

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND  
FAMILY COURT JUDGES**



**1999**

**ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT**

# **TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES**

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**Joan Archer, Executive Director**

## **1999 TENNESSEE ANNUAL JUVENILE COURT STATISTICAL REPORT**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN TENNESSEE</b>	1
Jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court	1
Juvenile Court Professional Staff	2
Juvenile Court Process	3
<b>JUVENILE COURT DATA COLLECTION PROCESS</b>	4
Limitations of the Juvenile Court Data	4
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	5
<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN REFERRED</b>	7
Table - Number of Children, Cases and Referrals by Court	8
<b>RACE, SEX, AND AGE INFORMATION</b>	10
Table - Number of Children by Race and Sex	11
Table - Race and Sex Statistics and Hispanic (Statewide Totals)	14
Chart - Race of Child (Male)	15
Chart - Race of Child (Female)	15
Table - Age Group of Children Referred	16
<b>LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF THE CHILD AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL</b>	17
Chart - Living Arrangement at Time of Referral	18
Chart - Living Arrangement of Males by Race	19
Chart - Living Arrangement of Females by Race	20
<b>SCHOOL STATUS OF CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL</b>	21
Chart - School Status of Child	22
Table - School Statistics (Statewide Totals)	23
<b>REFERRAL INFORMATION BY RACE, SEX, AND CLASS OF REFERRAL/OFFENSE</b>	24
Chart - Male Referrals by Race and Class of Referral/Offense	26
Chart - Female Referrals by Race and Class of Referral/Offense	27
<b>REFERRAL REASONS BY RACE AND SEX</b>	28
Table - Referral Reasons by Race and Sex	29
<b>REFERRAL SOURCES</b>	32
Table - Referral Source	33
Table - Referral Reasons by Referral Source	34
<b>MANNER OF HANDLING THE REFERRAL</b>	37
Table - Intake Actions	38
<b>DETENTION INFORMATION</b>	39
Chart - Detention Information	40
<b>ADJUDICATORY AND DISPOSITIONAL PROCEDURES</b>	41
Chart - Adjudicatory Procedures	42
Table - Dispositional Procedures	43

**DISPOSITIONAL PROCEDURE INFORMATION BY RACE, SEX AND CLASS OF REFERRAL/OFFENSE** 44

Table - Procedure Used by Class of Referral/Offense, Race, and Sex 45

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN TRANSFERRED TO ADULT COURT BY COURT, RACE, AND SEX** 47

Table - Number of Children Transferred by Court, Race, and Sex 48

**INDIVIDUAL DISPOSITIONAL ACTIONS BY RACE AND SEX** 50

Table - Outcome/Dispositional Data by Race and Sex 51

**JUVENILE CASES DISPOSED BY** 53

Table – Referral Reason Disposed By 53

**APPENDIX**

Trend Data 1995-1999

54-64

# JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN TENNESSEE

Tennessee's juvenile courts operate under the basic philosophy of striving to assure that each child coming before the court receives the opportunity for appropriate physical, mental, and moral development. The courts endeavor to facilitate this opportunity through consideration of each child's case on its individual merits while adhering to three primary obligations: (1) protecting the community and society at large; (2) acting in the best interest and welfare of the child by means of protection, treatment, and rehabilitation; and (3) upholding the dignity of the law.

Tennessee is home to 98 juvenile courts with 112 juvenile court judges. Of these 98 courts, 17 are designated "Special Act" juvenile courts, while the remaining 82 are general sessions courts with juvenile jurisdiction. Each of these courts are county-based and administered, with at least one juvenile court located in each of the state's 95 counties. While all of Tennessee's courts with juvenile jurisdiction strive to follow the procedural guidelines established by the Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure, there is very little standardization with regard to juvenile court size, management, and administration. Hence, Tennessee's juvenile court system is diverse and tends to reflect the needs and preferences of the people living within a given county or community.

## **Jurisdiction Of The Juvenile Court**

It is said that more lives are touched by juvenile courts than by any other courts. Juvenile courts deal not only with delinquency and status offenses, but also with issues of child neglect and abuse, child support, child custody, establishing parentage, visitation, and the need for a child's medical and/or mental health treatment. Juvenile courts can be seen as performing the diverse functions of a court of law, a probation department, a "jail", a nursery, a welfare agency, and a mental health agency. Tennessee's juvenile courts have jurisdiction within the following areas:

- The adjudication of children as dependent, neglected, abused, unruly, or delinquent.
- The determination of custody or the appointment of a guardian of a child.
- The termination of parental rights.
- The ordering of treatment, evaluation, and/or commitment of mentally retarded and/or mentally ill children.
- The commitment of children to the custody of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.
- The establishment of parentage.
- The ordering and enforcement of child support for children.
- Establishing visitation for non-custodial parents.

- The enforcement of the Compulsory School Attendance Laws.
- The removal of the age restrictions on a minor's application for a marriage license.
- The giving of judicial consent to a minor's employment or enlistment in the armed services if such consent is required by law.
- The giving of judicial consent to the medical treatment of a child when his/her parents or guardians are unable to do so.
- The adjudication of alleged traffic violations by persons under the age of eighteen.
- The transfer of serious delinquency cases to criminal court for trial as adults.

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 37-1-159, the juvenile court is a Court of Record. It may enforce its orders in any way in which a court of equity may enforce its orders and decrees, including by imprisonment and by fine for contempt.

