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# Pre-Commitent Factors AmongaSelected Group of Delinquent Girls

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PRE-COMMITMENT FACTORS AMONG  
A SELECTED GROUP OF  
DELINQUENT GIRLS

by

Joan Jane Shaw

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School  
of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Degree of  
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mainly from the Catholic group.

The ages at which these girls were referred to the court and the ages at the time of commitment to the Training School are shown in Figure A. The range of ages at referral is from one year to sixteen years, with the modal age falling at fourteen years. The mean age however is only 11.5 years. Since it is court practice not to consider children under twelve years of age as delinquents except in unusual cases, it is evident that at least twelve girls were referred to the court as dependent children. There is a much narrower range in the ages at time of commitment.<sup>1</sup> Here the modal age is sixteen years and the mean age 15.7 years.

The residential area showing the greatest concentration of cases as given in Figure B., is bounded by 29th Street on the North, Dearborn Street on the West, 62nd Street on the South, and Cottage Grove Avenue on the east. This area was populated largely by negro families and was characterized by low economic standards, sub-standard housing, congested living conditions, and high rates of crime and disease. None of the girls in this study group resided in the outlying residential areas or suburban communities.

<sup>1</sup> Ralph J. Riley, A Working Manual for Juvenile Court Officers, 1932, Chicago, 5

girls. Eighteen pregnancies involving fifteen girls were diagnosed, venereal infections found in an additional six cases, and other infections detected in six girls. Dental reports on forty-nine girls classed them as follows: twenty-nine - good, seven - fair, and thirteen - poor.

Fifty-five girls had been seen in a psychiatric clinic, the greatest proportion of them at the Institute for Juvenile Research. In fifty-four of these recommendations were made as to a plan of treatment. Over forty per cent of these recommendations were for a return to the home or to a community setting. Intelligence Quotients were available in fifty-three cases but as these were obtained on various testing schedules it was impossible to tabulate them as a total group. Table 20 shows the recommendations made in the psychiatric reports.

TABLE 20

## PSYCHIATRIC RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
STATE TRAINING SCHOOL.....	11
BOARDING SCHOOL.....	9
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL.....	8
HOME OR COMMUNITY.....	26
NO REPORT.....	6

The psychiatric reports on these girls contained an explanatory statement of emotional conditions in the family which have contributed to the personality patterns as well as diagnostic material on the girl herself. In thirty-six of the total fifty-four reports there was reference to faulty or total lack of constructive family relationships. Excerpts from these reports illustrate the unhealthy attitudes and the defective family patterns that conditioned the individual character structure.

extremely, simple, crude, childish and emotionally immature adolescent girl who is beginning to strongly identify with irregular elements in her environment...

rejected by parents...found no emotional security with any adults she has lived with...running away and sex delinquency are attempts to find emotional support and security denied her...

lack of training and discipline, considerable element of emotional deprivation, immaturity, insecurity which motivates girl to exercise herself in reactive pleasure seeking direction to compensate for attention she failed to get earlier...

home plan as undisciplined as girl...relationship between parents, unorthodox and unconventional...

The majority of the reports described the girls' personality difficulties in terms of "immaturity," "insecurity," "naive responses," "provocative behavior," "minimal frustration thresholds," "limited mental capacity," and "preoccupation with pleasure seeking activities", rather than reporting

evidence of gross emotional disorders. However, six girls or ten per cent of the cases were diagnosed as having severe emotional disturbances. In three cases, the symptomatology was suggestive of a schizophrenic disorder, and in another the personality makeup was of a type when noted in an adult would be termed psychopathic personality. The two remaining reports described aggressive "acting out" behavior on the part of "much disturbed", "confused", and "socially sick" girls.

The 1948 study group was composed of forty-three negro girls and seventeen white girls whose mean ages at time of referral and time of commitment were 11.7 and 15 years respectively. Eighty per cent of the girls came from broken homes and forty-three per cent were referred to the court for non-delinquent reasons. Fifty-four per cent of the prior dispositions involved court supervision and after the failure of two plans, sixty-two per cent of the girls were committed to the Training School. The majority of girls were found to be in normal physical condition but psychiatric reports indicated a lack of constructive family relationships in sixty-six per cent of the cases.

## CHAPTER III

### COMPARISON OF 1943 AND 1948 GROUPS

In Chapters I and II the precommitment factors in the study groups for 1943 and 1948 have been presented. On the basis of this presentation a comparative study of the significant factors in each year seemed to be indicated in an attempt to determine the differences or similarities between the two groups.

The sizes of the two study groups, each one composed of a fifty per cent sample of the total number of commitments in that year, indicate the first difference. The number of girls needing corrective custodial care, as determined by the Court, in the year 1948 was 1.75 per cent greater than in the year 1943. There was no similar increase in the number of petitions filed in the year 1948 as against 1943. One private institution for delinquent girls was not in operation during 1948 but this would only account for a small percentage of girls. The increase in the percentage of negro girls for whom there are very limited community resources may also account for some of the increase.

Comparison of the personal history factors shows that in 1943 sixty-two per cent of the girls were negro and in 1948 this percentage had increased to seventy-two per cent. However at least part of this ten per cent increase can be explained by population trends in Chicago.

The factor of religion does not show much variation between the two years. The number of Roman Catholic girls and Jewish girls varied only one per cent. The percentage of Greek Orthodox girls in 1943 is misleading as the sampling process by chance included the only two girls of this religious affiliation in the study group. The corrected figure would be three per cent. The eight per cent increase in the Protestant group in 1948 may in part be due to the corresponding increase in negro girls, who for the most part are Protestant, during the same year.

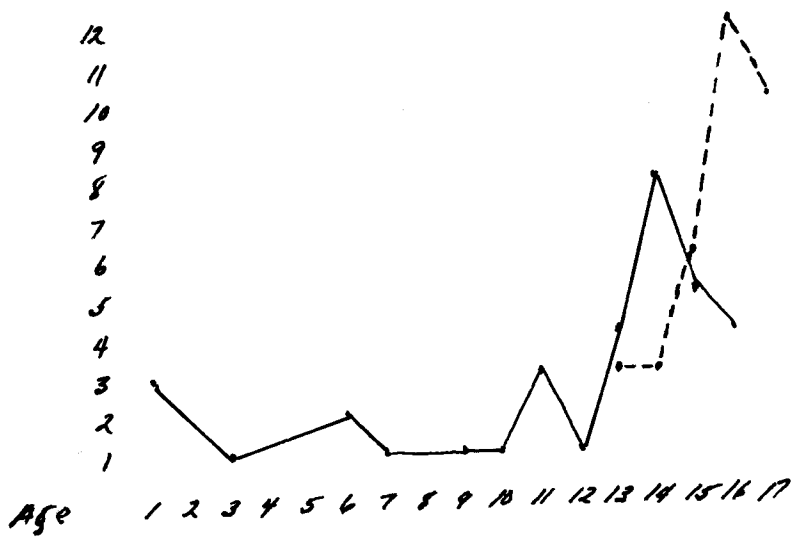
The ages at the time of referral and at the time of commitment for both groups have been plotted by actual number in Figure G<sup>1</sup> and there is a general similarity in the curves. The modal age of referral in 1943, fourteen years, was two years older than the modal age in 1948, but the mean age was 11.5 and 11.7 years respectively. At commitment, the modal age of six-

1 Figure G, Page 45



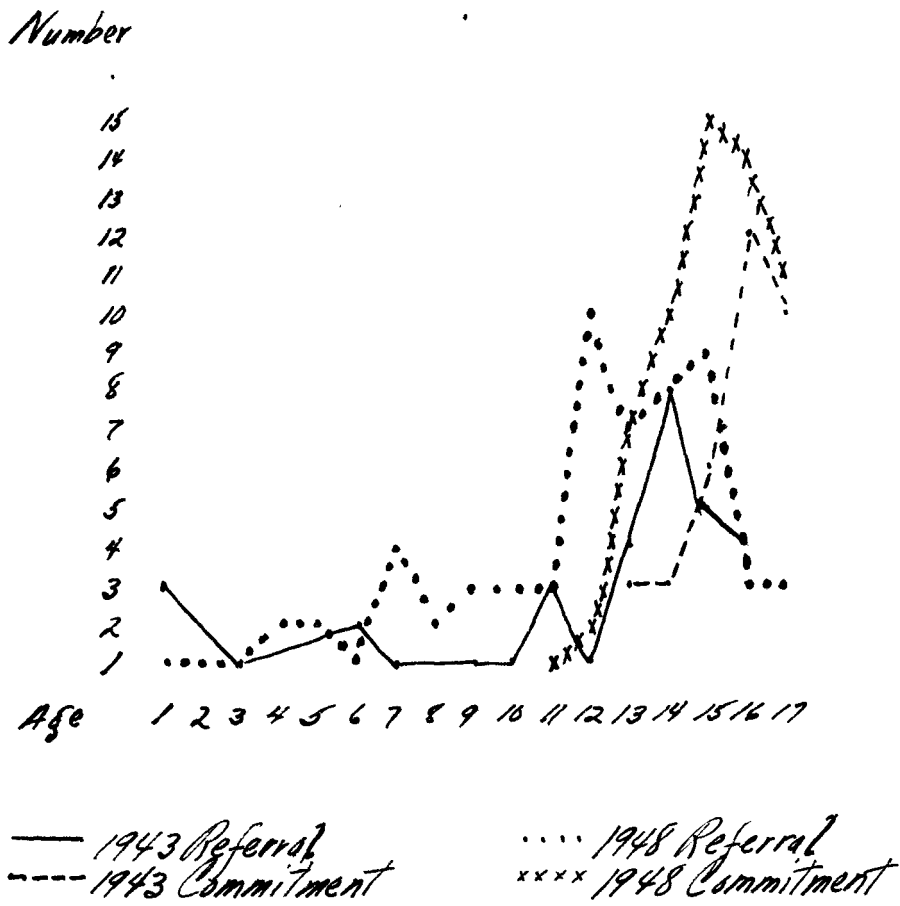
Figure A.

