

THE MARITIME SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**FAMILY BACKGROUND AND FAMILY PATTERNS OF
JUVENILE DELINQUENTS**

**A Study of the Families of 58 Juvenile Delinquents
Who Were Receiving Service on March 31, 1960.**

A Thesis

Submitted to The

Maritime School of Social Work

**in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for a
Master of Social Work Degree**

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May, 1961

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Master of Social Work
Maritime School of Social Work

ABSTRACT

FAMILY BACKGROUNDS AND FAMILY PATTERNS OF
JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

by

Gerald Francis Hickey

This thesis is based on a study of 176 juvenile delinquents known to the Department of Public Welfare, Halifax Regional Office, who were receiving service on March 31, 1960. It was part of a group study carried out by the second year students of the Maritime School of Social Work.

Primary data were obtained through a research schedule and were gathered by the group as a whole from the case records at the Department of Public Welfare and the Nova Scotia School for Boys at Shelburne. Secondary data consisted of bibliographical material and information obtained through interviews with experts in the allied fields.

This particular study was concerned with the families of 58 delinquents. The families were studied in relation to the marital situation and the economic and social factors which existed. The incidence of delinquency and the type of crimes committed were briefly considered.

Instability was revealed in the majority of these families. Unsatisfactory living conditions were a trend in the group. However, the majority of the fathers were employed at occupations that would supply them with an adequate income. Recommendations were made in relation to these problems with an emphasis on a continued and greater effort to be made in strengthening family life.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to express his thanks to Professor L. T. Hancock, Director of the Maritime School of Social Work for permission to write this thesis and to Professor Joan Smith for her unfailing support and guidance. Thanks must also be extended to the staff of the Halifax Department of Public Welfare and the Nova Scotia School for Boys at Shelburne for their co-operation during the research period. The writer would also like to express his appreciation to the Children's Aid Society, Saint John, New Brunswick for sponsoring his stay at the Maritime School of Social Work.

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INTRODUCTION

The juvenile court, as it is known today, was first organized in America in 1899 but can trace its antecedents back to the earliest roots of law.¹ The legal foundation for its philosophy is not new, but evolved from old and established bodies of law. The development of the Juvenile Court has been slow, but through the years there were evidences of concern about the handling of children in trouble and a demand that these children not be dealt with by harsh punitive measures.

The early history of England revealed that children had a dual role in the eyes of the law. A child, as far as property rights were concerned was an infant until he reached twenty-one; yet most children were subject to the same criminal laws as adults. The child over fourteen was considered solely responsible for his actions and thus subject to criminal law. Children between seven and fourteen were considered incapable of

¹Marjorie Bell (ed.), Guides for Juvenile Court Judges (New York: National Probation and Parole Association, 1957), pp. 1-3.

criminal intent, but if evidence showed that the child had sufficient intelligence to distinguish between right and wrong and to recognize the nature and consequences of his misconduct, he stood before the criminal court as an adult. Only a child under seven could not be found guilty of a crime because he was held to be incapable of the necessary "guilty mind."

The early colonists coming to America brought this concept of law with them. For a time the law changed little. The age below which there could be no criminal responsibility was sometimes raised. Slowly some changes came and convicted children were separated from convicted adults, and placed in reformatories and training schools. Separate hearings were held for children and a probation system was instituted.

The first tribunal created to deal specifically with the problems of juvenile delinquency was the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Illinois, established in 1899.¹ The law creating it was a comprehensive one dealing with jurisdiction over and treatment of dependent, neglected and delinquent children. This important law provided that the delinquent child should be treated the same as the

¹Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, "Historical and Legislative Background of the Juvenile Court," The Problem of Delinquency, ed. Sheldon Glueck (Boston: Houghton and Mifflin Company, 1959), p. 257.

neglected or dependent one; thereby it took the significant step of recognizing officially that, whatever the immediate act or situation might be that brings a child into the custody of a court, the issues presented are, in essence, problems requiring understanding, guidance and protection rather than those involving such concepts as criminal responsibility, guilt and punishment. All essential elements of the modern juvenile court were presented in this law.

The first juvenile court stimulated thinking about the need of children for legal protection. It brought about new developments in court administration and in its function. It began serving children not for prescribed periods of time but for whatever length of time was necessary to help the child.

"It created administrative machinery for service which would be fluid in that it would change services and adjust them to changing conditions and needs of the children in its charge."¹

In the juvenile courts of today, after the facts of a child's problem have been established, the analysis of causes and the evaluation of remedies take the foreground. It is generally admitted that a large share of

¹ Gustave L. Schramm, "The Philosophy of the Juvenile Court," ibid., p. 271.

juvenile delinquency can be prevented. It has been found that the scientific treatment of the offender should commence by analysing the various factors that contribute to the rise of juvenile delinquency.

Countless studies of delinquency have been made and countless causes listed. It is known that there is no one cause of delinquency. There are contributing causes, and for each child they vary in significance. To understand the delinquent behaviour of an individual it is necessary to learn the most significant things about his development.

"A growing consensus of research findings indicate that the parting of the ways, the redirection of the child toward habits of antisocial behaviour, begins very frequently in the stress and strains of parent-child relationships."¹

The family is of great significance in the development of personality. It, more than any other single force, determines what people will be. The early relationships of the child with the family are of very great importance, for they determine the basic personality pattern and considerably influence what the nature of his future relationship will be. The family is the basic unit of our society, and it is through the family

¹ Robert M. MacIver, The Nation's Children, (Golden Anniversary White House Conference on Children and Youth, 1960), p. 103.

that our race is perpetuated and our culture transmitted. The family provides a physical security for the child in that the basic needs are met and a protection for all its members is provided. It is through a positive relationship with both parents that a child learns his male or female role and the quality of the parent-child relationship determines the kind of relationship he will have as an adult with members of his own and the opposite sex. Through having his dependency needs met within the family, the individual is at least able to become independent. It is through being loved within the family that the child learns to live. Within the family, deep emotional satisfactions are achieved, and adults and children alike are given full opportunity for emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

One of the fundamental requirements toward ensuring that family life is made strong is the assurance that the basic material needs be met. When these are looked after the family can then devote its energies to building itself into a strong unit. Tensions and weaknesses within the family can reduce the family's effectiveness, and it is in the correction of these forces that the role of social work lies. The family, because of its dynamic interaction should be preserved

in as constructive a form as possible.¹

To understand the behaviour of a delinquent it is first important to understand the dynamics of his family situation. To plan for treatment of a client, it is important to be alert to those aspects of the family association which must be treated. Rarely are disturbances within a child perceived without finding that the root of the problem lies within the family.² It is therefore important that the boy³ not be studied in isolation from his family, for in excluding this very important part of the boy's life a vital part of the total picture is missed.

The family will be the main focus in this study. Many definitions of the family are acceptable but the researcher in this thesis referred to the family as meaning:

"A group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household, interacting and communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister, and creating and maintaining a common culture."⁴

¹What Makes for Strong Family Life (New York: Family Service Association of America, 1958).

²Glyde B. Vedder, The Juvenile Offender (Garden City: Doubleday and Company Incorporated, 1954), p. 74.

³The term "boy" is used throughout this thesis for simplicity, but the related statements are applicable to both male and female offenders.

⁴Ernest W. Burgess and Harvey L. Locke, The Family (New York: America Book Company, 1945), p. 8.

This thesis, which is concerned with a study of the family, is part of a group project which was undertaken by the second year students of the Maritime School of Social Work. The project consisted of a detailed study of male and female juvenile delinquents known to the Halifax Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare and on active file March 31, 1960. It was undertaken because there has been an awakening interest in juvenile delinquency across Canada. However, there is a basic confusion about the definition of a delinquent. Community attitudes reveal the confusion which underlies the concept of the causation, prevention and treatment of delinquency. These attitudes vitally affect society's approach to the delinquent.

The second year students at the Maritime School of Social Work have undertaken this project on juvenile delinquency in the Halifax area in order to define and clarify the problem as it exists, to define the effectiveness of our existing delinquency services so that lacks in the total program may be corrected. This project is relevant at this time and place because the "delinquency of youth is commonly considered our greatest national domestic problem."¹

¹The Chronicle-Herald (Halifax), November 21, 1960, p. 5.

The researchers as a group have taken the hypothesis that the plan for care and treatment of the juvenile offender should be based on the psycho-social evaluation of the child rather than the misdemeanor which is symptomatic of his problem. The researchers will use the definition of a juvenile delinquent as found in the Juvenile Delinquents Act. According to the Act a delinquent means:

"Any child who, while apparently or actually under the age of sixteen years, has violated any provision of the Criminal Code, or of any Dominion or Provincial Statute, or of any by-law or ordinance of any municipality, or who is guilty of sexual immorality or any similar form of vice, or who is liable by reason of any other act to be committed to an industrial school or juvenile reformatory under the provisions of any Dominion or Provincial Statute."¹

The study is of a universal sample of 176 male and female juvenile delinquents known to the Halifax Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare and on active file March 31, 1960.

Instead of studying every case in the sample the writer selected a small portion for analysis from which to draw his conclusions. The writer selected the cases at regular intervals from an alphabetical list. Every third case was taken from the total. The 58 cases thus

¹ Dominion of Canada Statutes, Juvenile Delinquents Act (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1929), c. 46, s. 1.

selected represent a 30% sample. The writer feels that it would be impossible and impractical to include more than a small portion of the total number of cases. This procedure has been used for many years and from experience has proved satisfactory both from a mathematical and practical point of view.

The sample is divided into three categories, those on probation, those in institutional care and those on after care service. Each delinquent is to be studied in the category in which he was included on March 31, 1960.

The primary data were obtained by a study of the case records of 176 delinquents from the Department of Public Welfare and the Nova Scotia School for Boys at Shelburne. Primary data were obtained by the use of schedules carried out by all members of the class. Each member of the group was responsible for completion of schedules for approximately twelve of the cases. After the data were gathered this information was made available to the group. Tabulation of some of the data was carried out by the group as a whole, while other data were compiled and analysed by the individual researcher.

Secondary data were of three kinds. First, information was obtained from community leaders and professional people in this province. Secondly, it was obtained from bibliographical material which was drawn

mainly from social work literature, with some taken from the fields of psychology, psychiatry and sociology. Each member of the group had a responsibility in preparing the schedules. Interviewing was carried on by individuals on behalf of the group; whereas, part of the bibliographical material was collected by the group, that pertaining to an individual thesis was sought out by the researcher concerned. Thirdly, the researcher also studied other case record sources of family background, which were found in other welfare agencies. The social service index was used in locating this information. The researcher found that such material was a fruitful resource in gaining a complete picture of the total family situation.

The particular interest of this researcher in the research project as a whole and in the topic of this particular thesis stems from the fact that as a student of social work the subject under study affects his field very directly and will continue to do so. Having done field work in the Department of Public Welfare and with a planned future in a child welfare agency this greatly increases the researcher's interest in the topic.

The hypothesis for this thesis is that certain specific patterns and backgrounds can be found in the families of delinquents. The family is the basic unit

of our society and it, more than any other force, determines what people will be.

The focus of this particular study will be the family situation at the time the boy or girl was found guilty before the court as well as the family group history of the parents before this time. Under this the writer will discuss what part such things as the marital status of the family, desertion, economic position and social position have on the delinquents and their behaviour.

This study revolved around the information that was available in case records. Since the records were not written for research purposes, the information sought was not always available. The pressure of heavy caseloads forced the agency workers to limit recording, which caused further limitations in gaining a complete picture of the families and the backgrounds of these delinquents. Again further limitations were imposed because the researcher had no direct contact with the families. There is also a limitation in that the researcher could not study other families as a control group. A final limitation involved in the study is that it was not possible for the researcher to study the deviant behaviour of other members of the delinquent's family.

The boundary date for this thesis was set for September 30, 1960, which included any significant material which might have been recorded following that date.

In this thesis tables and a map will be used to show whether or not patterns emerge from the background of the delinquents. The collected material will also be analyzed from the case study approach. Case analysis lends itself to a study of both tangible and intangible factors and is appropriate to illustrate patterns that cannot be tabulated statistically.

The thesis will be written from a social work point of view. Emphasis will be placed, not upon pure theory, but upon what can be done to utilize community resources more effectively on behalf of the delinquent.

The writer will first analyze the characteristics of the juvenile offender. This will be followed by a discussion of the marital status of the family at the time the delinquent appeared before the court. Particular attention will be paid to the stability and security of the family unit at this time. The writer will explore the social situation of the family, which will include a consideration of the living conditions of the families in the sample group. He will continue with an examination of the economic status of the families.

Finally, conclusions will be drawn concerning the family pattern or structure and the types of social and economic situations from which these children come. It is hoped that from this study certain recommendations will be made to strengthen the family life of the potential delinquent.

CHAPTER II

THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

It is necessary to consider the juvenile offender in relation to the background knowledge of juvenile delinquency in the community.

In 1957 the Children's Bureau of the United States showed an increase in delinquency for the ninth consecutive year. This means that in the United States today there are actually 1,700,000 children with delinquency records and that, in the not too distant future, they will have over 2,000,000 such children. Moreover, 30 to 50% of these children have appeared before the court more than once.¹

There is good reason to think of delinquency in the United States as a national epidemic, a serious epidemic. Between 1948 and 1954 the crime rate in the United States jumped over 50%. The incidence of crime is outstripping the increase in population by a ratio of 4 to 1. The population in the United States has

¹Thomas C. Hennings, "Effectiveness of Juvenile Court System," Federal Probation, XXIII (June, 1959), 3.

increased 5% since 1950, while the number of crimes committed has jumped 20% in those years. A Federal Bureau of Investigation survey of two hundred cities showed that the crime rate of adults in 1953 was 1.9% as compared with an increase of 7.9% in the crime rate of boys and girls under eighteen years of age.¹

Such alarming statistics prompted Harry Elser Barnes, a noted historian who has given special attention to the history of criminology, to say that the recent marked increase of crime, especially of juvenile delinquency and demoralization, is surely one of the outstanding problems of our time. It ranks next to the menace of nuclear war as a threat to our community and security.²

These statistics show an increase not only in the overall rate of delinquency in the United States but also in its spread. The problem is increasing in content. Slowly but steadily it is reaching every group and every aspect of the community in many countries. The problem is also increasing in gravity. Younger children in large

¹ Benjamin Fine, 1,000,000 Delinquents (New York: The World Publishing Company, 1955) pp. 25-27.