### **Juvenile Court Professional Staff**

The dedication of the juvenile court staff is crucial to the functioning of the juvenile court. The typical juvenile court professional staff is comprised of the Juvenile Court Judge, the Referee (primarily in the larger courts), the Youth Services Officers or Probation Officers, and the Juvenile Court Clerk.

The Juvenile Court Judge must be 30 years old, licensed to practice law (unless elected to the post prior to 1982, or the county has no qualified attorney), a resident of his/her district for one year, and elected by the people. In addition to his/her judicial duties, the Judge is the chief administrator of the court and is seen as having the following attributes: (1) learned in the law; (2) possessing administrative ability and experience; (3) maintaining a broad acquaintance with modern social problems affecting children and youth; and (4) having a realistic understanding of children and their behavior in relation to their total life needs.

The Referee is appointed by the Judge, and may be directed to hear any case or class of cases. He or she must be licensed to practice law and has the same authority and powers as the Judge to issue process and to conduct proceedings. Referees are generally appointed when the court's juvenile justice population is greater than one Judge can cover, or when a commitment is probable and the Judge is not an attorney.

The Youth Services Officer (YSO) and Probation Officer (PO) are officials of the court and are essential to the functioning of the judicial process, as well as to the welfare of the children within the juvenile justice system. Their duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Juvenile Court Intake
- Pre-hearing Investigations
- Referral
- Supervision
- Detention Screenings
- Counseling
- Record Keeping

The Juvenile Court Clerk is the record keeping and records management backbone of the juvenile court. The clerk maintains separate minutes, dockets, and legal records of all matters pertaining to juvenile court proceedings as required by law. Historically, Juvenile Court Clerks have been responsible for the collection and handling of child support payments. This is in the process of moving to a centralized child support payment system. Juvenile court clerks also collect all fees, fines, and court costs assessed by the juvenile court.

### **Juvenile Court Process**

In Tennessee, the basic juvenile court process is comprised of three central phases: (1) Intake, (2) Adjudication, and (3) Disposition.

Juvenile court intake is a process through which the court reviews information in order to determine whether it has the authority to intervene in a child's life and in what manner it will administer its authority. The components of the intake process are referral to intake, detention screening, and assessment of how to handle the complaint. Referral to intake involves the filing of a complaint by law enforcement, parents, or other individuals or agencies requesting the court to exercise its authority. If detention is requested by the complainant, the intake officer performs a detention screening to determine if there is probable cause (legal sufficiency) that the child committed the alleged offense and is subject to detention in accordance with statute. Lastly, an assessment is made to determine if the complaint should be excluded, if informal adjustment (a voluntary agreement between the intake officer, the child and the parents) should be pursued, or if a petition should be filed.

In most instances, if a petition is filed, the case goes into the adjudicatory phase. In this phase the case is heard by the juvenile court judge or referee to determine if the allegations of the petition are true. In making its decision, the court considers only the evidence that has been formally admitted. If the allegations are not substantiated or cannot be proven, the petition will be dismissed. In those situations where the allegations are substantiated, the judge will proceed immediately or will set a later hearing to determine the appropriate outcome or disposition for the case.

The purpose of the dispositional phase is to determine an appropriate course of action regarding the child and his/her circumstances. Disposition, insofar as possible, typically attempts to meet the treatment, social, and rehabilitation needs of the child.

**JUVENILE COURT DATA COLLECTION PROCESS  
FOR THE  
1999 ANNUAL REPORT**

As required by Tennessee Code Annotated § 37-1-506, 1999 data were sent to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Information System (TJCIS) by each court with juvenile jurisdiction. Ninety-six (96) courts sent data to TJCIS electronically either on diskettes or as attachments to electronic mail. These courts either used a data entry software program provided by TJCIS staff or other software that their individual court had obtained. The remaining two (2) non-automated courts sent information to TJCIS by utilizing data collection forms. After the forms' data were entered, all data were cleaned, edited, and analyzed to produce the 1999 Annual Report, as well as year-end and ad hoc statistical reports.

In 1999, **all of Tennessee's juvenile courts once again reported data** to TJCIS, with ninety-eight percent (98%) of these courts sending data electronically. Every Tennessee court has reported data to TJCIS for the past five years, thereby distinguishing Tennessee as having one of the relatively few juvenile court statewide databases in the country with every court reporting. All automated court systems were required to utilize data edits developed by TJCIS staff. These required data edits did not allow many incomplete or incorrectly coded records to be copied to diskette for inclusion in the TJCIS database. Data received in this fashion were mostly error free with respect to coding issues.

**Limitations of the 1999 Juvenile Court Data**

Courts vary in the completeness of their reporting of dependency and neglect cases. Some courts do not report any dependency and neglect cases at all. The reasons for this failure to report are not well understood. Sometimes the root of the problem seems to be a sometimes-complex division of labor between the juvenile court and the juvenile court clerk's office in reporting such data. Steps are under way to provide training and technical assistance to courts to improve this situation.

It is also important to note that many juvenile courts do not hear traffic cases. In these jurisdictions, traffic cases go to the court exercising jurisdiction over adult traffic violations. Since some courts' statistics include traffic cases and some do not, one must be cautious in comparing courts with each other. Additionally, although juvenile courts handle adult cases such as contributing to the dependency or delinquency of a minor, these cases are not reported to TJCIS.