Number



— Referral  
--- Commitment

Figure 6.



teen years in 1943 is again older than the modal age of fifteen years in 1948. However, the mean ages are closer with 15.7 in 1943 and 15 in 1948. Thus the average ages at referral and commitment are similar for both groups.

Marital status, living situation, economic status and employment status were examined for similarities and differences. Table 21<sup>2</sup> shows the marital status of the parents in each study group. Only twenty-four per cent of the girls in 1943, and twenty per cent in 1948, came from homes where the parents were married and living together. [ In 1943, fifteen per cent of the girls were children of unmarried mothers, and for 1948 this group increased to twenty-two per cent. In 1943, twenty-four per cent of the parents were separated and eleven per cent were divorced, compared to twenty-seven per cent divorced and eight per cent separated in 1948. Girls with one or both parents deceased made up twenty-six per cent of the group in 1943 and twenty-three per cent in 1948.]

[ The living situations of the girls at the time of referral are shown in Table 22<sup>3</sup>. In both years, eighteen per cent of the girls lived with their parents, thirty-seven per cent with the mother and three per cent with a father and stepmother.

2 Table 21, Page 47

3 Table 22, Page 48

TABLE 21  
MARITAL STATUS

	1943	1948
MARRIED AND LIVING TOGETHER	8	12
UNMARRIED	5	13
SEPARATED	8	16
DIVORCED	4	5
ONE OR BOTH DECEASED	9	14
TOTAL	34	60

TABLE 22  
LIVING SITUATION

	1943	1948
PARENTS	6	11
MOTHER	13	22
FATHER	2	5
MOTHER AND STEPFATHER	6	4
FATHER AND STEPMOTHER	1	2
GRANDPARENTS	3	4
RELATIVES	0	5
FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE HOME	3	4
LIVING ALONE	0	3
TOTAL	34	60

Girls living with a mother and step-father made up eighteen per cent of the group in 1943 and only seven per cent in 1948. There was little difference between the two years in the percentage of girls living with the father, with grandparents, or in foster homes. Girls living with other relatives and living alone were found in the 1948 study group only.

As seen in Figure II, there is uniformity in the economic status of the two groups. The greatest variation between the years is four per cent in the dependent group.

FIGURE II  
ECONOMIC STATUS

INDEPENDENT	65%
	67%
DEPENDENT	29%
	25%
PARTIALLY DEPENDENT	6%
	8%

The employment status, shown in Table 23<sup>4</sup> shows some differences between the groups. The father was the wage earner in thirty-three per cent of the cases in 1943 and in forty per cent in 1948; the mother was employed in twenty-one per cent of the families in 1943 and in twenty-four per cent of the cases in 1948. In 1943 both of the parents worked in twenty-one per cent of the cases and in 1948 in only seven per cent of the cases. These same percentages were found for the step-father classification. Relatives supported the girl in four per cent of the cases in 1943 and in sixteen per cent in 1948. The classifications of "mother and stepfather" and "others" were found in the 1948 sample only.

Juvenile Court records on the siblings in these two study groups indicated a marked similarity in distribution. There were no records in fifty-five per cent of the cases in 1943 and none in sixty-two per cent of the cases in 1948. Dependency accounted for twenty-five per cent of the records in 1943 and for nineteen per cent of the cases in 1948. Less than ten per cent of the siblings were brought before the court on delinquent petitions in both years. An additional fourteen per cent of the siblings were committed to the Training Schools in 1943 cases and twelve per cent in the 1948 cases.

TABLE 23  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	1943	1948
FATHER	8	13
MOTHER	5	11
PARENTS	5	3
STEPPATHER	5	3
MOTHER AND STEPPATHER	0	2
RELATIVES	1	7
OTHER	0	1
TOTAL	34	60

TABLE 24  
COURT RECORDS  
ON OTHER CHILDREN IN FAMILY  
IN 1943 AND 1948

	1943	1948
DEPENDENT	20	33
DELINQUENT	5	13
NO RECORD	45	107
COMMITMENT	11	20
TOTAL	81	173



The third set of factors to be compared are those concerned with the court experiences of the two study groups. The type of offenses at referral and commitment for both groups are shown in Table 25<sup>5</sup>. The reason for referral is determined after the initial interview or by referral letter and designates the most outstanding problem at that time. In 1948, incorrigibility accounted for thirty-two per cent of the referrals as against twenty-one per cent in 1943, but sex delinquency dropped from twenty-one per cent in 1943 to ten per cent in 1948. Since the behavior problems represented by these classifications may be mutually inclusive it cannot be concluded from this study that there was more sex delinquency in the war years. The combined referrals for sex delinquency and incorrigibility however, accounted for forty-two per cent of all referrals in both years. Stealing constituted six per cent of offenses at referral in 1943 and only one per cent in 1948.

Neglect or dependency dropped from thirty-seven per cent in 1943 to twenty-seven per cent in 1948. However, referrals for behavior or discipline problem increased from three per cent in 1943 to twelve per cent in 1948. There was marked similarity in this respect, the combined non-delinquent referrals in 1943 comprised forty-three per cent and forty-four per cent in 1948. The distribution of offenses at commitment in contrast to

those at referral showed a similar pattern. Sex delinquency made up twenty-six per cent of the group in 1943 and twenty-five per cent in 1948. Incorrigibility comprise fifty-three per cent and runaway fifteen per cent of the reasons for commitment in both years.

TABLE 25  
OFFENSES AT REFERRAL AND COMMITMENT

TYPE OF OFFENSE	REFERRAL		COMMITMENT	
	1943	1948	1943	1948
SEX DELINQUENCY	7	6	9	15
INCORRIGIBILITY	7	19	18	33
NEGLECT OR DEPENDENCY	13	16	0	0
RUNAWAY	3	6	5	9
FIGHTING AND DRINKING	0	2	0	0
BEHAVIOR OR DISCIPLINE PROBLEM	1	7	0	0
STEALING	2	1	2	3
REFERRALS ON OTHER MEMBERS IN FAMILY	1	3	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>60</b>

1943

- Key
- Referral Address
  - Commitment Address



**MAP  
OF  
COOK COUNTY  
ILLINOIS**



In addition to the reasons for referral and commitment many of the case records listed additional offenses. These were classified into eight groups. Columns I through VIII in Table 26<sup>6</sup> show the distribution of girls with a record of one to four additional offenses in 1943 and 1948. The last two columns giving the totals by offense classification indicate that all offenses except stealing and fighting remained fairly constant in both years. In 1943, stealing was recorded in seventeen per cent of the cases as compared with only six per cent in 1948. Fighting which made up only one and a half per cent in 1943 rose to eight per cent in 1948.

The plans made by the Court for the care of these girls are designated in Table 27<sup>7</sup> as prior dispositions and a comparison by type and number for both study groups are shown. There were sixty-nine separate dispositions made in the thirty-four cases in 1943 and 153 dispositions made in sixty cases in 1948. This means an average of two dispositions per case in 1943 and two and a half per case in 1948. The totals in Columns V and VI indicate that after the failure of two court plans, sixty-five per cent of the girls in both years were committed to the State Training School.

6 Table 26, Page 56

7 Table 27, Page 57

Inspection of the table by type of disposition shows that Special Supervision was ordered on twenty-four occasions in 1943 and thirty-six times in 1948, and a disposition of Probation made on seventeen and thirty-six occasions in the same years. These combined plans, which return the child to his own home or a relative's home, made up sixty per cent of the total prior dispositions in 1943 and forty-eight per cent in 1948. A partial explanation for this may be in the fact that these figures include dispositions made when the girls were known to the court as dependents. (Combined non-delinquent referrals in 1943 were 43% and 42% in 1948.) Lack of community resources for the care of delinquent girls is undoubtedly the most common reason for a girl being returned to her own home after a finding of delinquency.

Chicago Parental School was the disposition ordered in only four per cent of cases in 1943 and in fifteen per cent of the cases in 1948. Due to lack of private institutions in the field of corrective care, the Chicago Parental School was used by special agreement for delinquent girls who had a record of truancy in addition to other delinquent offenses. This institution is no longer available for this specialized use.

