



FACT SHEET ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Sixth Printing

THE PROBLEM

What can a concerned citizen do about the problem of juvenile delinquency?

Many people have asked that question. Members of the Public Affairs Study Committee of the Junior Leagues of Texas attempted to find some answers. Working with staff members of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Child Welfare Division of the Texas Department of Public Welfare, the Board of Pardon and Paroles, and the Office of Mental Health Planning, they visited and obtained information from 206 of Texas' 254 counties, containing 88.3 per cent of the population of Texas.

These interviewers learned that facilities vary greatly throughout the State of Texas. From the study eight recommendations emerged.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Each local law enforcement agency should have either a juvenile bureau or division composed as nearly as possible of five per cent of the force or should have one or more officers or deputies to handle cases involving juveniles.
2. Probation services, with sufficient qualified staff, should be made available to each county in the state.
3. Special detention facilities, not jails, should be developed for those children who must be temporarily removed from the community.
4. Each juvenile court judge should demand thorough screening of every child prior to detention

to insure that no child is detained illegally or unnecessarily.

5. Training programs should be developed at the state level for persons working with delinquent children, including juvenile court judges, probation, parole, and law enforcement officers, detention and institutional personnel, and other related personnel.

6. Jurisdiction of delinquency cases should be placed in the district court or a division of the district court.

7. The state should develop a uniform system for the collection of all necessary statistics relating to delinquency from each of the 254 counties.

8. A state committee should be appointed by the Governor to coordinate all planning, leadership, and services which contribute to the prevention, control, and treatment of delinquency. This committee could determine what is needed and initiate the required action.

THE HOPE

Dynamic concern of interested Texans can help to implement the eight recommendations.

Improved facilities can be provided.

Preventive attention can be given.

Rehabilitation services can be improved.

Hope for the future lies with each person who wants to do something about the problem of juvenile delinquency.



Prepared by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, The University of Texas, for the Public Affairs Study Committee of the Junior Leagues of Texas.

For a more comprehensive report of the problem, read **Chance for a Life**, published by the Hogg Foundation and based on the findings of the survey. 1965