## 1999 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With all of Tennessee's 98 juvenile courts participating, information regarding 73,036 children, 102,985 cases, and 123,274 referral reasons was reported to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Information System for the period between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. The number of children, cases, and referral reasons each increased slightly from calendar year 1998. However, Davidson County has underreported by approximately 2,500-3,000 children for 1999.

During 1999, over half (54%) of the referral reasons in Tennessee's juvenile courts were for alleged delinquent offenses. Status offenses represented 20% of referral reasons, while non-offense referral reasons comprised an additional 26% of the total juvenile court referrals. A status offense is an offense committed by a child, that if committed by an adult, would not be considered an offense or unlawful act. An example of this is smoking when one is not legally an adult.

When comparing the 1999 data with those of 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998, the two most commonly referred delinquent offenses continued to be traffic offenses and theft of property. Truancy remained the most often-reported referral reason within the status offense category for 1999, and in-state runaway charges remained the second most reported status offense. Referral reasons surrounding issues of dependency/neglect and custody remained the most prevalent within the non-offense category.

The 1999 data continued to reflect that, roughly speaking, males were referred to juvenile court almost twice as often as females, and were referred for alleged delinquent offenses almost four times more often than their female counterparts. The number of referral reasons for status offense and non-offense reasons, however, continued to vary much less with respect to gender (10,400 status offense referrals of females, 14,219 status offense referrals of males). Age statistics for 1999 showed that 15-year-olds through 18-year-olds for both genders constituted 58.4% of the juvenile court population and those 17 through 18 accounted for 25.8%.

Regarding race, little difference was seen between previous years' data and those of 1999. In 1999, African American and other non-white children were reported as representing 34% of the juvenile court population, while constituting only 22% of the overall juvenile population of Tennessee. Conversely, white children were reported as making up 63% of the juvenile court population, while constituting 78% of the overall juvenile population. (Race was not reported for 3% of the children.)

Law enforcement continued to be the most often cited referral source for juveniles to the courts (48.9%), while parents continued to represent the second most often cited referral source (9.6%). With regard to the most frequently reported reason for referral, law enforcement personnel appeared more likely to refer juveniles for traffic complaints, while parents made referrals most often for "Other," unruly behavior and child support. The 1999 data shows schools (9.2%) as the third most often reported source, while court staff (7.1%) was the fourth and relatives (6.6%) was the fifth.

When looking at the six most frequently reported referral reasons associated with each referral source, the tables on pages 34 - 36 reveal that, in 1999, law enforcement personnel continued to appear more likely to refer juveniles for traffic complaints (21%), while unruly behavior (17%) was the most often cited reason for referral by parents. With regard to schools, truancy remained the most cited referral reason (67%), while victims continued to refer more often for theft of property (31%).

The 1999 data was analyzed to determine the number of children transferred to adult court for the alleged commitment of delinquent offenses. The data showed that, of the 363 children transferred to adult court in 1998, 93.1% were males, with 62.0% being African American males. The court with the largest number of children transferred was the Shelby County Juvenile Court, which accounted for 44.1% of the statewide transfers. The court with the next highest number of transfers to adult court was Rutherford County Juvenile Court (5.2%). Madison County Juvenile Court transferred 17 (4.7%) children to the adult court. Both Knox and Davidson County accounted for 4.4% of cases transferred each. Fifty-four courts reported at least one transfer while 44 reported no transfers.

The number of children referred to juvenile courts for allegedly committing offenses has been relatively steady since 1995 (please see the Appendix). With a few exceptions like Assault, there has been little growth in the number of children reported as referred to the juvenile courts in Tennessee.

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN REFERRED TO JUVENILE COURTS

1999

During the reporting period between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, information regarding 73,036 children was reported by the juvenile courts to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Information System (TJCIS). This number represents a statewide increase of four percent (4%) or 3,095 children compared to calendar year 1998. Limitations to the data not withstanding, this smaller than normal increase in the number of children reported to TJCIS can be explained principally by the fact that the improved data collection efforts of the past seven years have become institutionalized within the courts and the data capture has, therefore, become stabilized. Additionally, 32 (33%) juvenile courts reported fewer children than were reported in 1998. Follow up with many of the courts found these decreases to be valid. Tennessee (especially certain counties) seems to be in a period of slowing growth with respect to the numbers of children handled by the juvenile courts.

The juvenile courts reporting the largest number of children referred and disposed were Shelby County/ Memphis, Davidson County/Nashville, Hamilton County/Chattanooga, and Knox County/Knoxville. Once again, Shelby County reported the largest number of children (16,248), while Hancock County, reporting 24 children, was the county with the smallest number of children reported to be referred to juvenile court.

Please refer to the chart on pages 8-9 for a county by county listing of the numbers of children, cases, and referrals. ***The reader should note that the TJCIS definition of case is as follows: "All referral reasons/charges reported to the court (via complaint, petition, motion, etc.) on a given day for a given child."***