TABLE 26

## OTHER OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	ONE		TWO		THREE		FOUR		TOTAL	
	1943	1948	1943	1948	1943	1948	1943	1948	1943	1948
SEX DELINQUENCY	16	19	1	13	2	2	1	0	20	34
RUNAWAY	6	5	3	3	2	0	0	3	10	11
DRINKING	1	3	3	4	1	2	1	0	6	9
TRUANCY	4	12	5	4	3	2	0	0	12	18
FIGHTING	1	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	7
PROSTITUTION, VAGRANCY SEX PERVERSION, INCEST	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	4
INCORRIGIBILITY	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
STEALING	2	2	6	3	1	1	2	0	11	6
TOTAL	32	47	19	33	9	10	4	3	64	93

TABLE 27  
NUMBER AND TYPE OF PRIOR DISPOSITIONS

	<u>1st</u>		<u>2nd</u>		<u>3rd</u>		<u>4th</u>		<u>5th</u>		<u>6th</u>		<u>7th</u>		<u>8th</u>		<u>9th</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48	43	48
SPECIAL SUPERVISION	7	18	6	5	4	3	3	3	2	3	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	24	36
PROBATION	5	12	5	14	3	5	1	0	0	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	17	36
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL	1	7	1	4	0	7	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	23
CHILDREN'S DIVISION	0	5	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
HOUSE OF GOOD SHEPHERD	1	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	10
TEMPORARY CARE DEPT.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
PRIVATE AGENCIES	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL RELEASES	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
PERMANENT DISCHARGES	0	0	3	3	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	9
CHILD PLACING DIVISION	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	8
MISCELLANEOUS	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>153</b>

The final set of factors to be compared are those pertaining to social history and include school grades, medical information, psychiatric diagnoses and recommendations.

The grade placement of the girls at referral and commitment for both study groups is shown in Table 28<sup>B</sup>. At referral, sixty-two per cent of the girls in 1943 were in grades fifth through second year high school and fifty-five per cent of the 1948 group belonged in the same span. The most significant finding in the commitment distribution was that fifty-six per cent of the 1943 group and thirty-five per cent of the 1948 group were out of school although only twenty-nine and eighteen per cent, respectively, were of legal age to leave school. Only eighteen per cent of the girls in both years had employment experience which precludes the possibility of war-time employment opportunities accounting for the difference.

Comparative school data reveals that, in approximately one third of the cases in both years, there were no school reports available in the case records, thus limiting the reliability of any conclusions. However, from the reports that were available it appeared that the majority of girls were rated "fair" or "poor" in scholarship and "good" or "poor" in deport-



ment. School attendance for sixty-five per cent of the girls in 1943 and eighty-one per cent in 1948 was "irregular" or "very irregular".

Medical reports from the Juvenile Detention Home were available in twenty-nine cases in 1943 and fifty cases in 1948. Of the 1943 group seventy-seven per cent of the girls were considered to be medically normal and eighty-six per cent were similarly diagnosed in 1948. Diagnoses of venereal disease were made in the remaining cases. Gynecological examinations in 1943 revealed past trauma in thirty-two girls. In 1948, there were fifty such examinations and eighty-six per cent of these revealed past trauma, seven per cent gave no definite evidence of trauma and the remaining seven per cent, no trauma.

The reports of psychiatric examinations were available to the Court in thirty cases in 1943 and in fifty-four cases in 1948. The recommendations proposing a plan of rehabilitation are shown in Table 29<sup>9</sup>. The State Training School was recommended in fifty-three per cent of the cases in 1943 and in only twenty per cent in 1948. However, a boarding school or the Chicago Parental School was proposed as a plan for thirty-two per cent of the girls in 1948, while neither of these plans were

TABLE 22

## SCHOOL GRADE AT REFERRAL AND COMMITMENT

INTERVAL	REFERRAL		COMMITMENT	
	<u>1943</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1948</u>
PRE-SCHOOL	4	7	0	0
FIRST THROUGH FOURTH	4	8	0	0
FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH	11	25	4	16
HIGH SCHOOL - 1ST AND 2ND	10	8	9	11
HIGH SCHOOL - 3RD AND 4TH	1	0	1	1
SPECIAL ROOM AND CONTINUATION SCHOOL	0	2	0	5
OUT OF SCHOOL	2	7	19	21
NO REPORT	2	3	1	6
TOTAL	34	60	34	60

suggested in 1943. Returning the girl to her home or to a community setting was recommended in forty per cent of the reports in 1943 as compared with forty-eight per cent in 1948.

TABLE 29  
PSYCHIATRIC RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT	NUMBER OF CASES	
	<u>1943</u>	<u>1948</u>
ILLINOIS STATE TRAINING SCHOOL	16	11
BOARDING SCHOOL	0	9
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL	0	8
OTHER INSTITUTIONS	2	0
HOME OR COMMUNITY	12	26
TOTAL	30	54

In the diagnostic statements, faulty family relationships were mentioned in the cases of eighty per cent of the girls in 1943 and in sixty-six per cent of the 1948 group.

The comparison shows that there were more similarities in the pre-commitment factors of these two study groups than there were differences. These similarities were especially evident in religion, ages, marital status, living situation,

economic status, court records of other children in family, offenses at commitment, and other offenses. Some dissimilarities were found in race, employment status of parents, offenses at referral, prior dispositions, school grades, medical examinations and psychiatric recommendations, but in none of these was there a conspicuous difference. There does not appear to be any great difference between the group representing a war year and the group of the post-war period with regards to personal, family, court or social history.

## CHAPTER IV

### SELECTED CASES

In the preceding chapters the social history material has been given in terms of quantitative data, with emphasis on group similarities and distinctive individual characteristics have had to be omitted. Therefore, two case histories are being presented to describe individual aspects in the background of these girls prior to their commitment by the Court.

The first case offers a fairly composite picture of the pre-commitment factors found in the majority of cases.

Mamie Jones, an illegitimate negro girl was eleven years old at the time of referral and sixteen years of age at the time of commitment to the Training School. At this time she lived with her mother who was employed, as was her husband. Mr. Jones was not the father of Mamie or her younger sister who was also born out of wedlock. The family was economically independent. The child was referred to the court on a neglect charge but incorrigibility was the offense at the time of commitment. She was in the sixth grade at the time of referral and was out of school when committed. A medical examination showed her to be in

The next group of factors studied pertained to family history. The marital status of the parents showed that only eight girls, or twenty-four per cent of the total, came from homes with a normal family constellation. Seventy-six per cent were from homes broken by divorce, separation, and death or were children of unmarried mothers. Table 1 shows the distribution according to the marital status of the parents.

TABLE 1  
MARITAL STATUS

Married and Living together.....	8
Unmarried.....	5
Separated.....	8
Divorced.....	4
One or Both Deceased.....	9

Since there were so many cases of broken homes the living situations of the girls becomes significant. Table 2 shows that only six girls lived with both parents, but only three girls were living away from their families. Twice as many girls were with their own mothers as in any other single arrangement. Table 2 shows the distribution according to living arrangement.

normal physical condition and a gynecological examination showed evidence of past trauma.

The original referral was made by the owner of the building in which the Jones family resided. He complained that Mamie and Jane, ages eleven and nine respectively, were left alone while their parents worked and commented that the parents were "very indifferent". About a week after the referral a probation officer visited at the address given but the family had moved. Five visits were made to the new address during the next four months but no one was ever at home. The children were seen at the school twice. School reports indicated they were well behaved, neatly dressed and had good attendance records. A later visit to the school uncovered the information that the girls had been transferred to one of the Social Adjustment Schools because of frequent absences. The girls' attendance records improved following the transfer. The case was closed after fourteen months as there were no further complaints against the parents.

Mamie's case was brought before the court three and a half years later when she was fifteen years old after it was learned she had an illegitimate child. This information was gained after an investigation of her sister who had been referred to the court because of a gang fight at school. Mamie was too ill to appear at the first court hearing. The report from Cook County Hospital stated she had suffered post partem eclampsia with convulsive seizures and had been in a comatose stage for several days. Her baby had been placed by the family with a maternal aunt. At a court

hearing several months after the original court hearing Mamie stated that she and her baby were living at home under the supervision of a cousin during the time her parents were employed. The girl and her baby were placed on probation in the home of her parents, a plan which returned her to the same environmental situation.

Mamie was brought to the Juvenile Detention Home two months after she was placed in probation, by the Police who stated she had been fighting in her home and that there was a question of her having had marijuana cigarettes. The parents were interviewed the next day and on this occasion, Mr. Jones admitted that he was not the father of either Mamie or Jane. He stated that Mrs. J. had not been married to the natural father of either girl. It was also learned that Mamie's baby was now living with the natural father's mother. Mrs. J. said that ever since the birth of her baby, Mamie had been having "queer spells" and had been in Psychopathic Hospital for a week's observation. The mother thought that Mamie had obtained the "reefers" from a friend of hers who had been in the Jones home along with other young people, before Mamie had been apprehended for causing a disturbance.

When the Probation Officer interviewed Mamie in the Detention Home regarding the above incident she said that her mother was having a party on that evening and had given her drinks of whiskey and beer. She insisted that she had not been smoking "reefers", but admitted fighting with her sister, Jane, who was at home on vacation. Mamie called her mother a "Habitual drunkard" and said that the mother was the one who should be in jail. A home visit was made a week later and Mr. and Mrs. J. denied Mamie's story of drinking. They said that the sisters had been fighting but that Mamie was a terrible "liar".