² Harry Elser Barnes, "Shall We Get Tough or Sensible in Facing the Increase of Crime," Federal Probation, XXIII (June, 1959), 29.

numbers are becoming more involved in serious crimes. Juvenile delinquency is not restricted any more to the urban populations. In some rural areas where living conditions remain practically unchanged, delinquency is increasing. Delinquency is no longer confined to the poverty-stricken areas of certain populations or regions. Young people of very well-to-do families are becoming juvenile offenders more frequently than in the past.¹

Juvenile delinquency in Canada does not appear to be as widespread or as serious as it is in the United States.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the National Health and Welfare Department reported that 11,391 children were charged with delinquent acts in Canada in 1958, which was an increase of 1,712 over the previous year. In 1957 the number of court appearances which resulted in a finding of delinquency was 9,679. In 1958, 676 of these 11,391 children were reported from Nova Scotia.² This means that Nova Scotia had 6% of the delinquents in Canada in 1958.

¹Manuel Lopez-Rey, "Present Approaches to the Problem of Juvenile Delinquency," Federal Probation, XXIII (June, 1959), 25.

²Annual Report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the Year ended March 31, 1958 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1959), p. 8.

The 1956 edition of the Canada Year Book shows that Nova Scotia has 4% of the total Canadian population.¹ As indicated above Nova Scotia has 6% of the total delinquents in Canada. This would seem to show that Nova Scotia has 2% more delinquents than it should have in proportion to its population.

For the year ending March 31, 1958 there was an increase from 588 to 756 in the number of delinquents appearing before the courts in Nova Scotia. There was an increase in one year of 168 cases. It is indicated that these findings, although they cause concern, are not alarming due to the increase of population, which averages 10,000 a year.²

The peak year for delinquency in Nova Scotia was 1937 at which time there were 772 children before the courts.³ The numbers were high in the war years of 1943 and 1944 and also in 1954. However, the total for 1943 was not as high as the 1937 peak and also the 1954 total was not as high as the 1943 figure so the general trend has been downward.

¹ Canada Year Book, 1956 (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1956), p. 148.

² Department of Public Welfare Annual Report for the Year Ending March 31, 1958 (Halifax: Queen's Printer, 1958), p. 76.

³ Ibid.

Census figures for 1956 show 126,440 children in Nova Scotia between 7 and 16 years of age. During the year of 1958 there were 756 children before the juvenile courts. This is only six-tenths of 1% of the juvenile population. The 1957 figures for the United States indicate that 2% of all children within juvenile court ages appear before the court.¹ The rate of delinquency in Nova Scotia is one-half the American average. The offenses committed in this province are mostly against property, while a great many of the offenses before the American courts are offenses of violence.

A Halifax policewoman, who has been with the Police Department for three and one-half years, did not feel that she had been with the Department long enough to be able to recognize a trend, if one existed, in the delinquency problem. She stated, however, that she was being asked more frequently to speak to women's clubs on the subject of juvenile delinquency. She felt, therefore that the community was becoming more aware of the problem and at least admitted that there was a delinquency problem.²

¹ Ibid.

² Interview with Mrs. Donald, Halifax Police Department, December 5, 1960.

Great public concern has been aroused in the needs and problems of our youth and consequently more activity is displayed in reporting, recording and handling cases of youthful misconduct. Youth welfare organizations, family organizations, clinics and institutions for delinquents have increased and a considerable proportion of the cases that come before the courts are referred by schools, psychiatric clinics, welfare organizations and parents.

Although delinquency is not increasing proportionately to the increase in population this does not negate the gravity of the problem. Whatever affects youth affects the citizenship of tomorrow.

"The train of evils that follow from the disaffection, alienation and lawlessness of youth is incalculably great - the squandering of energies, the degradation of families, the injury done to neighbourhood and community, the mortgage on the society of the future, as well as the vast cost to the nation of crime itself."¹

A committee on the "Incidence of Juvenile Delinquency" was one of three committees of the Corrections Division of the Welfare Council of Halifax. The purpose of the committee was to find the amount of actual delinquency which had been committed in the City of Halifax during the school year, September 1958 to June 1959.

¹ MacIver, op. cit., pp. 109-110.

This committee also wanted to find the number of delinquents that came before the courts during the calendar year January 1, 1958 to December 31, 1958.¹

There were 153 children charged before the court during the above prescribed period. Judging from these committee findings, delinquency does not appear to be a greater problem than in the past. There had not been an increase in juvenile delinquency in the period studied. The Halifax School Board reported a decrease in the Education Act cases. The offenses committed by the delinquents were not of a serious type. Truancy, theft and property damage were the major complaints levied against the delinquents and cases of assault and immorality were few. Gang activities and dangerous weapon activities were very rarely in evidence. This study showed that the rate of delinquency in Halifax was not large. The committee indicated that Halifax was fortunate in having such a small number of cases of delinquency coming before the court for a city of its size.²

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the 176 offenders studied in this research project according to

¹Report of the committee on the Incidence of Juvenile Delinquency to the Corrections Division of the Halifax Welfare Council, 1960. (mimeographed.)

²Ibid.

their categories as of March 31, 1960. The group is divided into three defined categories, those on probation, those on after care and those in an institution. The institution in this thesis refers to the Nova Scotia School for Boys, the Maritime Home for Girls and St. Euphrasia's Training School. Probation usually means retention of the offender in the community with or without a suspended sentence of confinement instead of his commitment to an institution.¹ After care is the process of re-introduction of a delinquent into the community after he has spent a period of time in the institution.²

This figure indicates that the greatest percentage of the children in the sample studied were in an institution, 42% of the boys and 52% of the girls. Of those on probation 37% were boys and 24% were girls, and 21% of the boys and 24% of the girls were receiving after care service.

The greatest number of the delinquents in the sample studied were boys. The total indicates that there were 158 boys and 17 girls.

In the age groups the heaviest concentration seemed to be among the older children in the sample.

¹ Glueck, op. cit., p. 607

² Ibid., p. 910.

FIGURE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF 176 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACCORDING TO THE AGE,
SEX AND SERVICE THEY WERE RECEIVING ON MARCH 31, 1960

Age in Years	Probation		Institution		After Care		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
8 - 9	2						2	
9 - 10	4		1				5	
10 - 11	5		2				7	
11 - 12	7		5	1			12	1
12 - 13	8		7	1	1		16	1
13 - 14	8	2	11		2		21	2
14 - 15	9	1	18		8		35	
15 - 16	13	1	17	3	10	1	40	5
16 and over	1		4	4	12	1	17	5
Not Recorded	2		1		1	2	4	2
Total	59	4	66	9	34	4	159	17

There were 81 delinquents between the ages of 14 and 16 and this indicates that the frequency of delinquency was greater among this age group than it was among the younger teenagers. The ages of four children were not recorded.

Figure 2 shows the sex, age and place of residence of the offenders at the time of the opening of the case. The case is considered to be open when the Department of Public Welfare first comes in contact with the boy.

This figure indicates that the greatest number of the offenders were living in their own home, at the time of the opening of the case, with one or more of their parents and were operating as part of a family unit. The figure does not indicate, however, if there had been a breakdown within the family unit or the existence of inter-personal relationships which lead to family strain and tension. The writer plans to discuss the family with relation to its stability and security and its social situation in other chapters.¹

The writer has indicated his concept that the family is the basic unit of our society and it, more than any other force, determines what people will be.²

¹Infra., p. 61.

²Supra., p. 4.

FIGURE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF 176 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACCORDING TO SEX, AGE AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT OPENING OF CASE

Age	Own Home		Relatives		Foster Home		Correction Institution		Child Caring Institution		Other		Not Recorded		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 8	1															1
8 - 9	4		1		1								1			7
9 - 10	13	1			1											15
10 - 11	13		1		2		1	1	2							21
11 - 12	9						2	2					4			15
12 - 13	15					1	4	4					2			21
13 - 14	25	4	3				2	2					2			31
14 - 15	21	2	1		1		3	1					2			28
15 - 16	9	3	1				1	1			1					12
16 -	2	1					2	2					1			5
Not Recorded	1	3			2											3
Total	112	14	7		7	1	18	2	2		1		12			159

This figure is of particular significance in substantiating this.

Seventy-seven percent of the children were living in their own home and of the remainder 12% were in an institution and the others were living with relatives. The place of residence of 12 was not recorded.

Figure 3 shows the type of first offences committed by the 176 delinquents in the sample study.

A high level of delinquent acts were committed by the 10 and under 11 age group, followed by a large drop in the 11 and under 13 age groups. The highest rate of delinquency, however, seems to be between the 13 and 15 age groups. Then there is a gradual decline of first offences committed by the older adolescents. Figure 1 showed that there were more children between 14 and 16 years of age in all three categories. It would appear that many of these children were second offenders, having committed their first offence when they were between the ages of 10 and 11. This is discussed further in a companion thesis.¹ The ages of 14 of the children were not recorded at the time of their first offence.

¹Janet Sutherland, "A Study of Recidivism Among Juvenile Delinquents" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Maritime School of Social Work, 1961).

Figure 3 indicates that the most common delinquent act committed by these 176 children was theft, followed by break, entry and theft and then vandalism. This further substantiates the earlier statement that offences in Nova Scotia are mostly against property.¹ Only one child was charged with a sexual offence and three with assault. These offences are much more common in some of the larger cities.

The offence of truancy accounted for 19 of the cases studied. It is significant to point out that four of the 17 girls were charged with this offence and only five of the 156 boys. The female offenders are often protected by the type of crimes they commit and they do not appear before the court as often as the male delinquents. Truancy is often the first outright sign of delinquent behaviour. A number of the boys were also charged with truancy but were brought before the court on another charge.

The other offences included in this figure are as follows: violation of town ordinance, unmanageability, illegal possession of liquor, drunkenness, possession of stolen bicycle and persistent misbehaviour in school.

¹Supra, p. 18.

Throughout the rest of this report the writer will examine the factors under study solely in his sample group of 58.

CHAPTER III

MARITAL STATUS OF THE FAMILY

The family has been undergoing a profound process of change in the past generation. There has been much difference of opinion among social scientists, as well as others, as to the interpretation of these changes. Some have cited facts such as the very high rates of divorce, the changes in the older sex morality and the decline in birth rates as evidence of a trend to dis-organisation in an absolute sense. Considerations such as these have in turn often been linked with what has been called the "loss of function" of the family. This refers to the fact that so many needs which formerly were met by family members working in the home, are now met by outside agencies.¹

This change has caused a major crisis in the structure of our modern family life. One symptom of this crisis is the growing rebellion of youth against the authority of parents. History of the family and

¹Parsons and Bales, The Family, Socialization and Interaction Process (Illinois: The Free Press, 1960), p. 3.

human relations has shown that there is always a certain distance both in thought and conduct between the older and the younger generation. Today the differences between parents and children are far greater, the dissensions are far more distressing than they have been for many generations. Another symptom is the widening revolt of women against their husband's station in marriage and in the management of family affairs. Women have come to enjoy opportunities in almost every occupation and many are receiving equal pay with men. For the first time women are now loosening the bonds of family responsibility and seeking an escape from the home into areas of occupation.¹

This crisis is also reflected in the deepening feeling of resentment among men against what they regard as the routine and regimentation of family life. Men have never been so thoroughly domesticated as women. Urban civilization has imposed upon them the limited cycle of home, office and home. However, more important than these symptoms of the crisis in family life is the accumulating evidence of an increase in estrangements, separations, desertions and divorces.

¹Sidney E. Goldstein, Marriage and Family Counselling (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, Incorporated, 1945), p. 3.

These conditions not only result in neglect of children; they result also in the neglect of mothers and fathers and children of each other. The members of the family today are much less concerned about each other's welfare than they have been for generations past. In other words, the family unit is disorganized. The seriousness of this situation is evident because the family is the basic unit of our society and if the organization of the family is threatened, the whole structure of our society is in danger.¹

The family is passing through a critical period because of the fundamental changes that are taking place within the framework of the family itself. The crumbling of the old foundations, the power of the parent, the sacrament of religion and the laying of new foundations derived from the field of social science constitute a change of historical importance. Further affecting the present trend towards disorganization of the family is the relaxation of the traditional social restraints and the dissolving of social pressures. The family has not developed that inward strength that is necessary when outward control is relaxed and removed. The family is also threatened because of the impact and shock of

¹ Ibid., pp. 9-12.

current social changes and cataclysm. All these changes taking place in the function, the organization, the structure, and the foundations of the family must inevitably lead to strain and conflict.¹

One of the largest factors in the breakup of the family is the personal instability of the individuals who make up the family group. With so many changes taking place within the family, family life does not always have a stabilizing effect upon those members who are potentially insecure and disorganized. With regard to this John Folsom has said that "personal disorganization and family disorganization go together, each acting as a cause upon the other."²

In studying the family units in this research project the researcher found much evidence of family disorganization which reflected instability on the part of the parents themselves. In many cases where the family had been operating as a unit at the time of the child's birth, there was a breakdown of some sort in the family situation. In cases where there was no physical break in the home, there was evidence of family discord

¹ Ibid., pp. 12-22

² John Kirk Folsom, The Family, Its Sociology and Social Psychiatry (New York: John Wiley and Sons Incorporated, 1936), p. 342.

and tension which in themselves weaken family ties. These homes were socially defective in that they involved excessive drinking, sexual irregularities and periods of unemployment.

Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of the 58 delinquents according to the marital status of their parents at the time of their birth. The marital status of one of the parents was not recorded in the case records. The figure shows that in 48 of the cases the parents were married to each other at the time of the offender's birth. This represents the greater majority of the cases studied as it constitutes 83% of the total. A noteworthy fact was the number of cases of illegitimacy which were found in the group. This category consisted of children born to unmarried mothers and those born into common law unions. This group consisted of nine of the cases studied. Although in these cases there was no family unit to breakdown, the fact of unmarried parenthood alone is in itself a sign of personality disorder and instability.

The marital status of the parents which was recorded at the time of the birth of the children did not remain stationary during the period of time studied. The writer will discuss the number of changes which took

FIGURE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF 58 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE AND THE MARITAL STATUS OF THEIR PARENTS AT THE TIME OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH

Age in Years	Children of Married Parents	Children of Unmarried Parents	Children of Common Law Unions	Not Recorded	Total
8 - 9	1				1
9 - 10	2		1		3
10 - 11	1				1
11 - 12	2	1			3
12 - 13	5		2		7
13 - 14	8	1			9
14 - 15	5				5
15 - 16	17	3		1	21
16 and over	6	1			7
Not Recorded	1				1
Total	48	6	3	1	58

Note: Two of the children included in this group have been adopted. It is the marital status of the adopting parents that will be considered here.

place at a later time in this chapter.¹

In this discussion the researcher will first present the marital status of the parents at the time of the child's birth. The writer will then discuss the marital status of the parents as of March 31, 1960. This will be followed by a study of the many varied changes that have taken place in the interim.

Figure 5 shows the marital status of the parents as of March 31, 1960. The figure shows that 36 of the parents were married and operating as part of a family unit. This represents the greater majority of the families studied and constitutes 65% of the total. Five of the families were separated and four were living in a common law union. Of these four families one of the partners had been married in each case. In three cases one member of the marriage partners had deserted the family. In another a common law wife had deserted her husband and three children after living with them for ten years. Although the women had no legal obligation to remain in the family the writer felt that such a case could have disastrous effects on the children and for this reason it was included in the desertion column. As illustrated in

¹Infra, p. 36.

FIGURE 5
 DISTRIBUTION OF 54 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE AND
 THE MARITAL STATUS OF THEIR PARENTS AS OF MARCH 31, 1960

Age in Years	Married	Separated	Divorced	Deserted	Widowed	Common Law	Not Recorded	Total
8 - 9	1							1
9 - 10	3							3
10 - 11	2							2
11 - 12	2							2
12 - 13	4			1*		1		6
13 - 14	6			1				7
14 - 15	5							5
15 - 16	11	2		1	2	3	1	20
16 and over	22	3	1		1			7
Not Recorded					1			1
Total	36	5	1	3	6	4	1	54

*Woman deserted her common law husband after living with him 10 years.

Note: Not included -

One boy who is a ward, both his parents are deceased

One boy living in a foster home

One child, 15, whose mother is deceased and his father is unknown, living with grandparents

One boy, 13, in a foster home

this figure, in four of the families one of the parents was deceased. In two of these cases the father had died. The marital status of one child's parents was not recorded.

Four of the cases were not included in this figure. Three children were living in foster homes. In one of these both parents were deceased and the child was made a ward of the Director of Child Welfare. The other two children were placed in foster homes upon their release from the Nova Scotia School for Boys. In the fourth case the boy was living with his grandparents. This boy's mother was deceased and the father's whereabouts were unknown.

Figures 4 and 5 will indicate that there was some, although not a great deal of change in the marital status of the parents from the time of the child's birth until March 31, 1960.

Figure 6 gives details of the changes that have taken place between the time of the child's birth and March 31, 1960. The nine children who were born out of wedlock were not included in this figure. These cases will be studied later in this chapter and also in the following chapter. The writer feels that it is very significant to find that 30 of the parents who were married at the time of the child's birth were still

FIGURE 6

CHANGES IN THE MARITAL STATUS OF 48 PARENTS OF
JUVENILE OFFENDERS WHO WERE MARRIED AT THE
TIME OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>Total</u>
Married and Still Living Together	30
Separated	8
Divorced	3
Widowed	7*
Total	48

*In one case both parents were deceased.

married and living together. This represents 63% of the cases listed in the table.

Parents who were married and living together

In the group of parents who were married and living together, it is noted that there had been a temporary break in three of the families. In one case the parents were separated for four years but resumed living together in 1954. In another case it was reported that the parents were separated from time to time. An example of this might be seen in the Dodge family who have three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Dodge have three children, Earl, age 20, Lloyd, age 17 and Clyde, age 13. Up until last fall Mr. Dodge was living in Montreal and had been there for eight years. During his absence Mrs. Dodge lived in common law. Upon Mr. Dodge's return the common law husband left the home. Clyde, age 13, had been before the court on five occasions for theft. He was committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys in January, 1961.

Parents who were married and separated

Figure 6 illustrates that separation had taken place in eight cases. In four of these cases nothing was recorded except that the parents were separated. In these cases the siblings remained with their mother. In two of the four cases where information was available it was observed that separation resulted in the formation of common law unions. In one case the mother entered a

common law union. In the other case it was the father who separated and entered a common law union. In another case the woman deserted her common law husband after living with him for 10 years. The father continued to maintain his three children and hired a housekeeper to care for them during the day. In the eighth case it was reported that the wife deserted the family. Further particulars regarding these separations can be found in the following cases:

Mr. and Mrs. Snow separated shortly after the birth of their child in 1943. The child remained with Mrs. Snow. Ella, age 17 who is the only child, was brought before the juvenile court in 1958 on a charge of truancy.

The Spicers have been known to the Children's Aid Society as a protection case since 1946. In 1953 the parents were charged with neglect. The father left the home shortly after this time. Alice, age 15, and her sister Patricia, age 14, were charged with theft in 1957. In March 1960 the two girls were charged with truancy.

Mr. McGrath separated from his wife in 1951. Mr. entered a common law union while his wife was a patient in a mental hospital. Jude, age 16, was charged with break and enter in 1959.

Parents who were married and divorced

Three of the families in the sample were reported to have been divorced. In one case both parents remarried.

Mr. and Mrs. Morash were divorced in 1955. Both parents later remarried. The father who was 40 at the time remarried a 17 year old girl. Hugo, age 15 continued to live with his mother. The two families

live in the same block and the father has maintained an interest in his son.

In two other cases only one parent in each family remarried.

Mrs. Wilson received a divorce from her husband in 1955. At this time the husband was serving a sentence in penitentiary where he has been on several occasions. Four children were born in this marriage, two girls, 22 and 9, David, 15, and Ned, 12. Ned who is the child in this sample was charged with property damage in 1959 and was placed on probation. Mrs. Wilson later remarried. It was reported that one child was born to this couple prior to their marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Tupper were married in 1943. The couple were divorced in 1956 after a number of years of marital discord. Harvey, age 16, remained with his mother. In 1956 Mr. Tupper remarried a 16 year old girl. In 1958 Harvey was charged with truancy and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys.

Parents who were married and widowed

Figure 6 illustrates that seven families had been broken by death since the child's birth and in one case both parents were deceased. In five cases the break in the home was the result of the father's death. In only one case did the mother remarry. In another case the father entered a common law union following his wife's death. In two cases nothing was recorded except that the father had died. In a number of these cases the date of death was not recorded. In two cases the death of the parents resulted in a complete break in the home. In one of these families the mother had died and

the father deserted. The child was reared by his grandparents who in turn had been separated for a lengthy period. In the remaining case both parents were deceased and the child was placed in a foster home.

The writer has observed that in 19 of the 48 cases studied a physical break had occurred in the families. This includes the parents who have been separated, widowed or divorced. Desertion is relatively frequent in our society and causes great misery to all family members. In all cases where persons feel themselves deserted as a result of death, separation or divorce the situation is characterized by the loss of a loved object for a long period of time.¹

In the previous discussion, the importance of a stable and well organized family group has been recognized. The finding of this study of the marital status of the parents will have significance in the personality development of the children in this research project. The disorganization within the family groups will have had varying degrees of effect upon the ability of the children to adjust to people and situations.

¹Samuel H. Turner, "Effects of Desertion on Family Life," Social Casework, XXXIV, No. 1 (January 1953), 3.

Home is the core of living. Society is built on family life. Through the bonds of feeling, comfort and strength, through belonging, sharing, learning and in many other ways children are helped to develop into well adjusted, mature and responsible citizens. Because it is a living thing, a home requires care and attention, protection and opportunity. It can be harmed through the interruption of parental care. Should it break, it reveals weaknesses in both community and parents, and careful efforts of both are needed if family breakdown is to be reduced. Many broken homes could be prevented, many more could be mended. Those that are broken still need to be helped.¹

The conclusions that emerge from this pattern of family breakdown point out the need for preventive measures to avoid marital breakdown. It appears that a number of delinquents grew up in a family atmosphere that was not conducive to the development of emotionally well adjusted youngsters. It has been shown that there is a correlation between family disorganization and the incidence of delinquency. It may be that the family orientated casework approach, with its emphasis on

¹ Helping Families in Trouble (Ottawa: Department of National Health and Welfare, 1958), p. 13.

strengthening family bonds and relationship, might have a proportionate influence in reducing the problem of delinquency among the juvenile group.

CHAPTER IV

MARITAL STATUS OF THE FAMILY (CONTINUED)

The interpersonal conditions of family relationships leading to delinquent behaviour stand out as more important than general background factors. Numerous studies have shown that tensions, marital triangles, frictions over income and expenditure and many other broken trends in the tangled skein of family relationships are as important as, if not more important than, physical breaks and contribute largely to delinquency. Clinical experience has demonstrated that rarely does a child become delinquent where the members of the family have successfully maintained love and affection for one another.¹

Figure 6 points out that the majority of the parents who were married at the time of the child's birth were still married and living together as of March 31, 1960. The writer finds these figures quite significant. However, even though 30 parents remained

¹Glueck, op. cit., p. 157.

married and lived together the writer believes that there were noted indications of factors in the family unit which may account in part for the delinquency.

The following is an example of a couple who were married but in this family there was evidence of marital discord.

Mr. and Mrs. Upshaw were married and living together. The couple have eight children ranging in age from 26 to 10. Mrs. is a nervous person and worries constantly. The couple do not get along well with each other. Mrs. finds fault with her husband. She said in court when Percy, age 13, was charged with violating probation, that there was trouble at home.

It would appear that there were other factors within this family which aggravated the problem of delinquency. It was reported that the father had suffered a heart attack in 1957 and had not fully recovered. The mother also complained about the suburban area where the family were living. She felt that this was a precipitating factor to her son's behaviour. He had been before the court on three occasions. The mother also complained about her son's irregular attendance at church. However, it was further reported that the parents had neglected to attend church for a lengthy period.

Benjamin Fine in his study of delinquent behaviour came to similar conclusions. The broken home is not in itself a cause of delinquency. However, emotional and physical deprivations have been found to contribute

greatly to delinquent behaviour. The broken home is only an outward sign that the child is not receiving the love he needs. When a father deserts the family the child may feel that he has been rejected by the father. The child can have, however, just as strong a sense of rejection when both parents are present. The break between the parents may actually solve a problem that is already having a bad effect upon the child. A complete home marked by dissension may be psychologically and socially more "broken" than a physically broken home in which the remaining members of the family carry on as a closely knit group.¹

Tensions and conflicts within the family can damage its effectiveness in providing the kind of atmosphere the child requires to grow up a happy and well adjusted individual. The family is a psychological unit and interaction of each of the individual forces within the family causes each to have its effect upon the other.²

Alcoholism within the home can cause tensions and unhappiness, and is in itself a symptom of a

¹ Fine, op. cit., p. 75.

² Irene M. Jesselyn, "The Family as a Psychological Unit," Journal of Social Casework, XXXIV, No. 1 (October, 1953), 336-342.

personality problem on the part of the person involved. In six of the cases studied excessive drinking took place. In one case the mother had received treatment at the mental hospital for alcoholism while the father was described as being a heavy drinker.

Mr. Butler was separated from his wife for four years. He returned one year ago. The couple have two children. Stewart, age 12, had been charged before the court for theft and property damage. Mrs. Butler was treated at the Nova Scotia hospital for alcoholism. The father was described as being on the doorstep of alcoholism.

In four other cases there was evidence that the father was a heavy drinker and took little responsibility for the financial care of the family. One of the fathers in this group was accused of physically abusing his wife when he had been drinking excessively.

Another situation in the area of pathology in family relationships and structure is the family living in a common law relationship. The researcher found that four of the families studied were living in a common law union on March 31, 1960. Of these unions, one or two adults in each case had been married and separated. In only one case was the child born into a common law union. One child was born illegitimately and the remaining two were children of married parents. These people have already encountered severe difficulty in close interpersonal relationships which may involve a

threat to their new family life. In a common law union, no real stability exists. Either of the adults is free to leave the other and the children, if there are any, and no legal action can be taken against them.

The case of Mr. and Mrs. Brown demonstrates this:

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had been living in a common law union for ten years. The woman deserted Mr. Brown and their three children. At this time Miriam, the child in the sample, was four years of age. At the age of 14 Miriam appeared before the court on a second charge of theft and was placed on probation. In 1958, at the age of 15, Miriam was charged with truancy and committed to the Maritime Home for Girls. Mr. Brown has had a difficult time in bringing up the children alone. He has hired a succession of housekeepers but he has had a great deal of trouble with them as the majority have generally been dishonest with him. The present one who has been in the home seven years seems inadequate as a mother substitute for the children. When she and Mr. Brown quarrel, she stops performing her household duties and no longer associates with the family members.