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Number of Children, Cases and Referral Reasons By Court  
Based on Number of Reported Cases  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	Children	Number of 2000 Cases	Referral Reasons
ANDERSON	282	467	504
BEDFORD	334	420	622
BENTON	139	161	195
BLEDSON	166	213	256
BLOUNT	976	1,321	1,420
BRADLEY	763	1,233	1,440
CAMPBELL	265	282	282
CANNON	104	125	125
CARROLL	246	279	365
CARTER	414	724	726
CHEATHAM	626	779	890
CHESTER	256	263	314
CLAIBORNE	301	640	691
CLAY	114	216	228
COCKE	612	978	1,015
COFFEE	540	692	881
CROCKETT	66	87	118
CUMBERLAND	544	667	695
DAVIDSON *	7,319	11,186	14,113
DECATUR	40	43	60
DEKALB	303	498	506
DICKSON	510	737	865
DYER	486	784	901
FAYETTE	633	661	662
FENTRESS	174	272	299
FRANKLIN	399	519	550
GIBSON	502	821	945
GILES	505	594	786
GRAINGER	398	398	417
GREENE	652	926	998
GRUNDY	371	777	843
HAMBLEN	542	711	728
HAMILTON	3,455	4,790	5,291
HANCOCK	24	37	47
HARDEMAN	430	535	824
HARDIN	229	328	367
HAWKINS	829	1,235	1,399
HAYWOOD	192	248	367
HENDERSON	196	325	553
HENRY	254	391	527
HICKMAN	318	376	452
HOUSTON	100	203	215
HUMPHREYS	306	513	589
JACKSON	83	100	130
JEFFERSON	347	522	612
JOHNSON	247	272	275
KNOX	3,225	4,313	5,212
LAKE	54	69	79
LAUDERDALE	669	902	1,051
LAWRENCE	481	543	543
LEWIS	117	146	217

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Number of Children, Cases and Referral Reasons By Court  
Based on Number of Reported Cases  
January 1, 2000 - December 31, 2000**

	Children	Number of 2000 Cases	Referral Reasons
LINCOLN **	202	382	383
LOUDON	493	737	813
MCMINN	461	609	732
MCNAIRY	589	603	644
MACON	407	565	626
MADISON	719	819	1,182
MARION	292	305	305
MARSHALL	481	649	748
MAURY	1,159	1,526	2,323
MEIGS	111	112	112
MONROE	396	542	590
MONTGOMERY	2,110	2,542	3,473
MOORE	34	35	37
MORGAN	178	205	222
OBION	372	444	595
OVERTON	142	259	302
PERRY	117	158	177
PICKETT	66	85	111
POLK	52	61	72
PUTNAM	849	1,304	1,517
RHEA	429	536	661
ROANE	284	366	402
ROBERTSON	954	1,583	2,054
RUTHERFORD	904	1,115	1,708
SCOTT	133	148	181
SEQUATCHIE	104	128	148
SEVIER	1,521	2,684	3,656
SHELBY	16,248	21,872	26,090
SMITH	63	86	98
STEWART	134	183	197
SULLIVAN	449	981	1,140
SUMNER	2,124	4,172	4,952
TIPTON	339	400	583
TROUSDALE	106	114	127
UNICOI	249	345	357
UNION	308	317	349
VAN BUREN	48	50	58
WARREN	795	1,168	1,391
WASHINGTON	1,143	1,935	2,039
WAYNE	281	385	458
WEAKLEY	383	520	625
WHITE	175	205	223
WILLIAMSON	1,866	2,712	3,153
WILSON	955	1,229	1,368
JOHNSON CITY	1,013	1,274	1,571
BRISTOL	763	1,040	1,232
SULLIVAN DIV. 2	897	1,173	1,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,036</b>	<b>102,985</b>	<b>123,274</b>

\* Davidson County underreported their data.

\*\* Lincoln County data should be interpreted cautiously because of problems with the computer software they license.

## **1999 RACE, SEX AND AGE INFORMATION BASED ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

The tables on pages 11-13 present the the number of children by race, sex, and age for calendar year 1999. White males, totaling 28,885 and representing 40% of the overall juvenile court population outnumbered their female counterparts, who totaled 16,917 and represented 22% of the juvenile court population. African American males, totaling 14,730 and representing 20% of the juvenile court population, outnumbered their female counterparts, who totaled 9,193 and represented 13% of the juvenile court population. These percentage data are consistent with those of 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998.

Regarding race, non-white (African American, Native American, Asian, and Mixed Race) children were reported as representing 34% of the juvenile court population, while constituting only 22% of the overall juvenile population of Tennessee. Conversely, white children, constituting 78% of the overall juvenile population, were reported as making up 63% of the juvenile court population. (Race was not reported for 3% of the children.) Those counties reporting the highest percentages of non-white children within their juvenile court population were as follows:

Davidson - 57% (non-white children represent 31.6% of the county's juvenile population) \*

Fayette - 67% (non-white children represent 52.8% of the county's juvenile population) \*

Haywood - 73% (non-white children represent 58.9% of the county's juvenile population) \*

Lauderdale - 56% (non-white children represent 39.5% of the county's juvenile population) \*

Madison - 67% (non-white children represent 40.5% of the county's juvenile population) \*

Shelby - 78% (non-white children represent 55.3% of the county's juvenile population) \*

When looking at age, the 1999 data indicated that the largest number of children continued to fall within the 15 through 16 years of age category (see chart on page 16). Prior to the 1994, 1995, and 1996 data, African American females historically were represented more in the Birth to 10 years of age category. In 1994, 1995, and 1996, African American females were most represented in the 15 through 16 age group. In 1997, 1998, and again in 1999, the modal category for African American females returned to the Birth to 10 years age category.

\*Source: The 1990 U.S. Census Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1, prepared by The Center for Business and Economic Research, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, 1991.