At a court hearing three weeks after she was brought to the Detention Home a psychiatric examination was ordered. Psychological tests given to the girl before the psychiatric interview gave varying scores.



One classified her in the high grade mental defective group and the other in the borderline range. The following explanation was given by the psychologist:

"From her relatively indifferent manner during the test situation and because she has been deprived generally in the cultural area, the above scores may be considered somewhat low; and clinically she does not appear to be feebleminded". Of the home situation the psychiatrist reported that: "Mamie's natural parents separated at an early period but about ten years ago the mother married. Presumably Mamie is somewhat incompatible with the stepfather though in questioning she described a good relationship. It is evident from her statements regarding both the stepfather and the mother that the relationship is not a stimulating or warm one. Mamie's mother is baffled as to how to handle the girl and lacks the capacity for dealing with the various problems that have developed about her".

The diagnostic summary and recommendation given to the court by the Psychiatrist stated that: Mamie's personality is loosely integrated and she is unconcerned, as well as indifferent, regarding social standards. She is poorly motivated about the home or regarding work. The prognosis is poor. There is no mental incompetency in the sense of psychosis. Only if a stable set of parental figures can establish a rapport with her can she be rehabilitated with a development of new insights and the creation of an energetic attitude toward orthodox demands. On the basis of this survey we suggest further trial in the community under court supervision. Every effort should be made to stimulate this girl to adopt more conventional standards and a better attitude toward work that is required of her".

A plan was made by the mother to send Mamie to her natural father whose home had been approved by the Juvenile Court in Louisville, Kentucky. This plan was not carried out as the girl spent the train fare provided by her father and the mother would not replace it. She continued to live in her mother's home

under Special Supervision of the Court until she was again brought to the Detention Home by the Police for fighting and being in an intoxicated condition. She arrived at the Home in a stupor and the next day was still unable to talk coherently. However she told a story of a couple who were visiting in her home starting a fight with her. She denied being drunk but said that she had had a "quart of beer for supper".

The mother stated that Mamie had been arguing with a neighbor and the argument ended in a fight. The neighbor's husband picked up a milk bottle and hit Mamie on the head several times, inflicting cuts and gashes. All the adults present had been taken to the Police Station and held on a disorderly conduct charge. Mrs. J. said that she had endeavoured to keep the neighborhood tavern owners from selling liquor to Mamie and has warned the girl to stop drinking, but Mamie would not follow her advice.

Within a year from the date of the first court hearing, Mamie was committed to the Illinois State Training School, as it was thought by the Court that she needed strict supervision and institutional care. Mamie's baby girl was placed on Probation in the home of the natural father's mother who had assumed responsibility for the child most of the time since her birth.

Mamie's case therefore illustrates the following pre-commitment factors which were found in the majority of the case records: negro race; Protestant religion; referral age of eleven years; broken home; living with mother; independent economic status; referral for neglect; commitment offense, incorrigibility; other offense, sex delinquency; two prior dispositions, Special Supervision and Probation; sixth grade in school at referral; out of school at commitment; irregular school

attendance; normal physical condition; evidence of past trauma; and psychiatric report of poor family relationships.

The second case, chosen to illustrate an unusual set of pre-commitment conditions is that of Helen Andros, a girl of Greek Parentage and of the Greek Orthodox religion. She was three years old at the time of referral and sixteen years of age at the time of commitment. Her parents were divorced and she lived with her mother and stepfather prior to court placements. Helen was first known to the court through the referral of another child in the family. Subsequently seven different plans were made for her before she was finally committed as a runaway and sex delinquent. She was not attending school at the time of her commitment. Medical reports indicated that she was in a normal physical condition and a gynecological examination showed evidence of past trauma.

The eight Andros' children were brought into the Juvenile Court as dependents after the father reported that the oldest daughter was "beyond his control." The mother and one child were found feebleminded and the father a borderline mental defective. Six of the children were placed on probation to live at home; the oldest girl was placed under the care of the Child Placing Division and later committed to the Training School and another child was committed to Dixon State Hospital. Two of the

boys, originally left at home were placed under the guardianship of a private child caring agency. These placements terminated with one boy being committed to the State Training School for Boys and the other being placed under the supervision of the court on a Feebleminded petition. Three years after referral the four children at home were released from Probation as home conditions had been improved under close supervision. The parents had been divorced and the mother had remarried.

Six years after the original referral Helen, now twelve years old, came to the attention of the Court with two other girls who were involved in sex activities with a man in the neighborhood. Helen admitted having sex relations with this man for a period of over two years and of receiving money from him. The man was convicted and sent to the penitentiary on the girl's testimony and she was placed on probation in the home of her mother and stepfather.

More than a year afterward the stepfather brought Helen to the Detention Home stating that she kept late hours and was "beyond his control". Helen said that she stayed away from home to avoid her stepfather who was abusive to her. The Probation Officer recorded, "Helen is very antagonistic toward her stepfather because she says 'he does not like any of the children' and complains that her mother 'took sides with him'." Helen was returned home the next day after a conference with the parents but the relationship between Helen and her family grew worse.

A psychiatric report from the Institute for Juvenile Research the following month stated "a psychological examination classified her (Helen) as being of dull and backward intelligence", and suggested a transfer to a vocational type school program. Her behavior was described as "bold and defiant with little respect for

authority. She is disagreeable and constantly in difficulty, loud and rough in manner, self-assertive and critical, often ridiculing attendants and teachers before the group. She uses vile, vulgar language". The psychiatrist's interview was termed unsatisfactory. "She (Helen) was stolid and evasive to questioning, has a chip on her shoulder attitude and becomes argumentative and defiant without seemingly any special reason. She admits of considerable sex experience but refuses to discuss it; admits of receiving money from a Mr. S. and other persons. She takes the attitude that other persons are largely responsible for her difficulties in that they do not understand her. It is our impression that the prognosis for an adjustment of this poorly trained, wilful and aggressive girl in the community is very poor and we would recommend that she be considered for a period of training in the State Training School".

The Juvenile Court Judge did not think that commitment to the Training School should be considered until more resources had been explored for use in Helen's care in the community. A placement was arranged at a private club for girls, where Helen became quite unpopular due to her uncouth manners and rough language. However the workers thought that she deserved further trial under their care but as she did not adjust in the school, the Club was forced to request a new plan of the Court. Helen was committed to a private institution and was released in eleven months. The Superintendent stated that she made a good adjustment and had improved in attitude and manner.

Helen and her stepfather came to the court requesting a new plan shortly after this release and both agreed that it was impossible for her to adjust at home. The stepfather had told both Helen and the worker at the institution that he "would kill Helen" if she didn't behave. Arrangements were made to place the girl in a foster home under the supervision of the Child Placing Division of the Court.

Helen was placed in the home of a doctor and his wife who was formerly a trained nurse. The Probation Officer

who supervised this placement recorded that the couple tried very hard to make Helen happy and thought she was adjusting nicely until New Years' Eve. On this occasion Helen left the foster home with permission to go to a movie but did not return until 2:00 A.M., January 3rd. She was brought to the Detention Home when the foster parents thought she was going to run away. At a court hearing Helen was permitted to return home with the foster parents because in spite of this lapse she had made progress in this home and the foster parents were willing to continue working with her.

Shortly afterward Helen was taken ill and had to be removed to Cook County Hospital. Before and after this period of hospitalization her behavior in the foster home was very poor. She requested an opportunity to return to her own home to live and work in a defense plant. The Court agreed to this plan. Helen left the foster home to go to her own home but never arrived there. Her mother received a letter from her saying that she was living alone, was well and happy, and would not return home until she was over Juvenile Court age.

A few weeks after receipt of this letter it was discovered that Helen was in the County Hospital recovering from a kidney operation. At the time of her release from the hospital she was brought to the Detention Home. The Probation Officer tried to make plans for convalescent home or foster home care but the girl refused to accept either plan. Helen finally agreed to accept another foster home but, while at home on a weekend visit, she ran away. When located after a week, she was brought before the Court and committed to the State Training School as all possible resources had been tried and were unsuccessful.

Reports from the Training School indicated that Helen was paroled to a foster home after a year in the institution, where her adjustment was considered to be adequate. Three years later the Court received a communication from the School stating that Helen had been committed to a State Hospital for the

mentally ill."

This second case illustrates some of the unusual factors found in the cases and material which statistical presentation fails to point out. These were: known to the court at three years of age when sibling became delinquent; parents living together at the time of original referral but divorced and remarriage of mother prior to referral of girl for delinquent offense; mental defectiveness of parents; numerous court plans for siblings; the range in court plans for one girl prior to commitment; past trauma was paid sex experience with an older man; and girl's inability and refusal to accept case work services.

## CONCLUSION

The majority of girls in the 1943 study group were of the negro race and Protestant religion. The mean age at the time of referral was 11.5 years and 15.7 years at the time of commitment. Broken homes were found in seventy-six per cent of the cases but only nine per cent of the girls were living away from their families.