Good health can contribute directly to the efficiency, happiness and stability of the family. Ill health can be a factor in the lowering of the family standard of living and can produce personal, and as a result, family disorganization. The following case illustrates the point where health may have been a contributing factor in family disorganization.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward were married. Mrs. Ward had been hospitalized for cancer of the throat. The husband was unemployed and was receiving aid from the City. A further strain on the family was a 22 year old daughter who has been a polio victim since she was five years of age. This girl was stricken with paralysis and is unable to walk.

In June 1958, Sydney, age 14, was brought before the court for attempted poaching of lobsters and was given a suspended sentence. In March 1960, he was found guilty of break, enter and theft and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys. In April Sydney was given leave due to the serious illness of his mother.

In this case one can see where health added greatly to the burden of family life. With such strains in the family the parents are unable to carry out their normal parental roles. Such a situation often results in the weakening of controls on the children and may lead to delinquent behaviour.

The writer feels that such conflicts and tensions within the family unit are likely to result in problems of behaviour in children, especially in the period of adolescence. A companion thesis will deal in detail with the effects of such situations upon the behaviour of the children.¹ Referral to this study will enable the reader to see more clearly what effects the interpersonal relationships within the family unit had on the development of the children.

As illustrated in the previous chapter there was evidence of family breakdown caused by the loss of one or more parents through separation, divorce and death.

¹ Francis Sampson, "Family Relationship and Delinquent Behaviour" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Maritime School of Social Work, 1961).

In the percentage of these cases it was the father who was absent from the home.

To the child, the father represents the natural protector, a person who gives him a feeling of security. The child needs a father not only as someone to love, but as someone to serve as a pattern for his own life. This is especially true for the boy but the father also sets a pattern of masculinity for the girl as a model for her future love object. In many ways, the father is the controlling force in the life of both the girl and the boy. The attainment of normal masculinity or femininity is more difficult for the child who grows up without a father.

The loss of a father also means to the child the loss of his protection and all that this entails in the way of a comfortable home, food and clothing.¹

Although widowhood may result in severe economic problems in raising children, it cannot be regarded as significant in pathology as separation and divorce. Widowhood does not involve breakdown of the marital relationship of the parents as in other instances. In this situation, which is unlike the other two, the mother is able to preserve a healthy father ideal for the children.

¹Turner, loc. cit.

In contrast a mother and child suffering from the loss of a husband and father by separation or divorce usually have a difficult time adjusting to this situation both socially and personally.

It is far more common for a man than a woman to desert a family. There are a number of social, economic, cultural and psychological reasons for this. Economically, a woman's earning capacity is often less than a man's, which tends to keep her at home. Since she is in closer contact with her children, caring for them physically, her feeling about leaving them is likely to be less strong, than that of her husband, whose role in the child's early development is less active.

In desertion the relationship in the family is disturbed. The child may develop a strong feeling of insecurity and dread of the future. Thus a number of symptoms may occur in such children. Sometimes the child becomes rebellious and defiant toward other children or towards persons in authority. There may be outbursts of juvenile delinquency. Children may be further disturbed by the fact that the father's desertion usually causes the mother to become upset. She may respond with strong aggressive feelings toward the husband and these feelings may be displaced on to the children.¹

¹ Ibid.

With respect to family relationships and family structures the writer illustrated the combinations of inadequacies in relationship with tangible situations. Thus family discord and the broken home may be taken as evidence of the relationship between family disorganization and juvenile delinquency. Inevitably, children living under such circumstances have little opportunity for a healthy development.

A study of the marital status of the parents has pointed out that they, for the most part, were unstable and disorganized in their marital situation. Early experiences, and particularly their family ones, must undoubtedly have contributed towards this situation. In the Introduction the writer discussed the important role which the family plays in the development of personality. Parents who have been emotionally deprived by lacking a strong family life in childhood; often are unable to give their own children the security which they need, and this pattern may repeat itself through many generations.

Unmarried parents

Figure 3 points out that nine of the children under study were born to unmarried parents. Of this group three of the children were born while the parents were living in a common law union. The problem of

unmarried parenthood is usually a problem of relationship generated in the early development of the individual.

"There is a definite correlation between the degree of pathology in the family relationship and the extent of the girl's development."¹

Leontine Young stresses that one prominent factor which seems to stand out in the background of the unmarried mother is a consistent pattern of domination of the family by one or other of the parents. The girl usually comes from a broken home where the pattern of domination of a single parent still holds true. Miss Young, in her study found that in almost every case the unmarried girl did not experience the love of her parents during childhood. Thus, she is not in a position to give her children a healthy emotional atmosphere in which to grow and develop. Often these children, unless given help of some kind, will show problems of maladjustment in social situations.

In studying the cases of the children born out of wedlock changes occurred in the status of the parents. The cases did not remain stationary during this time. The writer also observed further evidence of instability and disorganization on the part of the parents.

¹Leontine Young, Out of Wedlock (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company Incorporated, 1954), p. 46

Of the children born to unmarried parents only two of the children were separated from their mother. In one case the child was placed in a foster home. However, the record does not indicate what contact, if any, the boy had with his mother. In the other case the boy was reared by the putative father and the latter's mother as his natural mother had deserted him. This man later married and continued to care for the boy.

In one case the mother married, separated from her husband and entered a common law union.

Following the birth of her illegitimate son Ross, who is a 15 year old boy in this sample, Mrs. Lane married J. J. who himself was illegitimate. He was believed to have spent some time in St. Patrick's Home. This couple later separated and Ross remained with his mother. The mother entered a common law union with Mr. W., and had one child from this union, Doris, three years of age. Mr. W. has a wife and family and one of his children is a ward of the Children's Aid Society.

A third woman entered a common law union following the birth of her son. The record reads:

Fraser Isaac was an illegitimate child. His father was a Mr. R who has since remarried and separated from his wife. After the child was born the mother entered a common law union with Mr. V and had six children by him.

None of the parents who were living common law at the time of the child's birth married. In only one case was the common law union still in existence. This case of Mr. and Mrs. Faltner is an interesting one:

Mrs. Faltner was married to J.F. Jr. While this man was at war his wife formed a common law union with his father and had three children by him. Mr. F. Jr. divorced his wife upon his return from overseas. The woman continued to live in a common law union with her father-in-law and eventually had 12 children by him. Stanley, the child in this sample, at the age of 10 was charged with property damage and placed on probation. In March 1960 Stanley, then twelve, was committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys on a charge of truancy. Mr. Faltner had 12 children by his first wife, who is now dead. Mr. Faltner, in all, is the father of 24 children.

In one other case the couple who were living in a common law union at the time of the child's birth later separated.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan were married 25 years ago. Mrs. Vaughan separated from her husband 16 years ago and began living with Mr. F. Three children were born of this union. In 1957 she left Mr. F. and went to live in her father's home. At the age of 14 Raymond was charged with property damage and placed on probation. Her husband died in 1958.

In the fourth case it was reported that the common law wife left her husband after living with him for a lengthy period.

Two other mothers gave birth to children prior to marriage. Although these children do not fall into the sample, this gives the writer some understanding of the pathology in these women. In one case it was recorded that the mother attempted an abortion during her illegitimate pregnancy. In the other case nothing further was recorded except that the mother had one

older son who was born prior to her marriage.

The picture presented in these findings indicates such instability and confusion on the part of the majority of the unmarried parents. This undoubtedly must have presented a very confusing atmosphere for the children who were living in these homes. The child sees the way his parents behave and an imitative pattern may be set up in his mind. The particular way the parents fulfill their parental roles will affect the child's conception of his future role. Therefore, he may obtain a false conception of parenthood and may find himself in conflict with what society expects of a parent when he becomes one.

Other significant information about the parents

In only a few of the cases was there any significant information concerning the background or social history of the parents.

One man was found to be serving a term in penitentiary. It was reported that this man had been in prison on several occasions. One other man was serving a sentence in city prison for bootlegging.

In one case evidence of mental illness was found. This woman was an alcoholic and was a patient in a mental institution.

In two cases the parents of the children under study had spent some part of their childhood or adolescence in institutions. Mrs. Faultner, to whom the writer referred earlier in this chapter, was committed to a corrections institution at the age of 11 for three years because of truancy.¹ In another case the father of the delinquent was placed in an orphanage at the age of five and remained in this institution until he was 16. Institutional placement during childhood often deprives the individual of a normal home life and the opportunity to form healthy parental relationships.

In two cases it was recorded that the parents were former wards of the Children's Aid Society. One man told a social agency that he was the product of a poor home. He lost his mother at an early age and had to go to work to support the family. He recalled receiving his meals at a relief agency during his adolescent years.

No far reaching conclusions can be drawn concerning the background of the parents as a whole, due to the limited amount of material available. It can only be noted that in the cases where the information was recorded, factors of significance did emerge.

¹ SURKA., p. 56.

A study of the marital situation in this and the previous chapter pointed out that the parents of the children in this sample were unstable and disorganized in their marital situation.

Family breakdown seldom happens suddenly. It takes time to develop. This is both fortunate and tragic; fortunate because there is the opportunity to do something to prevent it; tragic because of the bitterness and hurt which is built up, and is so harmful to children of young years.¹

Both mother and father suffer anger, fear, anxiety, and sometimes desperation. Through constant repetition poor ways of dealing with situations become entrenched. Parents' ability to come to grips with their differences fades as each one sees less and less hope of coping with situations. Their children will sense and react to tension at the earliest stage, long before any breakup. The children are sometimes caught between the parents. It can easily be seen how their emotional security and self-confidence is threatened and how their ideas of right and wrong, of good and bad may become confused, warped and distorted. This does not mean that all such homes will be broken. But a daily home atmosphere of

¹Helping Families in Trouble, op. cit., p. 7.

tension, fights and general unpleasantness is certainly one of its early symptoms.¹

Instability on the part of the parents leading to broken homes in some cases and family disorganization in others is an outstanding factor which emerges from the study of this sample. Since this factor occurred in such a number of cases it may be considered that broken homes and abnormal marital situations were a trend in those delinquents who were receiving service on March 31, 1960.

This study points out the need for more preventive work by social workers in the area of family problems. It can be seen that families will reproduce themselves in their pathological situations if treatment is neglected. If some of these family problems could be resolved while the child was still young, he could have a much better chance of growing up and contributing as a citizen of youth, and a well adjusted individual.

¹ Ibid.

CHAPTER V

SOCIAL STATUS OF THE FAMILY

"Poor housing is a form of social disorganization and is related to other forms of disorganization, both as a cause and an effect."¹

Housing and Living Conditions

Housing is more than just a shelter. It provides the setting for the whole life of the family. The character of the house or dwelling determines very largely whether or not an organized family life will be possible.²

Housing is one of the main factors in determining the standard of living of a family. It plays an integral part in family life, for the living situation of the family not only affects the physical health of the family but also tends to affect the mental health of the family.

Housing is also indirectly related to delinquency. However, this relationship can easily be overemphasized since fine citizens have grown up although physically deprived. There is, nevertheless, a significant rela-

¹Martin H. Newmyer, Social Problems and the Changing Society, ed. Wilbert E. Moore (Toronto: D. Van Nostrand Company Incorporated, 1953), p. 217.

²Gunnor Myrdal, An American Dilemma (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1944), p. 375.

tionship between housing conditions and delinquency. Overcrowded homes and lack of privacy tend to raise the incidence of sexual delinquency.¹ Moreover, substandard housing tends to break down morale and no doubt becomes, in many instances, one of various interrelated factors involved in the disorganization of the family and the individual.

Various studies made of slum housing localities show that families, living in a blighted area or in overcrowded conditions, suffer under handicaps unknown to families living in more pleasant surroundings. Juvenile delinquent behaviour is known to be influenced by the physical condition of the dwelling and the type of neighbourhood in which the family resides.²

Since housing and neighbourhood are regarded as such important factors in the life of the family, it is fitting at this time to include in this study something about the conditions under which these families lived.

Delinquency is more prevalent in cities than it is in rural areas. However, improved transportation and the reduction of the differences between city and rural social life are reducing this discrepancy in delinquency

¹Raymond W. Murray, Introducing Sociology (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts Incorporated, 1946), p. 637.

²Glyde B. Vedder, The Juvenile Offender, (Garden City: Doubleday and Company Incorporated, 1954), p. 53.

rates.¹

City children, who see their father and sometimes their mother only at the end of a long working day, soon commence to meet their problems and live their lives with a diminishing dependence upon parental advice. Or else, deprived of normal companionship and interest in their home, they seek unsupervised outside recreational activities which sometimes lead to parental conflicts, delinquency and additional strain upon family affections.

FIGURE 7

DISTRIBUTION OF 58 FAMILIES
ACCORDING TO AREA OF
RESIDENCE

<u>Area</u>	<u>Number</u>
Urban	32
Suburban	17
Rural	7
Not Recorded	2
Total	58

Figure 7 indicates the distribution of 58 families according to the areas of residence. The figure indicates that 55% of the families lived in urban areas. An urban

¹ Donald B. Taft, Criminology (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1956), p. 207.

area is usually defined as an area with a population of not less than 2,400. The City of Halifax was the place of residence of 41% of the families and 29% of the families in the sample were living in the suburban areas within the County of Halifax. The place of residence of two of the families was not recorded.

A physical description of the home was recorded in 38 of the cases. The living conditions of 24 families residing in the City of Halifax will be discussed later in this chapter.

In considering the 24 cases in the non urban area it was found that circumstances ranged from some who were in very comfortable circumstances to those in very poor ones. In nine of these 24 cases nothing at all was recorded about living conditions. In many other cases little information was recorded. In three of the cases the only fact recorded was that the home was clean and comfortable.