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Total Number of Children By Race And Sex By Court  
Based on Number of Children  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	WHITE MALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE	OTHER RACE MALE	MALE RACE UNKNOWN	WHITE FEMALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE	OTHER RACE FEMALE	FEMALE RACE UNKNOWN	WHITE SEX UNKNOWN	AFRICAN AMERICAN SEX UNKNOWN	OTHER RACE SEX UNKNOWN	RACE & SEX UNKNOWN	TOTAL
ANDERSON	177	16	3	0	80	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	282
BEDFORD	180	26	3	1	108	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	334
BENTON	92	6	1	0	39	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	139
BLED SOE	109	3	1	1	50	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	166
BLOUNT	556	35	3	9	338	25	2	7	0	1	0	0	976
BRADLEY	437	35	6	11	245	16	1	12	0	0	0	0	763
CAMPBELL	166	2	1	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	265
CANNON	57	3	1	0	40	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	104
CARROLL	126	28	0	3	76	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	246
CARTER	263	4	2	5	134	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	414
CHEATHAM	394	8	1	3	218	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	626
CHESTER	121	26	2	1	76	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	256
CLAIBORNE	184	0	2	0	111	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	301
CLAY	68	5	1	0	39	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	114
COCKE	342	5	8	0	249	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	612
COFFEE	315	10	4	0	198	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	540
CROCKETT	26	12	1	3	19	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	66
CUMBERLAND	345	0	2	16	167	0	0	11	0	0	0	3	544
DAVIDSON *	1,643	2,296	216	121	1,168	1,545	138	103	4	2	0	83	7,319
DECATUR	23	3	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
DEKALB	178	6	1	2	115	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	303
DICKSON	303	22	2	6	161	9	4	2	1	0	0	0	510
DYER	240	96	1	9	97	36	0	7	0	0	0	0	486
FAYETTE	146	261	0	0	66	160	0	0	0	0	0	0	633
FENTRESS	114	1	0	0	58	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	174
FRANKLIN	251	18	0	1	116	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	399
GIBSON	167	155	4	17	83	59	1	12	1	0	0	3	502
GILES	211	109	8	0	124	45	8	0	0	0	0	0	505
GRAINGER	241	0	2	0	151	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	398
GREENE	399	6	4	5	229	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	652
GRUNDY	199	2	1	0	169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	371
HAMBLÉN	291	23	5	14	177	13	7	8	0	0	1	3	542
HAMILTON	979	960	22	77	661	668	16	60	0	0	0	12	3,455
HANCOCK	18	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
HARDEMAN	81	102	1	73	35	44	0	34	0	0	0	60	430
HARDIN	141	11	0	0	75	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	229

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**  
**Total Number of Children By Race And Sex By Court**  
**Based on Number of Children**  
**January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	WHITE MALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE	OTHER RACE MALE	MALE RACE UNKNOWN	WHITE FEMALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE	OTHER RACE FEMALE	FEMALE RACE UNKNOWN	WHITE SEX UNKNOWN	AFRICAN AMERICAN SEX UNKOWN	OTHER RACE SEX UNKNOWN	RACE & SEX UNKNOWN	TOTAL
HAWKINS	501	7	4	3	306	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	829
HAYWOOD	35	104	2	2	12	32	0	2	0	3	0	0	192
HENDERSON	107	24	6	0	52	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	196
HENRY	130	45	3	2	58	13	2	1	0	0	0	0	254
HICKMAN	183	5	5	1	119	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	318
HOUSTON	46	6	1	0	44	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	100
HUMPHREYS	169	9	3	3	114	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	306
JACKSON	59	1	0	1	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83
JEFFERSON	200	11	2	12	112	1	1	8	0	0	0	0	347
JOHNSON	164	3	3	0	75	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	247
KNOX	1,110	328	7	339	748	212	4	294	2	5	0	176	3,225
LAKE	19	4	0	3	20	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	54
LAUDERDALE	164	211	7	2	121	156	3	5	0	0	0	0	669
LAWRENCE	304	12	0	0	157	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	481
LEWIS	85	4	1	0	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	117
LINCOLN **	112	34	4	0	37	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	202
LOUDON	290	7	13	4	174	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	493
MCMINN	264	23	9	3	146	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	461
MCNAIRY	336	28	5	0	201	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	589
MACON	252	0	4	0	149	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	407
MADISON	164	336	2	3	68	145	1	0	0	0	0	0	719
MARION	192	9	0	0	77	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	292
MARSHALL	243	40	10	1	159	18	10	0	0	0	0	0	481
MAURY	559	186	15	35	274	71	6	13	0	0	0	0	1,159
MEIGS	70	1	0	0	39	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	111
MONROE	230	9	8	1	137	8	2	0	0	0	0	1	396
MONTGOMERY	815	353	91	19	535	215	67	14	0	0	0	1	2,110
MOORE	21	0	0	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
MORGAN	112	0	0	0	65	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	178
OBION	203	49	0	0	91	28	0	1	0	0	0	0	372
OVERTON	97	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	142
PERRY	71	3	0	0	39	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	117
PICKETT	45	0	1	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
POLK	35	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
PUTNAM	525	17	10	4	278	2	3	2	0	0	0	8	849
RHEA	235	16	9	1	154	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	429