Forty-three per cent of the girls were referred for non-delinquent reasons and the major offenses at the time of commitment were sex delinquency and incorrigibility. Sixty-five per cent of the group had been committed to the Training School after the failure of two court plans. Special supervision and Probation totaled sixty per cent of all prior court dispositions. Within two years from the date of the first court hearing, sixty-two per cent of the girls had been committed to the Training School.

At the time of referral the majority of girls were in a school grade range from fifth through second year High School and at the time of commitment fifty-six per cent were out of school although only twenty-nine per cent were of legal age to leave



TABLE 2  
LIVING SITUATION

PARENTS.....	6
MOTHER.....	13
FATHER.....	2
MOTHER AND STEPFATHER.....	6
FATHER AND STEPMOTHER.....	1
GRANDPARENTS.....	3
POSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOME.....	3

As court records do not contain detailed financial information about the family, the economic status was determined by arbitrarily dividing the cases into three major groups; independent, which was defined as subsistence without benefit of public assistance; dependent as recipients of public assistance; and partially dependent as supplementation of the budget by public assistance. Figure C shows the distribution of cases according to these groupings.

FIGURE C  
ECONOMIC STATUS

INDEPENDENT.....	65%
DEPENDENT.....	29%
PARTIALLY DEPENDENT.....	6%

school. Eighteen per cent of the girls had employment experience prior to commitment. Irregular school attendance was the most significant feature in the school histories. Medical examinations showed most of the girls to be in normal physical condition, with venereal disease as the most common medical defect. Gynecological examinations indicated past trauma in thirty-two cases. Eighty per cent of the psychiatric reports mentioned defective family relationships. Recommendations for commitment to the State Training School were made in fifty-three per cent of the cases.

In the 1948 group, an even larger proportion of the girls were of the negro race and the Protestant religion. The mean ages at the time of referral and at the time of commitment were 11.7 years and 15 years. The age range was approximately the same for the two years studied. Eighty per cent of the group came from broken homes and twelve per cent were without family ties. These figures are very similar to those of the 1943 group.

Forty-four per cent of the referrals were for non-delinquent reasons and incorrigibility was the major offense at the time of commitment. This is a very similar pattern to the

1943 group. After the failure of two court plans, sixty-five per cent of the girls were committed to the Training School, which coincides exactly with the percentages for 1943. Forty-three per cent of all the prior dispositions were orders for Special Supervision and Probation as against sixty per cent in the 1943 group. As in 1943, sixty-two per cent of the girls were committed within two years from the date of the first court hearing.

There was a wide range of school grades at the time of referral as in 1943 but only thirty-five per cent of the group were out of school at time of commitment as against fifty-six per cent in the 1943 group. However, the same percentage of the 1948 group had employment experience as in 1943. Again, irregular attendance was the most significant finding in the school history of both groups. Medical examinations classed the majority as medically normal and gynecological examinations revealed past trauma in fifty girls. Psychiatric examinations reported faulty family relationships in sixty-six per cent of the group which is less than in the 1943 group. Recommendations for commitment to the Training School were made in only twenty per cent of the reports as against fifty-three per cent in the 1943 group.

The greatest difference between the two groups was the increase in the number of girls committed to the State Training School in 1948, when there was no similar increase in the number of new Delinquent Girl Petitions filed. Both groups showed marked similarities in the mean ages at the time of referral and the time of commitment, in the number of broken homes, and in the number of non-delinquent referrals. The same percentages were found for both groups in the factors of commitment after the failure of two court plans and commitment within two years from the date of the first court hearing. In the school history, grade ranges at referral were similar and irregular attendance the most significant factor for both groups. A much larger percentage of the girls in the 1943 group were out of school at the time of commitment but the same percentage of girls had employment experience in both groups. The psychiatric reports mentioned poor family relationships in a smaller percentage of cases in the 1948 group and recommended commitment in the Training School in fewer cases. However, there were more recommendations for boarding school plans and commitment to the Chicago Parental School for the 1948 group, thus making the percentage of recommendations for a return to the home or community the same (forty per cent).

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IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Name ..... Address at referral .....  
Birth date ..... Address at commitment .....  
Age at referral ..... Age at commitment .....  
Resident ..... non-resident .....  
Race ..... Religion .....

COURT HISTORY

Date first known ..... Commitment date .....  
Date first court hearing ..... Parole Date .....  
Dispositions ..... Permanent discharge date .....  
..... Offense at referral .....  
..... Offense at commitment .....  
..... Other offenses .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

FAMILY HISTORY

Parents: Martial status ..... Child: Living situation .....  
Sibling Records: Dep. .... Del. .... No rec. .... Commitments .....  
Econ. Status: Indep. .... Part. Dep. .... Dep. (relief) .....  
Employ. Status: Fa. work ..... Mo. work ..... Others .....  
S.S.E. clearings: Registered ..... Active .....  
Ct. Rec: Fa. .... Mo. .... Psychiatric Clinics: Fa. .... Mo. ....

SOCIAL HISTORY \*

Education

School attended: at referral ..... at commitment .....  
School grade: at referral ..... at commitment .....  
School record: Scholar ..... Deport. .... Attendance .....

Employment

Position ..... Fulltime ..... Parttime .....

Health

Medical

Date of exam. .... Clinic .....  
Phy. findings ..... Dental report .....  
Local exam. .... Pregnancy .....  
Clinical referral ..... Reason .....

Psychiatric

Date of exam. .... Clinic .....  
C.A. .... M.A. .... I.Q. .... Other tests .....

Diagnosis .....

Recommendations .....



## APPENDIX B

### TYPE OF PRIOR DISPOSITIONS

1. Special Supervision - placement in home of parents or relatives on trial basis with visits by probation officer.
2. Probation - return of child to his own home or home of relatives under supervision of court and following a finding of delinquency.
3. Chicago Parental School - institution operated by the Board of Education for truant children and used by special arrangement for delinquent children.
4. Chicago Department of Welfare - Childrens Division - foster home program operated by this agency for children committed to its guardianship whose families are eligible for general relief.
5. House of Good Shepherd - a private sectarian institution for delinquent girls, primarily of the Roman Catholic faith.
6. Juvenile Court of Cook County - Temporary Care and Child Placing Division - provides foster homes on a temporary basis pending a permanent plan, and wage and boarding homes for girls of legal working age.
7. Private Agencies - foster home agencies providing care for the dependent child.
8. Private Institutions - providing institutional care for the dependent child.
9. Chicago Parental School Releases - return of child to home and district school under court supervision.
10. Permanent Discharges - terminate probation orders and guardianship orders of institutions and agencies.
11. Miscellaneous - includes special guardianship orders and a previous commitment to the State Training School.

APPENDIX C

1943

INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE FIRST KNOWN AND FIRST COURT HEARING

<u>INTERVAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
ONE MONTH.....	14
TWO MONTHS.....	3
THREE MONTHS.....	3
FOUR MONTHS.....	1
FIVE MONTHS.....	2
SIX MONTHS.....	1
SEVEN MONTHS.....	0
MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS.....	10

INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE OF FIRST COURT HEARING  
AND DATE OF COMMITMENT

<u>INTERVAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
ONE YEAR:.....	.....15
One month.....	8
Two months.....	2
Three months.....	1
Four months.....	0
Five months.....	1
Six months.....	1
Seven months.....	0
Eight months.....	1
Nine months.....	0
Ten months.....	0
Eleven months.....	1
Twelve months.....	0
 TWO YEARS.....	 6
THREE YEARS.....	3
FOUR YEARS.....	2
FIVE YEARS.....	0
SIX YEARS.....	1
SEVEN YEARS.....	2
MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS.....	5

The family relationship between the wage earners and the girls in the families of the independent and partially dependent groups are shown in Table 3. In ten cases the mother was working and therefore not in a position to supervise the girl's activities.

TABLE 3

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

FATHER.....	8
MOTHER.....	5
PARENTS.....	5
STEPPATHER.....	5
RELATIVE.....	1

In studying the family history it was assumed that the background of other members had some bearing on the individual situation. Accordingly, the Juvenile Court records of siblings were examined and the findings are shown in Table 4. These findings are significant in view of the fact that there were no records on fifty-six per cent of the siblings and no delinquency records on another twenty-five per cent. This means that there were delinquency records and commitments on siblings in only sixteen, or approximately twenty per cent of the cases.