Overcrowding was a notable factor in many of these homes and often the housing was inadequate in other ways. Often the homes were inadequately furnished. Two of the families in the group were operating boarding homes which were described as cheap and run-down. The homes were crowded and provided little privacy for the members of the family. Many cases of overcrowding were

reported.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy were living in a two room shack with their seven children. Earl Kennedy, age 11, a child in this study is the oldest. In 1959 Earl was charged with break, entry and intent and given an indefinite suspended sentence. The home was described as being in a deplorable condition.

Mr. Fitzgerald and his common law wife were living in a one room lumbering shack with their three children. Jack Fitzgerald, age 13, was charged with break, enter and theft in 1957 and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys.

In several other cases little is known of the living conditions. Three families were living in apartments, but the size of them was not recorded. One family were living in a small, well-furnished apartment. One of these apartments was known to be poorly kept. The family in this apartment were forced to move several times because of poor housekeeping.

Two further families were found to be living in unsatisfactory housing conditions.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter and their four children - James, 16, Barbara Ann, 15, Maurice, 13 and Douglas, 12 - were living in a prefabricated six room house. Although the home had a good physical appearance it showed evidence of poor housekeeping. Maurice, the delinquent in this sample, was committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys for vandalism in 1959 and was recommitted to that institution in 1960.

Mr. and Mrs. Larkin own their own home. Although attempts are made to keep the home clean, the house is very overcrowded as eight people are living in this small dwelling. At the age of 15 Cecil Larkin was committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys on two charges; one, break, enter and theft and the other for theft of a car.

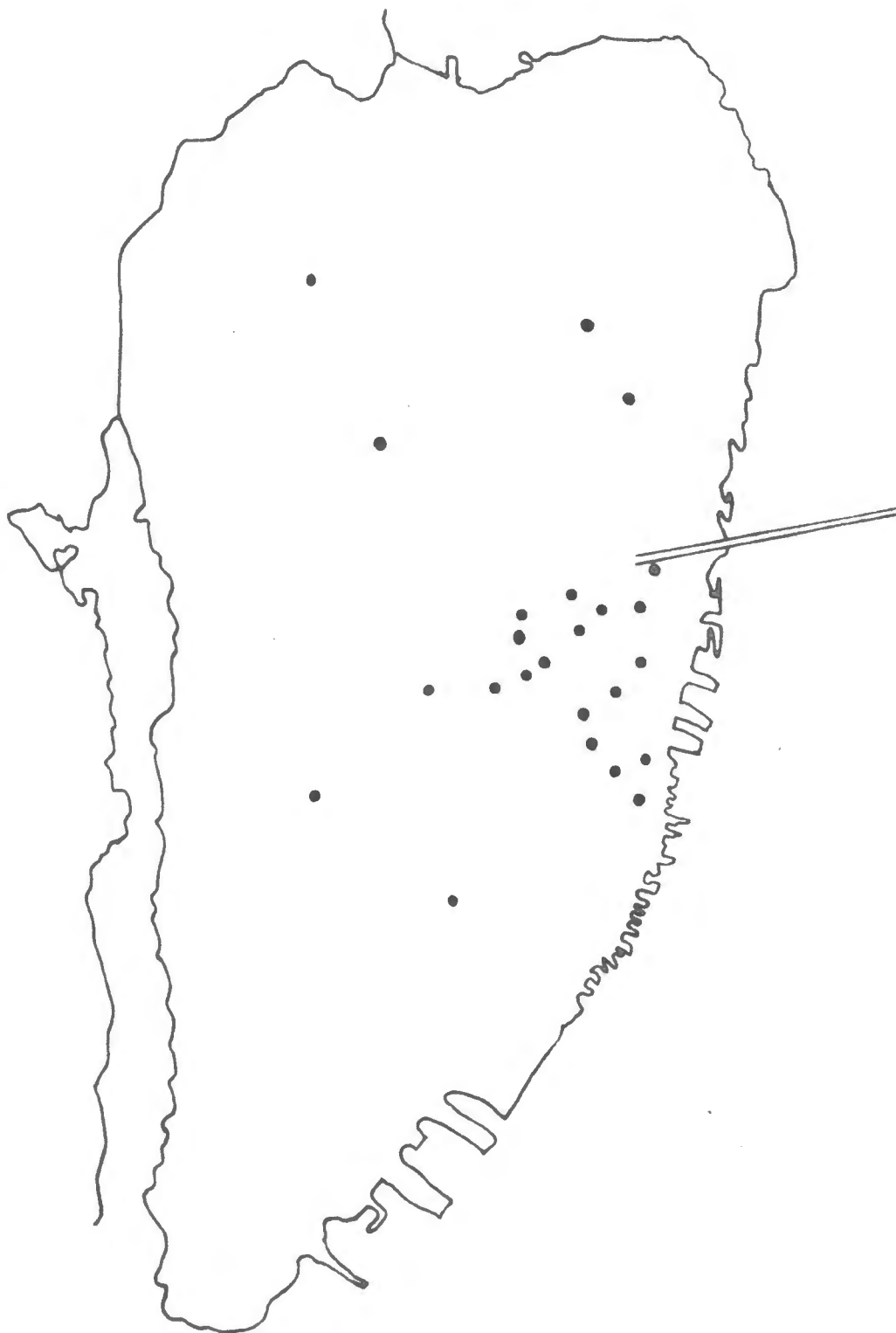
It is interesting to note the number of families who owned their own home. This included 10 of the 24 cases in the group. Seven of these cases reported homes in poor condition and providing unwholesome living conditions. The other three homes were described as being comfortable, well-furnished and clean. Home ownership often encourages social values in that the home owner has an incentive to be interested in the community.¹

Mr. and Mrs. Home and their four children - James, 9, Mary Ann, 8, Barbara, 4 and Aubrey, 10 - live in a two storey, self owned, frame constructed building. There are five rooms in the home. Although the exterior is in need of repair the interior is well-furnished with modern conveniences. Aubrey, the child in the sample, was charged with the theft of a rifle from the home of his school teacher in 1959. As a result of the charge he was committed to the Charge of the Director of Child Welfare and later placed in a foster home.

In two other cases the living accommodations did not seem to be as bad as those of many others. One family, a mother and her daughter, were living in a good rented home and paying \$100 a month for rent. Another family were living in a new housing development. The home had a comfortable appearance and physically the home was described as excellent.

¹Ernest H. Groves, Social Problems of the Family (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippencott Company, 1927), p. 233.

MAP I - CITY OF HALIFAX



Approximate location of the homes of
24 delinquents as of March 31, 1960.

Map 1 shows the distribution by place of residence of the 24 delinquents living in the City of Halifax. Each dot represents the home address of one delinquent boy; only one dot was used for each individual regardless of the number of times he appeared in court from any area.

Upon inspection, Map 1 reveals some very interesting things. It will be observed immediately that there are areas of marked concentration of delinquents, as compared with other areas where the dots are widely dispersed. These concentrations occur in the area bounded on the north by North Street, on the west by Agricola and North Park Streets, on the south by Cogswell and Jacob Streets and on the east by the harbour.

This distribution of delinquents is closely related to the location of industrial and commercial areas and to the composition of the population. In the first place, as has already been noted, the areas of heaviest concentration are not far from the central business district, near the areas zoned for light industry and commerce. This area also has the greatest concentration of population in the city. This is not due to a high density of buildings, but rather to the crowding of families into old residences. This area

was given much attention by Mr. Gordon Stephenson in the Redevelopment Study of Halifax. He found such evidence of poor housing, overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in this area. He pointed out that in the area where the worst housing conditions prevail the highest incidence of crime and poor health are to be found.¹

In any community there are many children who start life at a disadvantage. Poverty, sickness, bad housing and a squalid environment all take their toll. In former times a great number of children failed to survive the various hazards to which they were exposed. In the present day advances in public health and welfare have enormously reduced this risk. But it is true of many who survive that they suffer throughout their life from physical and mental ill health. Juvenile delinquency is often a sign of mental ill health. Although juvenile delinquency is not confined to one section of a community, it can more readily be treated when the home conditions are good and the physical environment provides outlets for the enormous amount of energy generated by youth.

¹Gordon Stephenson, A Redevelopment Study of Halifax, Nova Scotia (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1957), pp. 34-40.

The child in the squalid neighbourhood is at a grave disadvantage. Sir Cyril Burt has stated this quite clearly:

"Of all the various social influences that affect the individual mind, the most important are those obtained within the patient's home ... in the earlier days social investigators were inclined to look mainly at material conditions... Gradually, however, they have been led to recognize that mental conditions are more potent than the economic. The cultural status of the home, its moral character and most important of all, its general emotional atmosphere, constitute the crucial factors in nearly every case. Here social workers and psychoanalysts have been brought independently to the same conclusion; it is the child's reactions to the members of his family, and their reactions to him, that count for most in his mental and moral life."¹

If the home is overcrowded, dirty, cold and miserable it does not make for good family life. Such conditions are common in the area outlined in the map. If these conditions are coupled with poverty it is not possible to imagine that a man, his wife and their children live in harmony. Children living two, three and four in a bedroom have no place to call their own. Without space in the house they will be roaming the streets at all hours and in all seasons. It would seem inevitable that sooner or later they would get into serious mischief. Yet the great majority of parents and

¹Ibid. p. 38.

children display courage and resourcefulness in overcoming home and environmental disadvantages.¹

Information on the living conditions of the families living in the Halifax area was available in only 15 of the 24 cases. In these cases the conditions were quite poor and in only three cases were the conditions believed to be satisfactory. In these two cases the families were living in the diversified areas as shown on Map 1. Overcrowding was a notable factor in many of the homes. Other homes were described as damp and cold with poor ventilation. Many of the families were living in large tenement houses.

Mr. Faltner, his common law wife and their twelve children were living in a crowded tenement house. The family occupied five small rooms. The home was very dirty and filthy.²

One family, two adults and four children were living in a dirty two room rented building.

Mr. and Mrs. Paice and their four children live in a two room rented building. The home is very dirty and living conditions poor. Mrs. Paice suffers from diabetes. Chester, age 15, was placed on probation in 1959, having been charged with break, enter and theft. In October of the same year Chester was again brought before the court and charged with truancy. He was then committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys at Shelburne.

¹ Ibid.

² Supra. p. 56

A widow and her five children were living in two rooms in a run-down tenement.

Mrs. Doyle and her five children were living in a two room, run-down tenement house. Reginald, a child in this sample, slept with his sixteen year old sister in a room with his mother and younger sister. In 1954, at the age of 12, Reginald was placed in St. Patrick's Home for violating probation resulting from a charge of truancy.

In another case eight people were living in two rooms.

Mrs. Archer and her common law husband and her six children occupy two rooms on the downstairs floor of a two storey frame dwelling. The two rooms occupied by this family are one large one used as a kitchen and a smaller room serving as a bedroom for the man, woman and four children. The bedroom was dirty and untidy but the kitchen was fairly clean with the exception of soiled walls. Mrs. Archer had two children by her first husband, Roland, age 14 and Guy, age 15. She has also had four children as a result of a common law union with Mr. D. The two brothers, Roland and Guy were charged before the Juvenile Court. Roland, the boy in this sample, was charged with theft in 1959 and placed on probation. In March 1960 Roland was charged with truancy and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys.

Only one family were recorded to be living in their own home. This family did not live in the congested area as outlined on the map.

In several cases evidences of crowding and poor home conditions were found. Three families were living in shabby tenement buildings. In these cases the homes were sparsely furnished and the rooms were dark and bare. Other homes were reported to be extremely

dirty and cluttered, and on the whole living conditions were poor. In one of these homes the conditions were described as very poor. A family of six occupied three rooms in a shabby building. The father cared for his children during the day while his wife worked. The home was crowded and only a passageway existed between the furniture. The home was dirty and showed signs of poor management. The home was temporarily crowded as the woman had several men friends who spent short periods of time in the home.

In only three of the cases recorded were the living conditions believed to be satisfactory.

Mrs. Isnor, a widow, and her adopted daughter live in a four room apartment building which is very attractive. At the age of 15 Winnifred became difficult to control and was charged with violating the town ordinance and was committed to the Maritime Home for Girls.

Mrs. Payne, who has been separated from her husband for several years lives in a fairly comfortable home which is clean and well-kept. Her two sons, William, 14 and Munroe, 16 live with her. In 1958 Munroe was charged with truancy and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys. In 1959 Munroe was recommitted to that institution on a Warrant of the Minister of Welfare because of his inability to adjust and get along satisfactorily in his home.

In the third case little was recorded except that the father and his three children lived in a comfortable dwelling. This man owned his home. This is the only case where the dwelling was recorded to be owned by a family. The remainder of the homes were

reported to be rented.

From this study of the housing and living conditions of these families it has been apparent that in the majority of cases, conditions have been poor. The most significant finding is the degree of overcrowding that exists in so many of the cases. Roy Baber sums up the damaging effects of such overcrowding as follows:

"Overcrowding sometimes results in personal disorganization. The necessity of protecting oneself from complete invasion of privacy develops a defensive attitude, an irritability and touchiness making for continual mental strain and producing resentment in others, which in turn merely heightens the tension. The increased efforts to build protective walls about one's personality are in vain and the result is a depressing sense of frustration. Psychiatrists point out that under such conditions a child's sense of individuality is challenged and he may not be able to achieve self sufficiency."¹

Thus, if the effects of overcrowding are so great on a child then the parents too must suffer deprivation in this limited environment. Professor Stephenson, in discussing the growth of Halifax said:

"In part, the growth is healthy and includes some of the finest residential development in North America; in part, it is a story of spreading blight through the overcrowding of worn housing."²

Remembering that the dwelling unit, the home,

¹ Roy E. Baber, The Family (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, Incorporated, 1953), p. 11.