**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Total Number of Children By Race And Sex By Court  
Based on Number of Children  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	WHITE MALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE	OTHER RACE MALE	MALE RACE UNKNOWN	WHITE FEMALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE	OTHER RACE FEMALE	FEMALE RACE UNKNOWN	WHITE SEX UNKNOWN	AFRICAN AMERICAN SEX UNKOWN	OTHER RACE SEX UNKNOWN	RACE & SEX UNKNOWN	TOTAL
ROANE	173	5	2	2	91	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	284
ROBERTSON	469	105	4	41	280	30	1	22	0	0	0	2	954
RUTHERFORD	511	108	22	2	216	36	7	2	0	0	0	0	904
SCOTT	92	1	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133
SEQUATCHIE	70	2	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104
SEVIER	957	6	5	8	534	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	1,521
SHELBY	2,142	7,649	66	51	1,297	4,980	43	20	0	0	0	0	16,248
SMITH	36	5	0	0	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
STEWART	82	1	2	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134
SULLIVAN	265	3	0	0	180	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	449
SUMNER	1,109	162	11	41	651	96	8	39	2	0	0	5	2,124
TIPTON	150	89	2	2	60	33	2	1	0	0	0	0	339
TROUSDALE	53	10	2	0	25	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	106
UNICOI	166	0	5	0	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	249
UNION	235	0	0	0	70	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	308
VAN BUREN	30	1	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
WARREN	426	27	1	0	324	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	795
WASHINGTON	683	9	11	1	419	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	1,143
WAYNE	171	4	1	4	97	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	281
WEAKLEY	202	36	2	7	109	18	3	5	1	0	0	0	383
WHITE	110	6	2	0	55	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	175
WILLIAMSON	1,026	152	16	28	538	75	7	22	1	0	0	1	1,866
WILSON	528	89	6	1	289	36	5	1	0	0	0	0	955
JOHNSON CITY	520	37	8	29	347	45	3	23	0	0	0	1	1,013
BRISTOL	456	9	0	0	292	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	763
SULLIVAN DIV. 2	493	34	8	0	323	38	1	0	0	0	0	0	897
Total	28,885	14,730	710	1,034	16,917	9,193	420	763	12	11	1	360	73,036

\* Davidson County underreported their data.

\*\* Lincoln County data should be interpreted cautiously because of problems with the computer software they license.

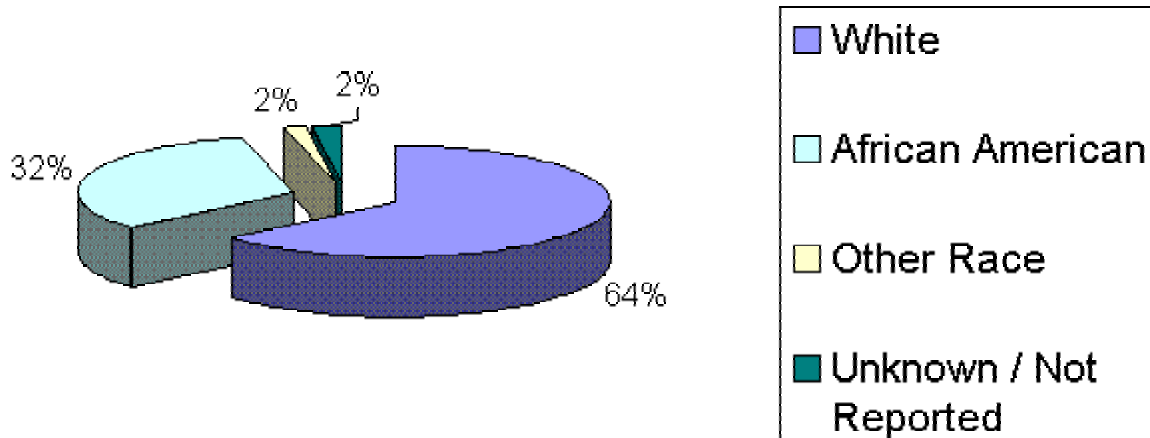
**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Race By Sex and  
Hispanic Origin By Sex  
Based on Number of Children Disposed  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	<u>Sex</u>			
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unreported</u>	<u>Total</u>
White	28,885	16,917	12	45,814
African American	14,730	9,193	11	23,934
Native American	56	28	0	84
Asian	206	100	0	306
Mixed Race	448	292	1	741
Race Unknown or Not Reported	1,034	763	360	2,157
Total	45,359	27,293	384	73,036

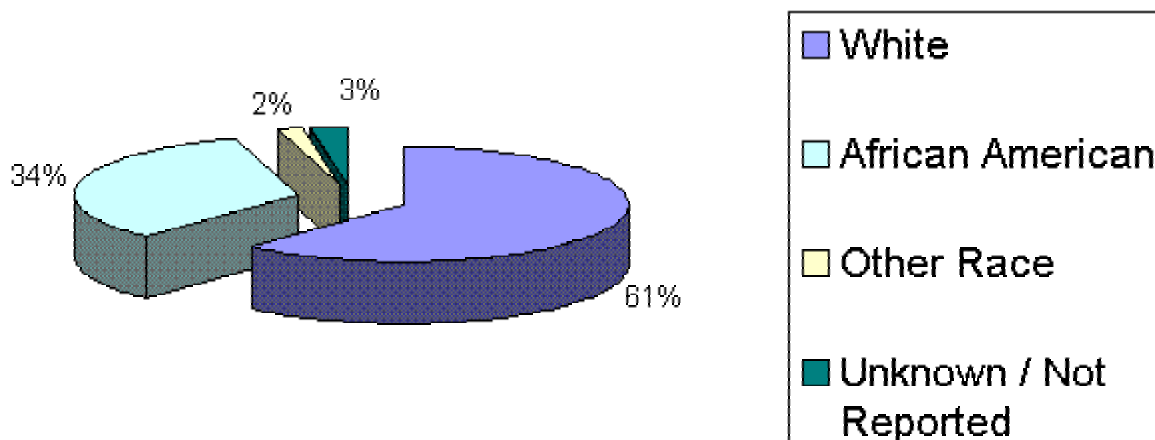
**Hispanic Origin**

	<u>Sex</u>			
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Unreported</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hispanic	687	331	1	1,019

## Race of Child - Males January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



## Race of Child - Females January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



Figures based on number of children whose case was disposed.

