed. These are only partially met at the present time which results in dangerous and anti-social excursions along the lakeshore, in railroad yards and into the surrounding country.

The City of Cleveland has thirty-seven municipal and fifty-two school play grounds. There are 18 settlement play grounds operated by the Community Fund and Western Reserve University. With the exception of settlement play grounds, these are only operated during the vacation period. Some school play grounds are used after school and evenings but without supervision or leadership, with results that are often unsatisfactory. Ways and means should be developed to make greater use of these existing facilities to the betterment of the children in the neighborhoods served.

What is needed is play leadership, rather than mere supervision. A policeman or caretaker might furnish supervision but that would not secure the ends desired. A play leader must necessarily supervise, but should do much more than that. Leadership involves making play attractive and satisfying. Such leadership is being furnished by the municipal recreation division during the summer vacation, but the extension of this service is impossible with the present restricted budget. Cleveland is said to spend much less than any other large city for directed recreation.

Play leaders can do more in preventing and diminishing delinquency than additional policemen. It would be sound economy, both from a financial as well as a social and moral standpoint, for any community to increase its recreation budget to adequately meet the needs of its future citizens.

A wider use might be made of the nearer sections of the Metropolitan Park system to satisfy the craving for adventure natural to youth. Here again leadership and supervision are necessary. The Park Board have shown themselves co-operative with private agencies who can guarantee such leadership. Such use can and should be further developed.

Greater attention should be paid to the evening activities of children. Modern homes do not furnish interests for evening entertainment in a very large number of instances. Evening hours are spent on the streets and corners or in commercial amusement places. The Community Centers exclude children under 16 years of age from their activities. But with delinquents under 16 years of age forming 59% of all boys' cases and 50% of girls' cases, and when it is realized that over half of all delinquencies are committed in the evening hours, the need for some adequate evening recreational program for children is obvious.

The problems of delinquency, dependency and neglect are basically economic and sociological. This report has attempted to make the general outlines of these facts clear. The improvement of these conditions is only possible when the general public is sufficiently informed to realize the necessity and desirability of such improvement and to actively encourage and support the agencies, both public and private, who are committed to the task. Improved housing conditions, industrial developments, stabilization of wages and property values, education of both adult and juvenile, Americanization of our immigrant population, commercial and civic recreational projects, all are echoed in the cases that find their way into Juvenile Court. If these facts and their significance have been made apparent to the reader, the object of this report has been accomplished.