1948

INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE FIRST KNOWN AND FIRST COURT HEARING

<u>INTERVAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
ONE MONTH.....	22
TWO MONTHS.....	12
THREE MONTHS.....	4
FOUR MONTHS.....	7
FIVE MONTHS.....	3
SIX MONTHS.....	2
SEVEN MONTHS.....	2
MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS.....	8

1943 - 1948  
INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE FIRST KNOWN AND FIRST COURT HEARING

INTERVAL	NUMBER OF CASES	
	1943	1948
ONE MONTH	14	22
TWO MONTHS	3	12
THREE MONTHS	3	4
FOUR MONTHS	1	7
FIVE MONTHS	2	3
SIX MONTHS	1	2
SEVEN MONTHS	0	2
MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS	10	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>60</b>

INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE OF FIRST COURT HEARING  
AND DATE OF COMMITMENT

<u>INTERVAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
ONE YEAR:.....	.....29
One month.....	8
Two months.....	3
Three months.....	3
Four months.....	1
Five months.....	1
Six months.....	2
Seven months.....	4
Eight months.....	0
Nine months.....	0
Ten months.....	3
Eleven months.....	2
Twelve months.....	2
TWO YEARS.....	3
THREE YEARS.....	3
FOUR YEARS.....	2
FIVE YEARS.....	4
SIX YEARS.....	1
SEVEN YEARS.....	3
EIGHT YEARS.....	2
NINE YEARS.....	2
TEN YEARS.....	4
MORE THAN TEN YEARS.....	4

INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE OF FIRST COURT HEARING  
AND DATE OF COMMITMENT

<u>INTERVAL</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>	
	<u>1943</u>	<u>1948</u>
ONE YEAR:.....	.....15	.....29
	<u>1943</u>	<u>1948</u>
One Month.....	8.....	8
Two Months.....	2.....	3
Three Months...	1.....	3
Four Months....	0.....	1
Five Months....	1.....	1
Six Months.....	1.....	2
Seven Months...	0.....	4
Eight Months...	1.....	0
Nine Months....	0.....	0
Ten Months.....	0.....	3
Eleven Months..	1.....	2
Twelve Months..	0.....	2
 TWO YEARS.....	 6.....	 8
THREE YEARS.....	3.....	3
FOUR YEARS.....	2.....	2
FIVE YEARS.....	0.....	4
SIX YEARS.....	1.....	1
SEVEN YEARS.....	2.....	3
MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS.....	5.....	10
TOTAL.....	34.....	60



TABLE 4

## COURT RECORDS ON OTHER CHILDREN IN FAMILY

DEPENDENT.....	20
DELINQUENT.....	5
NO RECORD.....	45
COMMITMENT.®.....	11

® State Training Schools only

Court records and reports from psychiatric clinics and hospitals on the parents of these girls were so incomplete that no conclusions can be drawn from them. Nevertheless, clearings from the Social Service Exchange indicate that these families had been known to many different agencies in the community. There were a total of 121 registrations on twenty-eight different families, making an average of four plus registrations per family.

The third set of factors are concerned with the court experiences of the thirty-four girls. The type of offenses or reasons for referral are compared with the offenses at the time of commitment in Table 5.<sup>2</sup> At the time of referral there were seven groups of offenses into which the thirty-four cases distributed themselves. Of these seven, there were three groups that did not have references to delinquency, namely neglect or

dependency, behavior or discipline problem, and referral on another member in the family. Thus, fifteen girls, or nearly fifty per cent of the group, became known to the court for non-delinquent reasons. The classifications of sex delinquency and incorrigibility, each having seven cases, were the major delinquent offenses at the time of referral. Incorrigibility was defined as "defiance of parental discipline" or "beyond the control of parental authority".

At the time of commitment there were eighteen cases of incorrigibility and nine cases of sex delinquency, with the remainder of the offenses distributed between runaway and the stealing and forgery classifications. The fact that fifty-two per cent of the girls were committed on grounds of incorrigibility might be due to the failure of the court worker to describe the specific behavior problems found in these cases.

Besides the offense at the time of referral and commitment many of the case records indicated additional delinquent behavior. These other delinquent offenses have been assembled into eight classifications as shown in Table 6.<sup>3</sup> Column I shows the distribution by offense in the cases of thirty-two girls who were charged with one additional offense. The case records of

TABLE 5  
OFFENSES AT REFERRAL AND COMMITMENT

TYPE OF OFFENSE	AT REFERRAL	AT COMMITMENT
SEX DELINQUENCY	7	9
INCORRIGIBILITY	7	18
NEGLECT OR DEPENDENCY	13	0
RUNAWAY	3	5
BEHAVIOR OR DISCIPLINE PROBLEM	1	0
STEALING AND FORGERY	2	2
REFERRALS ON OTHER MEMBERS IN FAMILY	1	0

TABLE 6  
OTHER OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	TOTAL
SEX DELINQUENCY	16	1	2	1	20
RUNAWAY	6	3	2	0	10
DRINKING	1	3	1	1	6
TRUANCY	4	5	3	0	12
PROSTITUTION, PERVERSION, INCEST	2	1	0	0	3
FIGHTING	1	0	0	0	1
INCORRIGIBILITY	1	0	0	0	1
STEALING	2	6	1	2	11
TOTAL	38	19	9	4	64

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nineteen girls showed two additional offenses and this distribution is found in Column II. Columns III and IV contain the same information for the cases with three and four other offenses. Sex delinquency was the additional offense found most often (thirty-one per cent) in the case histories. Runaway, truancy, and stealing occurred in approximately seventeen per cent of the cases; drinking in nine per cent and there was one case each of prostitution, sex perversion, incest, fighting, and incorrigibility.

In conjunction with a discussion of offenses, the rehabilitative measures instituted by the Court for the care of these girls should be considered. An examination of Column I in Table 7<sup>4</sup> shows that eleven girls were committed to the State Training School at the first Court hearing and that seven different types of plans were made in the cases of twenty-three girls. Column II shows that six more girls were committed to the Training School after the first plan failed and a second disposition was made in the cases of seventeen girls. Five more girls were committed after a second disposition had proven ineffective and Column III gives the distribution of the remaining twelve girls. It is significant to note that, after the failure

<sup>4</sup> Table 7, Page 13

TABLE 7  
NUMBER AND TYPE OF PRIOR DISPOSITIONS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	TOTAL
SPECIAL SUPERVISION	7	6	4	3	2	0	2	24
PROBATION	5	5	3	1	0	3	0	17
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
HOUSE OF GOOD SHEPHERD	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
PRIVATE AGENCIES	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
PERMANENT DISCHARGES	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	7
CHILD PLACING DIVISION	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
MISCELLANEOUS	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	23	17	12	7	4	4	2	69

of two plans, sixty-five per cent of the total study group were committed to the Training School.

There were nine different types of dispositions made by the court as shown in Table 7. A description of these plans is found in Appendix B. A study of the above table reveals that the combined dispositions, Special Supervision and Probation, which involve continued activity of the Court totaled sixty-per cent of all prior dispositions. The next four types involving agencies outside the court, accounted for fourteen dispositions or twenty per cent of the total. The remaining dispositions include Permanent Discharges, accounting for ten per cent, involving no activity with the girl, and Child Placing Division and Miscellaneous, accounting for ten per cent, which required court contact. Thus forty-eight dispositions or seventy per cent required court supervision, fourteen dispositions or twenty per cent made use of community resources, and seven dispositions or ten per cent terminated activity with the girl.

The final set of factors include school grades, school reports, employment history, medical information, intelligence tests, psychiatric reports and psychiatric recommendations. The first of these covers school grades at the time of referral as



as compared with those at the time of commitment. There was almost complete information available on this item and Table 8<sup>5</sup> shows the distribution. At time of referral sixty-two per cent of the group were in the grade range fifth through second year high school. The most significant finding in the commitment group was that fifty-six per cent of the girls were out of school although only twenty-nine per cent of them were of legal age to leave school.

School reports were incomplete. In thirty-two per cent of the cases nothing was recorded as the girls' scholarship or deportment while she was known to the court. There was a lack of information regarding attendance in twenty-four per cent of the cases. Thus any conclusion drawn from this material must be made with reservation. Despite the incompleteness of the material in Table 9<sup>6</sup>, it seems correct to conclude that irregular school attendance is the most significant feature of the school histories. Only six girls had employment experience prior to their commitment and not all of these were working regularly or full-time. Thus the factor of employment does not appear to have bearing on the lack of school attendance.

5 Table 8, Page 16

6 Table 9, Page 17

TABLE 8

## SCHOOL GRADE AT REFERRAL AND COMMITMENT

GRADES	REFERRAL	COMMITMENT
PRE-SCHOOL	4	0
FIRST THROUGH FOURTH	4	0
FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH	11	4
HIGH SCHOOL-1st and 2nd	10	9
HIGH SCHOOL-3rd and 4th	1	1
OUT OF SCHOOL	2	19
NO REPORT	2	1

TABLE 9  
SCHOOL REPORTS

	SCHOLARSHIP	DEPARTMENT	ATTENDANCE
EXCELLENT	2	1	
GOOD	2	12	
FAIR	8	2	
POOR	10	8	
FAILING	1		
REGULAR			9
IRREGULAR			6
VERY IRREGULAR			12
NO REPORT	11	11	8

Medical reports from the Juvenile Detention Home were available in twenty-nine cases and twenty-two of these were negative, that is there were no gross abnormalities. Seven girls had venereal infections, five were syphilitic and two had gonorrhea. In addition, gynecological examinations by the Court physician on thirty-two of the girls, indicated past trauma or definite evidence of sex experience. Two more cases of venereal infection were discovered and nine pregnancies, involving eight girls, were diagnosed. Twenty-six of the girls who were given dental examinations were rated as follows: nineteen - good, four - fair, and three - poor.