Figures do not reflect 360 children where both race and sex were unknown or not reported.

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Age Group Of Children  
Based on Number of Children  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	WHITE MALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE	OTHER RACE MALE	UNKNOWN RACE MALE	WHITE FEMALE	AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE	OTHER RACE FEMALE	UNKNOWN RACE FEMALE	WHITE SEX UNKNOWN	AFRICAN AMERICAN SEX UNKNOWN	OTHER RACE SEX UNKNOWN	RACE AND SEX UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Birth Through Age 10	3,367	3,309	179	432	3,233	2,882	178	362	4	10	1	248	14,205
Ages 11 Through 12	1,432	1,269	45	68	846	784	22	71	1	0	0	21	4,559
Ages 13 Through 14	3,956	2,499	97	124	2,541	1,686	49	80	3	0	0	27	11,062
Ages 15 Through 16	10,436	4,421	204	227	5,845	2,402	94	154	2	1	0	35	23,821
Ages 17 Through 18	9,461	3,169	182	167	4,308	1,397	77	86	0	0	0	19	18,866
Ages 19 And Over	105	23	3	7	45	13	0	7	1	0	0	9	213
Unknown/Not Reported	128	40	0	9	99	29	0	3	1	0	0	1	310
<u>Totals</u>	<u>28,885</u>	<u>14,730</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>1,034</u>	<u>16,917</u>	<u>9,193</u>	<u>420</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>73,036</u>

**LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF THE CHILD AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL TO  
JUVENILE COURT  
1999**

Consistent with the data gathered in previous years, the chart on page 18 shows the largest numbers (29,589 or 41%) of the children within the general juvenile court population were reported to be "Living With Their Mothers Only" at the time of referral to juvenile court. The second and third most reported living arrangements for the general juvenile court population were "Living With Both Natural Parents" (19%) and "Living With Relatives" (11%).

When examining the 1999 juvenile court population by race and gender categories, different living arrangement patterns can be seen (see charts on pages 19 - 20). White female data continued to mirror the general juvenile court population figures. This data revealed a higher percentage of "Living With Mothers Only" (37%) over "Living With Both Natural Parents" (21%) and "Unknown" (10%), followed closely by "Living With Relatives" (10%). These figures are consistent with the 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 percentages.

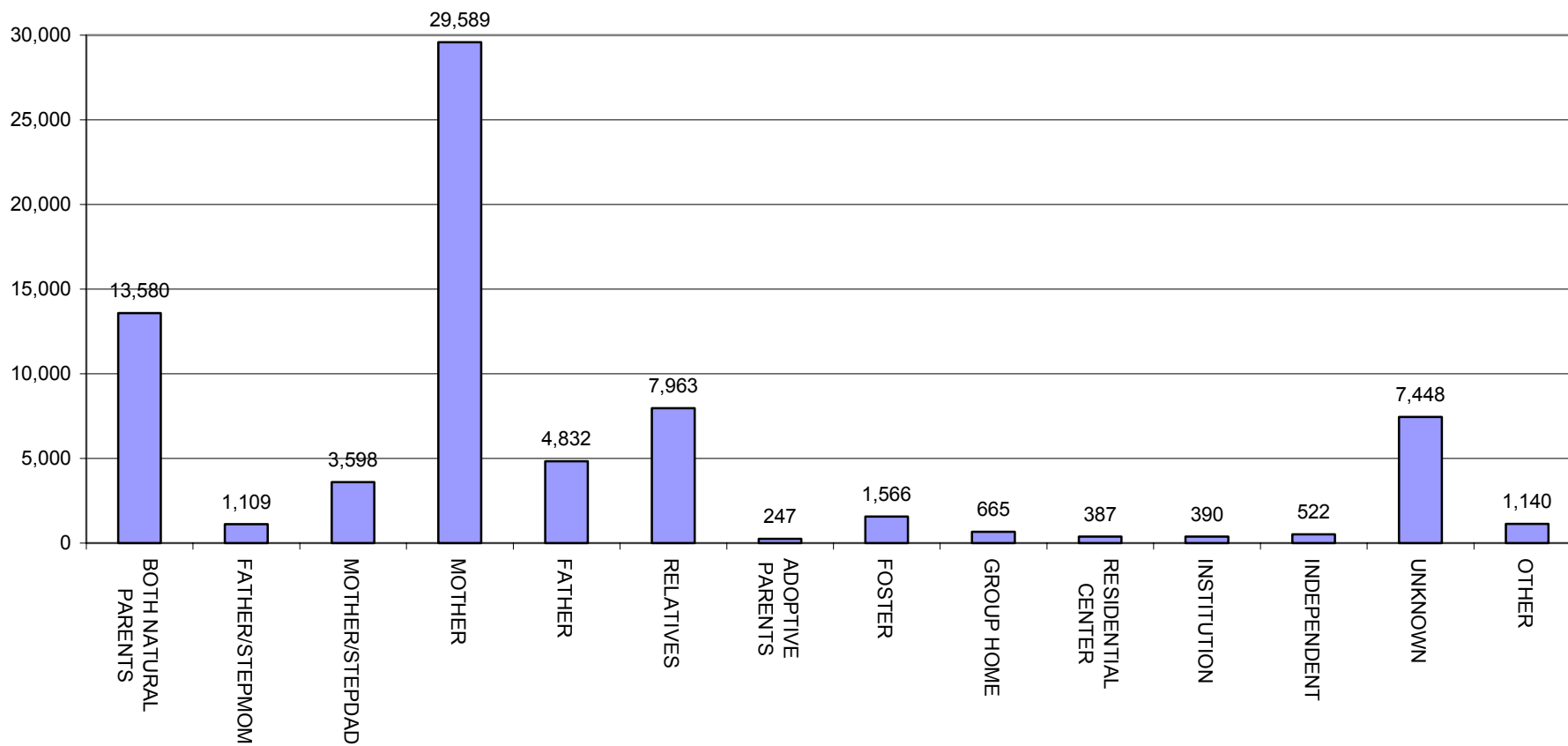
Data regarding African American females continued to be reflective of a different living arrangement picture when compared to that of their white counterparts. Fifty-one percent (51%) of African American females were reported to be "Living With Mothers Only," followed by 18% "Living With Relatives" and 9% "Unknown".