² Stephenson, op. cit., preface viii; p. 17.

address. This represents more than one half of the 58 cases studied. The figure shows a levelling off and is fairly evenly divided between the families having one to four moves. Five of the families were recorded to have moved more than five times. Of this group one family moved seven times, another ten. Two of the families moved on 12 different occasions. The remaining family had a total of 18 moves.

The majority of the families who showed frequent mobility had moved within the City of Halifax. It is significant to point out that five families, although moving on several occasions remained in the same neighbourhood. This would appear to be an indication of great instability on the part of the family group since the move did not improve living conditions. Three of the cases studied had interprovince moves. Two of the families moved from the city to suburban areas.

The writer finds it very significant that 35 of the families in the sample showed no change of address. This would show that in the majority of cases mobility was not a significant factor in the family disorganization and in this aspect of living the families showed signs of stability.

FIGURE 8

DEGREE OF MOBILITY IN 58 CASES

<u>Degree of Mobility</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Same Address	35
One Move	5
Two Moves	5
Three Moves	4
Four Moves	4
More than Four Moves	5*
Total	58

*One family moved seven times
 Another family moved 10 times
 Two families moved 12 times
 The remaining family moved 18 times

Other factors in the family social situation

Education is a very important aspect of the life of the individual. However, the writer found it impossible to include a section on this because of the limited information in the case records. In the universal sample the education of the parents was given in only 12 cases. Only three of these cases fell into the researcher's sample.

The writer also found no information available on the social and community activities of these families. Unfortunately, in only four cases the parents' religious practices were recorded. In these cases all that was

recorded was that the family attended or they did not attend church. It is very likely that in families where disorganization was in existence social and religious activities were not a part of family life. Some reference can be made to a companion thesis, as a study of the religious activities of the children in the sample is included.¹

From the discussion in this chapter it is apparent that, on the whole, the delinquents under study have come from neighbourhoods and areas where the poorest housing conditions exist. This has been evident in enough cases for it to be regarded as a trend for the group.

"Many problems of physical and mental health, as well as those of family relationships, can be traced to unsatisfactory housing. When family members have little opportunity for privacy, for social and recreational activities, and for rest, emotional disturbances and tensions are likely to develop. The emotional damage may be more far reaching and difficult to correct than the damage to physical health."²

When children and youth are badly starved because of unsatisfactory developmental conditions, it is a wonder that so many still manage to function adequately

¹ Robert Doyle, "The Community and the Delinquent" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Maritime School of Social Work, 1961).

² Frances L. Feldman, The Family in a Money World (New York: Family Service Association of America, 1957), p. 115.

rather than grow delinquent.

Therefore, society is directly involved in this delinquency problem because, it is society that fosters community and family conditions which bring about change.

Juvenile delinquency is endemic in our society and its causes may stem back to social conditions. So long as these conditions continue, the problem of delinquency must persist although controlled and lessened.

Once the public is fully aware of the influential part it currently plays in causing delinquency of various kinds and degrees, community attitudes and practices regarding the problem may alter and result in better plans for the welfare of all concerned.

CHAPTER VI

ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE FAMILY

Never before in the history of the nation has the family been under such stress and strain as today. Economic and social factors are at work which, while putting into the hands of the family more material resources than at any other time in history, are also exerting such influences that parents have difficulty in providing their children with the protection, counsel and support they require to reach their potentialities.¹

"In our culture money, or its absence, has great significance. We find human worth being equated with financial achievement; success being measured in terms of material possessions. The presence or absence of these financial resources affects the degree of well-being of family members and the quality of their personal relationships. Advancing knowledge about the motivations, both psychological and cultural, in regard to behaviour has made it increasingly apparent that money is a significant factor in the social adjustment of individuals and families irrespective of their economic status."²

Social workers have a particular concern about the economic threats of family life. The country's

¹Jay L. Roney, "Special Stresses on Low Income Families," Journal of Social Casework, XXXVIII, No. 2 (February, 1958), 150.

²Feldman, op. cit., preface iii-iv; p. 17.

current prosperity, together with advances in social welfare programs, has reduced the economic hazards for families but by no means has eliminated them.

The problem of low income for certain groups is not new, but certain new elements are present in the current situation. One new element is the contrast between the prosperity of a large segment of the population and the low purchasing power of a relatively small segment. The smaller the proportion of the population with this economic handicap, the more difficult the role of this group becomes in society. In this culture it is assumed that people are able to supply themselves with material goods that are included in the increasingly high standard of living. The pressures for conformity, emphasized by movies, television, radio and advertising not only tend to make everyone desire certain goods, but to think they must have them. Low income families are not immune to these pressures. The resulting frustration creates many tensions between husband and wife as well as between parents and children. The frequent complaint of children that "everyone" has something or "everyone" is doing something means, of course, everyone but them.¹

¹Honey, op. cit., p. 153.

Women, especially married women, comprise a larger proportion of the working force than at any other time. In general, the higher the husband's income the less likely the mother is to work. Lower income families always have been forced to rely on some earnings by the wife; the proportion of working women in this group has not changed markedly in recent years.

When the working mother has young or school aged children some provision must be made for their care and protection. Low-income families, particularly those who must rely on neighbours or other inexpensive help are not likely to obtain adequate care for them. The problem of child care assumes even greater magnitude for the working mother living without a husband, since she must carry the full responsibility for household management and child rearing. Often the decision to work is not made voluntarily but is enforced on her by community pressures.¹

Adverse economic conditions, combined with other influences in the home, appear to have some relationship to delinquency. The majority of studies done on court samples of arraigned delinquents bring out the

¹ Harry H. Shulman, "The Family and Juvenile Delinquency," op. cit., p. 129.

low income status of the family and the fact that a large proportion of these families have been recipients of aid from public and private social agencies. Burt, in his London Study, discovered more poverty in the homes of his delinquents than in those of his control group of nondelinquents from the same neighbourhood and schools.¹

The writer has found himself somewhat limited in obtaining the economic status of the families under study. In only three cases was the weekly or yearly income of the family recorded. However, in the majority of the cases the writer was able to obtain the occupation of the fathers. In order to determine the average income for the specific occupations the writer obtained the national income rates from the local labour council. The average hourly rate for a skilled tradesman is \$1.73, for a semi-skilled tradesman is \$1.30 and for an unskilled tradesman it is \$1.35²

In this chapter the writer will discuss the husband's income as well as other sources of income that might be coming into the home.

¹ Roney, op. cit., p. 154.

² Interview with Mr. J. K. Bell, Treasurer, Halifax and Dartmouth District Labour Council, March 22, 1961.

Parents who were married and living together

The writer will first consider the economic status of the parents who were married and operating as part of a family unit on March 31, 1960. Four children will not be included in this group. These children were living in foster homes or in the homes of relatives and the economic status in these cases was not recorded.

The first group consists of 36 families and of this group the occupation of six husbands was not recorded.

FIGURE 9

DISTRIBUTION OF 36 CASES ACCORDING TO THE
OCCUPATION OF THE FATHERS AS OF MARCH 31, 1960

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional	0
Skilled Trades	6
Semi-skilled	8*
Unskilled	7
Armed Services	3
Other	1
Unemployed	5
Not Recorded	6
Total	36

* This includes merchant seaman, truck and taxi drivers, foremen, checkers and a basket maker.

Figure 9 illustrates the distribution of the occupations of 36 of the fathers. From the figure it would appear that 17 of the men were making an adequate income. No financial problems seemed to be indicated in this group. This category includes those who were skilled tradesmen, semi-skilled tradesmen and those serving in the armed services. Three men were in the armed services. One man held the rank of Chief Petty Officer and the other two men were Corporals. In one of these cases it was reported that the man received a monthly income of \$285. It should be pointed out that men serving in the armed services are economically secure because they do not face the threat of being laid off.

Six men in this group were skilled tradesmen. This included three men who were electricians, one a machinist, one a stationary engineer and one man who was a baker.

In eight cases the father was employed as a semi-skilled tradesman. One of these families was very unstable financially.

The Tullys are an Indian family. Mr. Tully is employed as a basket maker. However, this is impaired by the fact that he has a withered hand. However, he seldom works. He drinks heavily and has failed to support his family. The couple have two boys, Leonard, 15 and an older son. In 1958 Leonard was charged with theft and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys.

One man in the group was self employed. He and his wife operated a boarding home.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien have three children, 4, 11 and 16. The parents operate a boarding home. It was reported that the parents were more interested in money than they were in their children. In 1959 Lorne O'Brien, along with two other boys was charged with car theft. He was also charged with break, enter and theft and committed to the Nova Scotia School for Boys.

A varied picture of economic status can be seen within the other groups. Two of these men had seasonal employment. However, they were working at the time of recording. In three other cases where the man was employed as an unskilled labourer evidence of heavy drinking was found which would, in part, burden the family financially. In one of these cases it was reported that the man did not support his family.

Five of the men in the group illustrated by figure 9 were unemployed. One man in this group was not working because he had received a leg injury. However, in this case no other source of income was coming into the home. One other man who was unemployed was receiving a small veteran's pension. In two other cases the husband was not employed and the wife was working in order to support the family. One of these women was employed as a factory worker and her husband cared for the children during her working hours. The other

woman was working but her type of employment was not recorded. In this case it was reported that her husband did little except play cards. However, the mother was receiving some support from her former husband. Mr. Dodge was the fifth man in this group.

Mr. and Mrs. Dodge had been separated for a lengthy period. Mr. Dodge returned to the home one year ago. The man was employed as a baker. However, he was fired from his job for drinking. It was reported that Mr. Dodge drinks excessively and does not support his family.¹

It has been noted that two women were working while their husbands were working. In the total group of 36 families, six of the mothers were working. In two of these cases the women were self employed as they were operating boarding houses. Another woman, whose husband was an electrician, was a waitress in a restaurant. The remaining woman was a trained clerk typist but was employed as a housekeeper.

The picture presented by these findings does not show economic insecurity on the part of most of these families. It would appear that their income was adequate. However, in order to assess accurately the actual economic position of the family other factors other than the rate of income must be considered. It is apparent that the size of the family, the steadiness of the

¹Supra, p. 39.

income, the presence of problems of financial debts, chronic alcoholism and poor management modify the actual adequacy of the income rate for each individual family.

Families where only one parent was present

This group consists of parents who had been separated or widowed at March 31, 1960. In 11 of the 13 cases it was the father who was absent from the home. Of this group four women were working in order to support the family. One was employed as a saleslady for a fur company. Another was employed as a domestic in a city hospital. In this case the couple had separated in 1943 and their only child remained with the mother. It was reported that the father partially supported his wife and child by sending them small sums of money. However, this was not a sufficient amount to support the family and the mother found it necessary to go to work.

The amount of income was not noted in any of these cases. One mother had previously been living common law for a time. The common law husband looked after expenses while he was in the home and thus gave the family some economic security. This is the case of Mrs. Vaughan who separated from her common law husband in 1957. She then moved to the home of her father with

her children. Mrs. Vaughan went to work to support herself and her five children.¹

A fourth woman, with five children, had been employed as a factory worker since her husband's death. This mother was also receiving social assistance as her salary did not provide an adequate income for the family.

Two other mothers who were not working were also in receipt of social assistance. Mrs. Archer was one of these.

Mrs. Archer was separated from her husband. His present whereabouts are unknown. At the time of their marriage Mr. Archer was a cook in the Navy. Since his absence it was recorded that the mother has had several men friends. She had four children by Mr. H. However he did not support her or the family in any way.²

In another case the family had been charged with neglect. Following the charge the husband left the home and failed to support his wife. Prior to his absence the father took no responsibility for the family. The mother has continued to maintain the family and receives social assistance.

In one further case nothing was known about the economic security of the family. In this case the mother, who had been divorced from her husband, was

¹Supra, p. 56.

²Supra, p. 72.

maintaining her two children. It was not known whether the father contributed to the family or not. However, in this case the home conditions were quite poor which would point out economic instability in the family.

The income of the two remaining women was reported to be adequate. In both of these cases the father was deceased, leaving each mother with one child. The writer finds it significant that these two children, who showed signs of delinquent behaviour at the ages of 13 and 15, had been adopted. Both these children were later committed to correctional institutions. It would appear that these two families were more stable than most of the families studied in this group.

In two families the mother was the parent who was absent from the home. In one case the mother had left the home in 1956. Since this time the father has continued to care and provide for his three children. The father was reported to be employed as a truck driver and maintained full responsibility for the family. In the final case the father had been deserted by his common law wife. The man employed a housekeeper to care for his children during the day. The father worked regularly at City Field. It would appear that this man was receiving a fairly substantial income and his family appeared to be somewhat financially secure.

Parents who were living in common law

Four of the families in the sample were living in common law on March 31, 1960. In three of these cases no information concerning the economic status was recorded. In one case it was reported that the man received a DVA pension. His common law wife was employed as a charwoman. It may be pointed out that in these cases the social status of the family was quite low. In all of these cases the families were living in substandard and crowded dwellings.

The writer now finds it fitting to discuss the economic status of the families already discussed who can be located on the spot map.¹ As illustrated in the previous chapter the majority of these families were living in substandard and overcrowded dwellings. In the congested area on the map the overall housing conditions were quite poor. The writer finds it quite significant that where the poorest housing conditions prevailed the families were economically unstable.

In the 13 of the families the father or common law husband was present in the home. The economic status in four of these cases was not recorded. In the remaining group only two men were employed as semi-skilled

¹Supra, p. 67

tradesmen. In one case the man was earning \$60 a week as a maintenance man.

A varied picture can be seen in the economic status of the remaining group. In three cases the man was unemployed. Mr. Paice is one of these.