Psychiatric reports giving diagnostic statements and recommendations for treatment were made by the Institute of Juvenile Research in thirty cases. Intelligence reports were available on twenty-two girls but as the intelligence quotients were obtained on various testing scales it is impossible to show a statistical distribution of this factor. The proposed plans of the psychiatric clinic are shown in Table 10<sup>7</sup>. In fifty-three per cent of the reports commitment to the State Training School was recommended and in seven per cent placement in other institutions was proposed. The remaining forty per cent of the recom-

mendations were for a return of the girls to her own home or a community setting under court supervision.

TABLE 10

## PSYCHIATRIC RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>
ILLINOIS STATE TRAINING SCHOOL.....	16
OTHER INSTITUTIONS.....	2
HOME OR COMMUNITY.....	12
NO REPORT.....	4

The reports of psychiatric examinations, in addition to providing diagnostic statements on personality structure, include a description of family interrelationships. In twenty-four of the thirty reports there is reference to the lack of constructive family attitudes and to disorganized conditions in the home. Statements from these reports illustrate the influence of unhealthy emotional conditions on the individual character development.

home circumstances have been traumatic...apparent parental indifference and lack of social standards played major role in shaping lack of restraint and lack of morals...

generally stolid manner reflects poor quality of her early conditioning...difficulties in keeping with child so lacking in concept of good social behavior...

past incestuous relationship with father has left residue of emotional scarring which now contributes to maladjustment...

The diagnostic statements in the majority of these reports were worded as follows: "poorly integrated and motivated" "preoccupied with sophisticated types of social and recreational pleasures," "willful and aggressive", "simple, retarded girl with poor direction", "egocentric, immature, demanding, self-seeking", "evasive and protective", "unconflicted about sex activities", "sullen and defensive", "minimizes or denies past difficulties as emotional needs have not been met".

There were two cases, however, in which severe emotional disturbances were reported, one case in which the diagnosis was Psychopathic Personality, and another where behavior was felt to presage development of a psychotic disorder. Reports on the first two girls mentioned, "unable to relate to people", "readily develops temper tantrums and emotional upsets", "result of easy frustration", and "artificial sophistication". In two latter cases the girl diagnosed as a Psychopathic Personality was later committed to the State Penitentiary for Women, and the other committed to a State Hospital with a diagnosis of Schizophrenia.

The study group for 1943 consisted of thirteen white girls and twenty-one negro girls whose mean age at referral was 11.5 years and at commitment was 15.7 years. Seventy-six per cent came from broken homes and forty-three per cent were referred to the court for non-delinquent reasons. The majority of the girls were in their own homes or a community setting under court supervision prior to their commitment to the Training School. Medical reports indicated the majority were in normal physical condition and psychiatric reports stressed defective family relationships and only a few serious emotional involvements.

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## CHAPTER II

### THE STUDY GROUP: 1948

The study group for the year 1948, numbering sixty girls and involving the same number of families, was composed of a fifty per cent sample of the total number committed to the Training School in that year. Each record was studied with regard to sixty-four pre-commitment factors, as was the 1943 group. These factors were classified under the same major headings that were used for the 1943 data, that is: personal, family, court, and social history.

Of the personal factors found to be significant, that of race probably has the most widespread implications, because of its influence on other factors. Out of the total group of sixty girls, forty-three or seventy-two per cent were negro and seventeen or twenty-eight per cent were white. In addition to race, religious affiliation was important because of its connection with available placement opportunities which were somewhat better for Catholic than for non-Catholic girls. There were forty-four Protestant girls, fifteen Catholic girls and one Jewish girl in the group. The high percentage of Protestant girls was influ-

enced by the same factors as those mentioned in Chapter I.

The age at the time of referral as shown in Figure D<sup>2</sup> represents a range of from one year to seventeen years of age. Since children under twelve years of age are not to be considered as delinquents, twenty girls in this study were referred originally as dependents.<sup>1</sup> The modal age of referral, twelve years, and the mean age, 11.7 years, thus is lower than would be the case if all the girls had been referred as delinquents. The range in the ages of commitment shown in Figure D, is much narrower than is the range at referral. Delinquent petitions for children under twelve years of age are filed only with the prior consent of the Court, and this procedure was effective in only one case. The modal age and mean age of the commitment group are both fifteen years and this would appear to be a representative age.

With regard to geographic location of the families of these girls, the factor of race becomes important as the area showing the greatest concentration of cases is populated largely by negro families. This area shown in Figure E<sup>3</sup> and bounded by

1 Ralph J. Riley, A Working Manual for Juvenile Court Officers, 1932, Chicago, 5

2 Figure D, Page 24

3 Figure E, Page 25

Figure D

Number



— Referral  
- - - Commitment



29th Street on the North, Wentworth Avenue on the West, 30th Street on the South, and Cottage Grove Avenue on the East, is characterized also by extremely congested living conditions, low economic standards, a high incidence of disease and a high crime rate index. The places of residence at referral and at commitment are found to be in the same general area, with some shifting of location within the area. The outlying residential areas and suburban communities have a conspicuously small number of cases.

A second group of factors to be considered are those concerned with family history. A study of the marital status of the parents at the time of referral of this sixty girls showed that only twelve, or twenty per cent of them, had parents who lived together. Thirteen of the girls were children of unmarried mothers and the remaining thirty-five girls came from homes broken by divorce, separation or death, as shown in Table 11.<sup>4</sup> This correlation between broken homes and delinquency has been found in many different studies but a direct causal influence need not be implied.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Table 11, Page 27

<sup>5</sup> U. S. Childrens Bureau, Juvenile Court Statistics, U. S. Pub. No. 245

U. S. Childrens Bureau, Institutional Treatment of Delinquent Boys, Part II, Publ. No. 230, 1936

TABLE 11

MARRIED AND LIVING TOGETHER.....	12
UNMARRIED.....	13
DIVORCED.....	5
SEPARATED.....	16
ONE OR BOTH PARENTS DECEASED.....	14

The person or persons with whom the girls were living at the time of referral are shown in Table 12<sup>6</sup>. Only twelve per cent of the group were without family ties at the time of referral but statistical material fails to indicate the defective relationships that may have existed among the eighty-eight per cent where there were family ties. Twice as many girls lived with their mothers as with both parents or in any other arrangement.

In determining the economic status the same grouping was adopted as for the 1943 group. This distribution is shown in Figure F<sup>7</sup>.

The forty-five families of independent or partially dependent status were then classified according to the member or

6 Table 12, Page 28

7 Figure F, Page 28

TABLE 12  
LIVING SITUATIONS

PARENTS.....	11
FATHER.....	5
MOTHER.....	22
GRANDPARENTS.....	4
MOTHER AND STEPFATHER.....	4
FATHER AND STEPMOTHER.....	2
RELATIVES.....	5
FOSTER HOME.....	4
LIVING ALONE.....	3

FIGURE F  
ECONOMIC STATUS

INDEPENDENT	67%
DEPENDENT	25%
PARTIALLY DEPENDENT	8%

members of the family employed and the distribution is shown in Table 13. In addition to giving the earning members of these families, the table shows sixteen homes where the mother was employed and where there was consequently a lack of supervision during her working hours.

TABLE 13

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

FATHER.....	18
MOTHER.....	11
BOTH PARENTS.....	3
STEFFATHER.....	3
MOTHER AND STEFFATHER.....	2
RELATIVES.....	7
OTHER.....	1

Another factor in the family history which was thought to be important was the existence of Juvenile Court records on the siblings of these girls. Table 14<sup>8</sup> shows that only seven per cent had delinquent records and but no commitments and another eleven per cent of the siblings had been committed to State Training Schools.



TABLE 14

COURT RECORDS ON OTHER CHILDREN IN FAMILY	
DEPENDENT.....	33
DELINQUENT.....	13
NO RECORD.....	107
COMMITMENTS.....	20

Reports from courts, psychiatric clinics, and hospitals on the parents of these girls were too incomplete to be of value. However, data secured from the Social Service Exchange indicated that the families were in general known to a number of social agencies. Fifty-one out of sixty families had been registered 206 times which is an average of four registrations per family.

The court experiences of the sixty girls comprised the third set of factors studied and a comparison of offenses at the time of referral and of commitment is shown in Table 15<sup>9</sup>. Of the eight groups of offenses at referral, three groups pertained to non-delinquent reasons, namely, neglect and dependency, behavior or discipline problems, and referrals on other members in the family. These groups constituted forty-three per cent of the referrals. Incurribility, which occurred nineteen times,

was the major delinquent classification at time of referral. This term was generally defined as "beyond the control of parental authority" or "defiance of parental discipline".

At the time of commitment there were four offenses listed; sex delinquency, incorrigibility, runaway, and pick-pocketing, robbery and stealing. Again, incorrigibility represented the largest group (fifty-five per cent of offenses. This may in part result from the failure of the probation officer to specify the offense actually committed.

In addition to the specific offenses at the time of referral and commitment, other recorded problems were tabulated into eight delinquency classifications. Column I of Table 16<sup>10</sup> shows the distribution by offense in the cases of forty-seven girls whose case records indicated one additional offense. Column II gives the distribution in the cases of thirty-three girls with two additional offenses. Column III and IV shows the same information for ten and three girls, respectively, who had three and four other offenses.