Mr. and Mrs. Paice and their three children occupy two rooms in a crowded tenement building. Mr. Paice was employed as a labourer but was released from his job, due to a leg injury. It was reported that the man was a heavy drinker.¹

In the second case the father was receiving a DVA pension while his common law wife worked as a charwoman. In this case the couple had 12 children. In the other case the man lost his job because of excessive drinking. Prior to this the man was employed as a baker. This man had been separated from his family for a lengthy period. Since his return he has taken no responsibility for the welfare of his family.

In two cases the father was employed as a labourer. In both cases the men were seasonally employed. In one case it was reported that the man drank excessively and had failed to support his family adequately.

In four families living in this area the father was not present in the home. In one case it was difficult to determine whether the woman was living in a common law

¹Supra, p. 71.

union. It was reported that Mrs. Archer had lived with several men. However, these men did not support her or her 12 children. This woman was receiving social assistance. One other woman was also receiving social assistance. In this case the woman was employed as a factory worker and attempting to care for her six children in a very poor dwelling. This is the case of Mrs. Doyle.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Doyle has been employed at a candy factory. The family of six live in a two room crowded dwelling. Reginald, age 15, who is one of the delinquents in the sample, was sleeping with his sister in a room with his mother and younger sister.¹

In one case the economic stability of the family was not recorded. In the final case the family appeared to be more stable than the others. In this case the mother was employed and the home was reported to be well-furnished and comfortable.

The picture presented in the last groups is, in general, one of economic security and stability. Being financially insecure places stress upon the family and leaves them more prone to difficulties of other types. Families that are better able to deal with the strains of modern living are those in which the members are emotionally secure and economic stability is one of the

¹ Supra, p. 72.

prerequisites for such security. The feelings of inadequacy, engendered by lack of money, create additional handicaps for disadvantaged families and increase the difficulties of rehabilitation. In the majority of these cases discussed in the last group the father was absent from the home. This creates a hazard for the families. To be successful in family living, the family needs to be assured of a reasonable continuity of income, preferably by steady employment on the part of the head of the family.¹

From this discussion the writer would conclude that for the most part the families in the sample groups were economically secure. The writer has observed that the majority of the men were employed in occupations that supplied them with an adequate income. It would appear that in some cases, although an adequate income was obtained, poor management in handling the money could have been a contributing factor to the families' low social status. In cases where families were economically unstable their income has limited their housing space and has caused them to live in crowded quarters.

It would appear that the interpersonal relation-

¹Ewan Clague, "Economic Factors Affecting Family Living," Social Casework, XXXIII, No. 8, (October, 1952), 325.

ship between the parents is the nucleus of the problem of delinquency rather than the more peripheral but often incriminated and related economic factors. As a child mirrors all the aspirations, yearnings and secret desires of his parents in health, so does he reflect the parental attitudes in disease. Therefore the delinquent child cannot be considered apart from the warped passions, the unconscious hostilities, the past and current life experiences of his parents. These attitudes in turn become part of the child's total character.¹

¹ B. E. Schwartz and B. A. Ruggiere, "Morbid Parent - Child Passions in Delinquency," op. cit., p. 15.

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The family is the basic unit of our society and it, more than any other force, determines what people will be.¹ It was with this concept in mind that the writer studied the 58 families in the sample. These cases were studied in relation to the marital situation of the parents as well as the social and economic factors. The writer has also included a discussion on the delinquents themselves, in relation to the type of offences committed and the existing delinquency problem in the City of Halifax.

The writer has observed that the offences committed by the delinquents were not of the most serious type. Break and enter, theft and property damage were the major complaints levied against the delinquents and cases of assault and immorality were relatively few.

The writer has found that the majority of delinquents came from either unstable or broken homes or were the children of unmarried parents. Of the parents who

¹Supra, p. 4.

were married at the time of the child's birth, 75% of the parents were still operating as part of a family unit on March 31, 1960. It would appear that the marital difficulties within the family were more significant than the physical break. In many cases where an actual break did not occur instability and disorganization were in evidence. The writer would further conclude that the parents for the most part were unstable and insecure and this created a very confusing atmosphere for their children and this in turn contributed to delinquent behaviour.

The researcher has found that the majority of the fathers were employed in occupations that would supply them with an adequate income in order to maintain their homes. The writer feels that this would be an asset in helping these families. It would seem that the marital problems were not made severe by lack of money which can create additional problems for the family. However, where a low economic status was in evidence the problem was coupled with crowded and unhealthy living conditions.

Many of the families studied were living in unsatisfactory home conditions. Substandard, crowded and unhealthy living conditions appeared to be a trend in this study. Thus it is concluded that the housing conditions of the families under study may very well be causal factors in the problems that existed within the

families. The great majority of the delinquents lived in the congested area shown on the map. It was among this group that the housing conditions were the poorest and the marital status of the families showed the greatest instability.

"Housing is one of the three basic necessities of family life. Adequate food and clothing may be immediately essential to the business of staying alive, but without housing the family can hardly fulfill its function as the primary unit of society. The more society develops toward civilization, the more demands it makes upon the family's housing. Whereas in primitive societies tepees and huts suffice, proper housing today means a dwelling that is structurally sound, equipped with the necessary utensils and furnishings for healthful and sanitary living and for at least minimal comfort, and spacious enough to permit sleep and relaxation with a modicum of privacy. Nor is the adequacy of housing judged solely by the condition of the individual unit. Adult life and the development of the growing generation are affected by the quality of the neighbourhood in which the home is situated."¹

Substandard housing tends to break down morale and no doubt becomes, in many instances, one of various interrelated factors involved in the disorganization of the family and the individual.

"We become exasperated and even sadistic in our demands for punishment when we read of some of the crimes committed by slum dwellers. Yet we continue to pay enormous annual crime bills without becoming impatient at delays in eliminating slum conditions which foster so much of the crime."²

¹Bryne J. Hoode, "Housing and City Planning," Social Work Year Book (New York: American Association of Social Workers, 1954), p. 257.

²Murray, op. cit., pp. 637-638.

Of all the factors contributing to the making of slums, overcrowding is generally the most decisive. Overcrowding in a city is due primarily to an overall shortage of housing accommodation. The supply of housing is affected by various economic factors.

In the past decade relatively little rental accommodation has been built, and that which has been is beyond the means of the majority of the families. This is true in regard to Halifax, and in particular, to those families in the poorer areas. Home ownership is also beyond their reach. Even if it were possible for them to accumulate money for a down payment, and this is an impossibility for the majority, the carrying charges are heavy and the lending institutions demand that a home owner should have a much higher family income than that generally prevailing. In order to solve this dilemma the first and most important step to be taken is to provide economical housing on available sites within the city. In this way overcrowding might be relieved.¹

Great efforts are being made in the Halifax area for the clearance of slums and the provision of better housing accommodations for the lower economic group. However, such programs will have to be continued if the

¹Stephenson, op. cit., p. 46.

situation is to be improved. If the people are really serious about the welfare of the family, government housing projects should make it a requirement that children be a condition to renting desirable housing built for the family rather than for profit alone. Such family planned housing projects could have play space available within the city block, thus encouraging the development of neighbourly spirit, in addition to providing for the safety of children seeking necessary recreation.

Sociologists, psychiatrists, criminologists and practically all other scientific students of American society agree that the family is our basic social institution. It performs essential services for society which no other agency can successfully take over. In spite of our large expenditures for public education, the majority of educators admit that the most important part of an individual's education, in the broader sense, is received in the home. The criminologist continually testifies to the importance of home training as a preventive of crime. But the home is not only a school of childhood; it is just as much a school for adults. A great deal has been written about adult education, but the home is our greatest project in adult education.

"It is a school of loving experience in which two adult mates, man and woman, are educated - educated out of instinctive egoism and selfishness, out of native self-centeredness which is diametrically opposed to the disinterested love that lies at the base of Christian morality, and for that matter at the base of the moral codes of humanity."¹

The seriousness of family disorganization in the group under study emphasizes the need for continued and renewed efforts to be made by the social workers of this community in rebuilding the families who are known to their agencies.

The family pattern of the sample group has been revealed and evidence of family disorganization through parental separation and unsatisfactory marital relationship has been discovered. The number of common law unions, illegitimate children and deserted families indicates that many of these families deviated from the mores of the community in which they live. The housing conditions for the most part appeared to be quite poor. However, on the whole, the families had an income that could be used constructively in planning for their rehabilitation.

The complexity of the problems shown by these families indicates the necessity of co-operation between

¹ John N. Cooper, Birth Control (National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D.C., 1923), p. 24.

agencies in the prevention of family disorganization. The fact that the problems of these families, if unchecked, tend to reproduce themselves for generation after generation has been born out by numerous studies. How to reach and serve constructively those families who seem to be caught in a never ending cycle of social and personal breakdown is now an exploratory project of the Halifax Welfare Council.

The Executive Director of the Halifax Welfare Council said that although welfare agencies cherished the individuality of their own traditions, some integration was necessary if the needs of the multi-problem families were to be solved.¹

"These are the families that have many problems - health, financial, poor housing, marital problems, poor parent child relationships, desertion and many others."²

Research has shown that effective methods of treating these families with numerous problems is possible. Welfare agencies are more convinced than ever that the social work profession must bring its skills to bear in a logical and structural manner on the problems of these families. There must be identification and isolation of the factors which contribute to disintegration

¹ The Mail-Star (Halifax), February 28, 1961, p. 3.

² Ibid.

of these multi-problem families and which keep them at such low levels of functioning.¹

The source of the delinquent problems rests in disorganized families; in immaturity on the part of the parents; in impulsivity on the part of the parents and in personality disorders on the part of the parents. In terms of proximate prevention, early treatment of these families is most necessary. Marriage counselling should be made available as soon as there are signs of breakdown between the marriage partners.²

The disintegration of the marriage of the parents studied illustrates that much work needs to be done in the area of marital and pre-marital counselling.

One way to preserve and safeguard the family is to formulate a program of education and service. An adequate educational program in any agency or institution, private, religious or governmental, would include a series of lectures, study groups and full courses on marriage and the family. These lectures should be delivered by physicians, psychiatrists, social workers, lawyers and clergymen. The lecturers should be selected not only

¹Kenneth Dick and Lydia Strnad, "The Multi-Problem Family and Problems of Service," Journal of Social Casework, Vol. XXXIX, No. 5, (June, 1958), 349.

²Interview with Dr. Dunsworth, Child Guidance Clinic, October 22, 1960.

because of their special training and experience but also because of their ability to present and to interpret material in a scientific, stimulating and effective manner.¹ This type of program has already been developed in a local university and in certain churches in the Halifax area. Such programs should be supported and increased for they are very valuable in educating people for marriage.

The researcher feels that continued development of such programs would enable more people to enter marriage better prepared to meet the responsibilities that it embraces. Romantic love as a sole motive for entering marriage must be presented as a dangerous thing, and it should be taught that in marriage a sensible standard of living must be willingly accepted.

One agency² exists within the community where marital counselling is an active part of the service offered. However, this agency can only provide service to a limited number and many families are not seeking help early enough for the marriage to be saved. If more families could be reached earlier by the proper resources, it is possible that much of this family breakdown could

¹Goldstein, op. cit., pp. 26-27.

²Family Service Bureau, 2 Prince Street, Halifax.

be avoided and the family could be helped back into a strong, well functioning unit. This indicates the importance of an awareness on the part of social workers of the various resources in the community which may help the clients with their family problems and to refer them to these resources. However, it points out also the importance of public relations. Social work agencies have the obligation to make known the nature of their service to the public. In this way other professional people who come in contact with problems such as this will be able to direct people to the proper sources of help.

Social workers who give service to delinquents and their families have, as their task today, to help the public know and appreciate the facts of delinquency that have been discovered through research.

One of the requirements of the great group of people who work with delinquents and their parents is for them to acquire a common knowledge and understanding of the offenders' problems. This will involve a recognition of family background and patterns of family life which may produce in a child an unhealthy personality and problems which may result in delinquent behaviour. This knowledge and understanding could then be used to promote a change which would develop a healthier per-

sonality in this child. Professional people also have to learn how to make this knowledge available to parents in ways that parents can understand and use. Then and only then will there be a new generation of young people who will have larger reserves of mental and physical health and a more adequate level of social functioning than this generation.

APPENDIX

SCHEDULE FOR READING RECORDS
AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

SECTION I

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

- A. Name:
- B. Date of Birth:
- C. Race:
- D. Religion:
- E. Legal Guardian of Child:
- F. Home Address:
- G. Date of Opening of Case:
- H. Status as of March 31st, 1960:
Probation _____ Institution _____ After-Care _____
- I. Social Service Index Clearance: Yes _____ No _____
If yes list agencies registered, with dates:

SECTION IIBACKGROUND HISTORYA. Family.

1. Father:

- a. Name
- b. Date of Birth
- c. Place of Birth
- d. Religion
- e. Race
- f. Marital Status
- g. Education
- h. Present Occupation
- i. Income
- j. Other Significant Information
- k. Date of Death

2. Mother:

- a. Name Maiden Name
- b. Date of Birth
- c. Place of Birth
- d. Religion
- e. Race
- f. Marital Status

- 2 -

g. Education

h. Present Occupation

i. Income

j. Other Significant Information

k. Date of Death

3. Siblings (List each separately if possible. If not give any general information about siblings.)

a. Name

b. Sex

c. Date of Birth

d. Place of Birth

e. Religion

f. Race

g. Marital Status (married name also for females)

h. Education

i. Present Occupation

j. Income

k. Other Significant Information

1. Date of Death

B. Changes of Residence of Child

1.- Own Home	Place	Dates
--------------	-------	-------

2. Foster Home	Place	Dates
----------------	-------	-------

3. Relatives' Home	Place	Dates
--------------------	-------	-------

4. Institution (Name)	Place	Dates
-----------------------	-------	-------

C. Mobility of Family. (Give addresses, length of residence, reasons for moving.)

D. Description of home.

1. Type of dwelling

2. Number of rooms

3. Number of people in home

4. Owned _____ Rented _____ Free _____

5. Facilities (bathroom, toilet, hot water, etc.)

6. Worker's impression of home:

E. Contacts with other Agencies (dates and details)

SECTION IIIPSYCHIATRIC REPORTA. First Psychiatric Report Received by Agency.