Following the distribution, horizontally by offense classification the table shows that sex delinquency constituted the major proportion or thirty-six per cent of the additional offenses. Truancy ranked second and runaway ranked third.

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TABLE 15  
OFFENSES AT REFERRAL AND COMMITMENT

TYPE OF OFFENSE	AT REFERRAL	AT COMMITMENT
SEX DELINQUENCY	6	18
INCORRIGIBILITY	19	33
NEGLECT OR DEPENDENCY	16	0
RUNAWAY	6	9
FIGHTING, DRINKING	2	0
BEHAVIOR OR DISCIPLINE PROBLEM	7	0
PICKPOCKETING, ROBBERY, STEALING	1	3
REFERRALS ON OTHER MEMBERS IN FAMILY	3	0

TABLE 16  
OTHER OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	TOTAL
SEX DELINQUENCY	19	13	2	0	34
RUNAWAY	5	3	0	3	11
DRINKING	3	4	2	0	9
TRUANCY	12	4	2	0	18
ASSAULT, FIGHTING, CONCEALED WEAPONS	2	2	3	0	7
VAGRANCY, PROSTITUTION, INCEST, SEX PERVERT	1	3	0	0	4
INCORRIGIBILITY	3	1	0	0	4
STEALING, RIDING IN STOLEN CAR	2	3	1	0	6
TOTAL	47	33	10	3	93



Drinking, assault and fighting, and stealing ranked fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. There were four cases in which incorrigibility was mentioned as an additional offense and one instance each of vagrancy, incest, prostitution, and paid sex perversion.

Also important in the court procedure were the plans instituted by the court for the girls' care. The study brought out the fact that in nine cases, the girls were committed to the State Training School at the first court hearing. In the cases of fifty-one girls, there were eight different dispositions entered by the court as shown in Column I of Table 17.<sup>11</sup> Fourteen girls were committed after the first disposition had proven ineffective and for thirty-seven girls, a second disposition was made involving ten plans, as shown in Column II. In the cases of sixteen girls the second disposition was also ineffectual and was followed by commitment to the Training School. In general, after the failure of two court plans, the majority of the girls were committed.

There were twelve different types of plans instituted by the court as shown in Table 17. A description of these may be found in Appendix B.

<sup>11</sup> Table 17, Page 35

TABLE 17

## NUMBER AND TYPE OF PRIOR DISPOSITIONS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	TOTAL
SPECIAL SUPERVISION	18	5	3	3	3	2	0	2	0	36
PROBATION	12	14	5	0	2	2	1	0	0	36
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL	7	4	7	3	1	1	0	0	0	23
CHICAGO DEPT. OF WELFARE	5	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
HOUSE OF GOOD SHEPHERD	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	10
TEMPORARY CARE DIVISION	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
PRIVATE AGENCIES	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	8
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
CHICAGO PARENTAL SCHOOL RELEASES	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
PERMANENT DISCHARGES	0	3	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	9
CHILD PLACING DIVISION	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	8
MISCELLANEOUS	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153</b>

A study of Table 17 shows that two types of dispositions, Special Supervision and Probation (each of which involved continued activity within the Court itself) were made thirty-six times each, or a total of seventy-two times out of a possible 153. The next three types involving agencies outside the court accounted for forty-four dispositions. Thus, five out of twelve types accounted for seventy-five per cent of the total number of dispositions, or 116 out of 153. The remaining twenty-five per cent of the dispositions were spread over seven types and ranged in frequency from a high of nine permanent discharges to a low of two under Miscellaneous. On an overall basis this means that fifty-four per cent of the dispositions (72 involving probation and supervision and 11 involving the Temporary Care and Child Placing Division) called for continued activity on the part of the court. The permanent discharges accounted for only six per cent of the dispositions, and the remaining forty-per cent embraced the use of agencies and facilities outside the court.

The fourth group of factors included school history, employment history, medical information and psychiatric reports. The school grades on these girls were fairly complete and the grades at time of referral compared with grade placement at time of commitment is given in Table 18.<sup>12</sup> Forty-two per cent

<sup>12</sup> Table 18, Page 37



TABLE 18  
SCHOOL GRADE AT REFERRAL AND COMMITMENT

GRADE	REFERRAL	COMMITMENT
PRE-SCHOOL	7	0
FIRST THROUGH FOURTH	8	0
FIFTH THROUGH EIGHTH	25	16
HIGH SCHOOL-1st and 2nd	8	11
HIGH SCHOOL-3rd and 4th	0	1
SPECIAL ROOM CONTINUATION SCHOOL	2	5
OUT OF SCHOOL	7	21
NO REPORT	3	6

of the total group were in the grade range from fifth through eight at time of referral. In the commitment group the most significant finding was that twenty-one girls were out of school although only eleven of them were of legal age to leave school.

Any conclusion drawn from school reports in Table 19<sup>13</sup> must be made with reservations, due to the large proportion of data unavailable. In approximately thirty-three per cent of the cases no school reports had been incorporated into the case record throughout the time the girl had been known to the court. Where there was more than one report, the latest one was used in compiling data for Table 19. The most significant factor in the school history of these girls seems to be their irregularity of attendance.

Medical reports from the Juvenile Detention Home on fifty girls in the group stated that forty-three of them were lacking in gross physical abnormalities or deficiencies and were considered to be medically normal. There were five cases of venereal infection and two girls were in poor physical condition. In addition gynecological examinations were made by the Court physician on fifty-eight girls. Past trauma or definite evidence of sex experience were found in the cases of fifty girls, no definite evidence for four girls, and no trauma for four

TABLE 19  
SCHOOL REPORTS

	SCHOLARSHIP	DEPORTMENT	ATTENDANCE
EXCELLENT		1	
GOOD	5	15	
FAIR	11	7	
POOR	13	14	
FAILING	5		
REGULAR			8
IRREGULAR			20
VERY IRREGULAR			15
NO REPORT	21	25	17

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## INTRODUCTION

There has been a great deal written concerning the subject of Juvenile Delinquency with reference to the effect of World War II and the increase of delinquency rates during that time. In addition the post-war period has produced articles on the readjustment of family life during the transition to peacetime which has affected the problem of Juvenile Delinquency. With this background in mind the present study was done within the framework of the Juvenile Court of Cook County.<sup>1</sup> The statutory powers of this court include the determination of alleged delinquency in cases of girls up to the age of eighteen years and the commitment of girls to the Illinois State Training School for Girls after a finding of delinquency.<sup>2</sup>

The study proposes to consider the precommitment case histories of a selected number of girls sent to the Illinois State Training School for Girls by the Juvenile Court in the

1 The name was changed to the Family Court and the scope of powers broadened by statutory revision in 1949.

2 Illinois Revised Statutes, 1931, (Smith-Hurd) Chapter 23, Section 190, Section 198.

years 1943 and 1948. The year 1943 was selected as representative of war years and 1948 as representative of the post-war period. There were sixty-eight girls committed in 1943, as compared with one hundred and nineteen in 1948. This increase over the five year period was not consistent with the number of new Delinquent Girl petitions filed, as these figures were almost identical for both years.

The review of pre-commitment factors was focused on an attempt to determine what similarities or differences were apparent in the case histories of the two groups in the areas of personal, court, family and social history. The study groups for each year were treated separately, using the same pre-commitment factors, and the findings were then compared.

The cases were located in the State Training School Warrant book in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County - Juvenile Branch. A complete listing was made of all girls committed to the Training School in the years 1943 and 1948. From each list a fifty per cent sample was taken by selecting every other case, beginning with the first throughout the list. As the warrant book is compiled from daily court orders the cases were listed in order of commitment date. The sample for 1943 consisted of thirty-four girls and that for 1948 of sixty girls.

A schedule of sixty-four pre-commitment factors was constructed for the compiling of quantitative data. (See Appendix A). Each case was read with emphasis on the material required for the completion of the schedule. The Juvenile Court case records are composed of face sheet, court disposition sheet, court histories, correspondence and reports, social histories, and a running record account of all contacts with and concerning the child and his family. The data was then tabulated for construction of interpretative tables and figures. Two summaries of case histories were used to present the subjective material, first with respect to a typical case and then for an unusual situation.

This study then embraces a survey of selective case history material of two groups of girls committed by the Court to the Training School in an effort to determine what similarities or differences existed between them.

## CHAPTER I

### THE STUDY GROUP: 1943

There were thirty-four girls from the same number of families in the study group for the year 1943 and this constituted a fifty per cent sample of the total number committed to the Training School that year. A study was made of each record with regard to sixty-four pre-commitment factors which were tentatively held to be significant. The data was assembled under four headings; personal, family, court, and social history.

Of the personal history factors race, religion, age and geographical location were found to be most important. There were thirteen white girls and twenty-one negro girls. In terms of percentages this means that thirty-eight per cent of the commitments were white girls and sixty-two per cent were negro. There were twenty-two girls of Protestant affiliation and nine Roman Catholics. Two girls belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church and one was Jewish. The proportion of Roman Catholic girls to Protestant girls was influenced by two factors, namely, the large percentage of negro girls with Protestant church affiliations and by the existence of a particular institution in the community, The House of Good Shepherd, for delinquent girls