1. Clinic, Hospital or other Place at which child was seen
2. Name of psychiatrist
3. Date of report
4. Referral to psychiatrist:
 - a. By whom made
 - b. Reason for referral
5. Digest of report plus summary

B. Later psychiatric reports (record individually)

1. Clinic, Hospital or other Place at which child was seen
2. Name of psychiatrist
3. Date of report
4. Referral to psychiatrist:
 - a. By whom made
 - b. Reason for referral

SECTION IVPSYCHOLOGICAL REPORTA. First Psychological Report Received by Agency

1. Date of Report
2. Psychologist
3. Referral to psychologist:
 - a. By whom made
 - b. Reason for referral

4. I. Q.
5. Name of I. Q. test

6. Projective and personality tests used

7. Summary of findings

B. Later Psychological Reports (list each separately as above)

SECTION VDEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

A. Significant Information about Birth and Early Development.

B. Symptoms of Emotional Disturbance. (Give age of occurrence and methods of dealing with symptom.)

C. Behaviour Problems. (Give ages of occurrence and methods used in dealing with problem including court appearances and probation with dates.)

1. Stealing

2. Truancy

3. Lying

4. Running away from home

5. Vandalism

6. Assault

7. Cruelty to: a. children

b. animals

8. Sexual offences

9. Drinking

10. Illegal use of drugs

11. Incurigibility

12. Profanity

13. Breaking of curfew law

14. Others

D. Social Development. (Indicate age where significant)

1. Relationships:

a. Parents (specify mother and father)

b. Siblings

c. Peers

- d. Girls
- e. Teachers
- f. Clergymen
- g. Other adults

2. Social Activities:

- a. Organized activities (indicate whether sponsored as educational, church or social)

- b. Informal activities

- c. Gang activities (details of composition of gang)

- i. age

- ii. sex

- iii. size

iv. race

E. Parental Handling. (State whether father and/or mother or parental substitutes.)

1. Discipline: overstrict _____; moderate _____; lax _____.

2. Consistency of handling: consistent _____; inconsistent _____.

3. Methods:

4. Parental attitudes:

F. Physical Description of Child at time of opening of case.

G. Later Comments of Significance about Physical Appearance. (Give dates)

H. Religious Activity

1. Does child attend Church: regularly _____ sometimes _____
not at all _____.
2. Details of religious activities and attitudes.

SECTION VIMEDICAL HISTORY

(If report negative indicate _____ and do not complete)

- A. Significant Childhood Diseases (give dates)

- B. Physical Handicaps (indicate treatment)

- C. Hereditary or Familial Illnesses
 - 1. Child

 - 2. Family

- D. Hospitalization Prior to Opening of Case (give dates)
 - 1. Operations

 - 2. Accidents

 - 3. Other

- E. Reports from other Medical Resources of Contacts Prior to Opening of Case
 - 1. Department of Public Health

 - 2. Mental Hospitals

F. Reports of Medical Examinations after Opening of Case. (State findings and recommendations.)

G. Details of Medical Treatment after Opening of Case

SECTION VIISCHOOL RECORDA. As of Time of Opening of Case

1. Age at entering school
2. Age on leaving school and reason
3. Schools attended
4. Grade attained, academic standing, grades repeated and progress.

5. School adjustment: excellent _____; very good _____;
good _____; fair _____; poor _____.

General comments:

6. Attendance: good _____; poor _____.

7. Deportment: satisfactory _____; unsatisfactory _____.

(Give details)

8. Participation in extra-curricular activities (give details).

9. Child's expressed attitude towards school.

B. Later Information about School Record. (give dates)

SECTION VIIIEMPLOYMENTA. Full Time

1. Age at commencement of employment
2. Type of work
3. Length of periods of employment
4. Earnings: hourly _____; daily _____; weekly _____.
5. Reasons for leaving jobs:
 - a. Work terminated
 - b. Work performance unsatisfactory
 - c. Behaviour unsatisfactory
 - d. Left voluntarily (details)

B. Part-Time

1. Age at commencement of employment
2. Type of work
3. Length of periods of employment
4. Nature of employment: after school _____; weekend _____;
summer _____; other casual _____.
5. Earnings: hourly _____; daily _____; weekly _____.
6. Reasons for leaving jobs:
 - a. Work terminated
 - b. Work performance unsatisfactory
 - c. Behaviour unsatisfactory
 - d. Left voluntarily (details)

6. Vandalism (specify)

7. Sex offenses

8. Incurrigibility

9. Vagrancy

10. Other

C. Type of Court

1. Juvenile
2. Magistrate
3. Other

D. Complainant

1. Police
2. Attendance Officer
3. Parents
4. Citizens

- 3 -

5. Social Agency

6. Other

E. Legal Representation (give recommendations)

1. Crown

2. Defense

F. Disposition of case

1. Temporary Suspension

2. Commitment to Director

3. Probation

4. After-care

5. Commitment to Institution

6. Dismissal

Period of probation: 1st

2nd

3rd

SECTION XPROBATION

(Complete a separate section X for each period on probation)

A. Date of Court HearingB. Pre-trial Study

1. By whom

2. Number of interviews (note with whom)

3. Aspects of individual and environment included

a. Family background Yes _____ No _____

b. Family relationships Yes _____ No _____

c. School Yes _____ No _____

d. Youth groups Yes _____ No _____

e. Church Yes _____ No _____

4. Recommendation of probation officer

C. Judge's Criteria for Disposition (details)

1. Pre-trial study
2. Previous record
3. Attitude of child
4. Behaviour of child during temporary probation

D. Conditions of Probation

1. Temporary (give length) or outright
2. Restitution (details)
3. Fine
4. Reporting (give details of frequency, place and time)
5. Obedience to parents
6. Observance of curfew (details)
7. School attendance
8. Geographical limits (details)
9. Separation from gang (details)
10. Other

E. Nature of Probation Service

1. Number of contacts by Probation Officer

- a. child
- b. mother
- c. father
- d. both parents
- e. other

2. Type of contact

- a. casework (summary of content)

- b. law enforcement
- c. routine

3. Attitudes toward probation (substantiate)

- a. child

- b. parents

F. Violation of Probation

1. Nature of violation
2. Number of times probation violated
3. Corrective measures

G. Termination of Probation

1. Date of termination
2. Criteria for termination
 - a. satisfactory behaviour
 - b. moved from area
 - c. age
 - d. commitment to institution (give details)

 - e. Others

H. Use of Community Resources for Evaluation

1. Psychiatric services (name)
2. Psychological services (name)
3. Police
4. School (truant officer, etc.)
5. Social agencies

6. Others

I. Effect of Court Procedure on Child

J. Use of Authority (punitive, etc.)

1. By judge

2. By probation officer

Period in Institution: 1st

2nd

3rd

SECTION XIINSTITUTIONAL CARE

(Complete a separate section XI for each period of care in institution)

A. Name of InstitutionB. Date of CommitmentC. Pre-trial Study

1. By whom

2. Number of interviews (with whom)

3. Aspects of individual and environment included:

a. family background	Yes	_____	No	_____
b. family relationships	Yes	_____	No	_____
c. school	Yes	_____	No	_____
d. youth groups	Yes	_____	No	_____
e. church	Yes	_____	No	_____

4. Recommendations of social worker (probation officer or other)

D. Judge's Criteria for Disposition (details)

1. Pre-trial study

2. Previous record

3. Attitude of child

4. Behaviour of child during probation

E. Child's Progress in Institution (give details and dates where appropriate)

1. Adjustment to institutional setting and program

2. Relationships:

a. Staff

b. Peers

3. Treatment plans and progress

a. Casework

b. Psychiatric

c. Counselling (other than by social worker)

F. Contacts with Parents (date and content)

1. By child

2. By institution

3. Other

G. Treatment of Parents (date and details)

1. Casework

2. Psychiatric

3. Other

H. Contacts with Community (date and content)

1. Child's contacts

a. School

b. Church

c. Recreation

d. Individuals in community

Period of after-care: 1st
2nd
3rd

SECTION XIIAFTER-CARE

(Complete a separate section XII for each period of after-care)

A. Name of After-Care Officer

B. Preparation by After-Care Officer

1. Child

- a. Dates of interviews
- b. Where interviews were held
- c. Nature of preparation (casework services)

2. Parents or Substitute Parents

a. Contact with: (give dates if possible and content)

- i. Mother
- ii. Father
- iii. Both parents
- iv. Relative
- v. Guardian

b. Method

- i. Interview (state where held)
- ii. Telephone

iii. Letter

3. Community (state purpose and results if given)

a. School

b. Church

c. Work:

i. employer

ii. N. E. S.

d. Police

e. Clubs

f. Other

C. Selection for Discharge

1. Date of recommendation

2. By whom made

3. Basis of recommendation

4. Suggestions and recommendations for discharge plans

D. After-Care Services (following discharge)

1. Place to which discharged

- a. home
- b. foster home
- c. relatives
- d. other

2. Plan of treatment (verbatim)

3. Casework Services

a. Child

- i. Dates of interviews (or number of interviews during stated period)

- ii. Content of interviews

- iii. Child's attitude and co-operation

- iv. Parole violation and method of handling

- b. Parents or Foster parents
(Give dates of interviews if available)

- i. Mother

- Father

Both parents

Relative

Guardian

ii. Content of interviews

iii. Parents' attitude and co-operation

c. Community
(State dates, purpose and results of interviews)

i. School

ii. Church

iii. Work

Employer

N. E. S.

iv. Police

v. Clubs

vi. Other

D. Final Evaluation

1. Child's adjustment and use of service

2. Parents' use of service

SECTION XIIRECORDINGA. Types of Recording

1. Narrative

a. Summarized (periodic) Yes _____ No _____

b. Chronological Yes _____ No _____

2. Social History Yes _____ No _____

Does it contain:

a. Developmental history Yes _____ No _____

b. Social functioning Yes _____ No _____

c. Psychological status Yes _____ No _____

d. Religious affiliation and
activity Yes _____ No _____

e. Economic status Yes _____ No _____

f. Attitude of family towards
child Yes _____ No _____

g. Recommendations of worker Yes _____ No _____

3. Summaries

a. Summary of impression of child
at time of opening of case Yes _____ No _____

b. Periodic summary in narrative Yes _____ No _____

c. Transfer summary Yes _____ No _____

d. Closing summary including Yes _____ No _____

i. identification of
treatment used Yes _____ No _____

ii. present status of case Yes _____ No _____

iii. prognosis Yes _____ No _____

iv. reasons for closing case Yes _____ No _____

4. Reports

a. School report Yes _____ No _____

b. Psychiatric report Yes _____ No _____

c. Psychological report Yes _____ No _____

- 2 -

5. Documents

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|----|-------|
| a. Copy of commitment paper | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| b. Notice of settlement | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| c. Copy of discharge paper | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| d. Other | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |

6. Correspondence

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-------|----|-------|
| a. Letters to agency from | | | | |
| i. social agencies | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| ii. child | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| iii. relatives | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| iv. others (specify) | | | | |
| b. Letters from agency to | | | | |
| i. social agencies | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| ii. child | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| iii. relatives | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| iv. others (specify) | | | | |
| c. Filing of letters | | | | |
| i. inter-leafed with text | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| ii. filed at end of record | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| d. Dated notation in text with brief account of letter content. | | | | |
| | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| e. Inclusion of sundry correspondence | | | | |
| i. greeting cards | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| ii. appointment letters | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |
| iii. other (specify) | | | | |
| f. Inclusion of inter-office administrative communications. | | | | |
| | Yes | _____ | No | _____ |

B. Content of Recording

1. Psycho-social diagnosis Yes _____ No _____
- a. Date of diagnosis
- b. Was it reaffirmed Yes _____ No _____
- c. Was it changed Yes _____ No _____
2. Treatment Plan
- a. Date of initial treatment plan
- b. Goals Yes _____ No _____
- c. Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses Yes _____ No _____
- d. Use of social worker Yes _____ No _____
- e. Use of other resources Yes _____ No _____
3. Evaluation of Client-Worker Relationship Yes _____ No _____
4. Social Worker's activity (other than with client)
- a. Case conferences Yes _____ No _____
- b. Community contacts by:
- i. interview Yes _____ No _____
- ii. letter Yes _____ No _____
- iii. telephone Yes _____ No _____
- iv. other (specify)

C. Prognosis

1. Stated Yes _____ No _____
2. Date when recorded:
3. Location in record:

D. Currency of Recording

1. Number of interviews recorded

2. Total length of recording
3. Period of time covered by recording
4. Length of periods covered by summarized recording

SECTION XIVRESEARCHER'S COMMENTS

- A. Evaluation of Record. Compare this record to the other case records which you have read at the D.P.W. and rate it, with respect to content, as:

More complete _____ Average _____ Less complete _____
 than average than average

- B. Specific Areas of Value. Does this record have particularly significant or complete material in relation to:

1. Legal aspects
2. Use of authority
3. The recidivist
4. Therapeutic aspects of institutional care
5. Psychiatric evaluation
6. Family relationships
7. Family background
8. Community attitudes
9. Criteria for after-care and parole
10. The social worker and the delinquent
11. Siblings of delinquents
12. Boy under 12 and his needs
13. Adolescent and his needs
14. Girl and her needs
15. The team approach
16. Recording
17. Other

- C. 1. Name of researcher
2. Date
3. Length of time involved in reading record

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