Once again, the 1999 data reflected a change from the historical trend of white males living more often with both natural parents. As in 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998, the 1999 data showed that the largest category for white males was "Living With Mother Only" with 33%. "Living With Both Natural Parents" continued to be the second most reported living arrangement for white males (27%), followed by "Unknown" (11%).

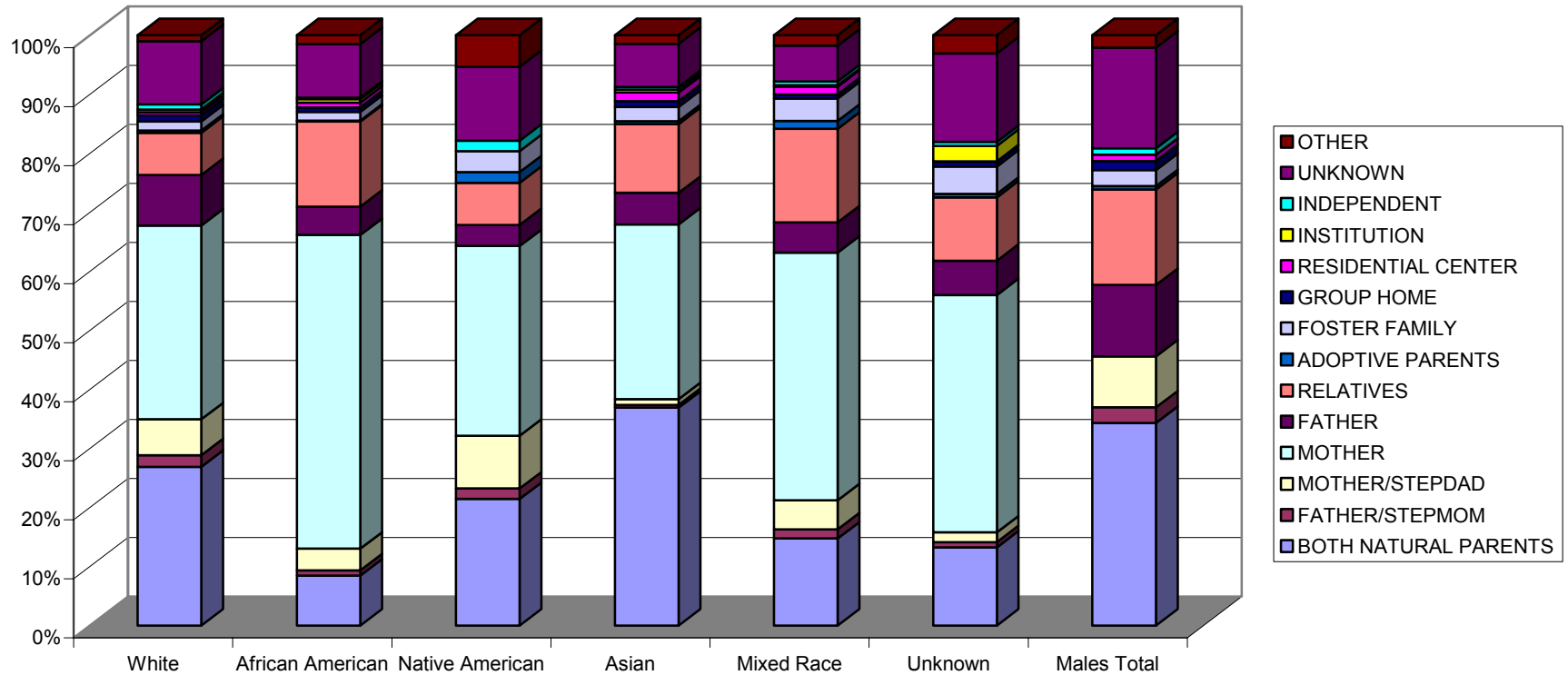
Data associated with African American males revealed that over half (53%) of African American males were reported as "Living With Mother Only" at the time of referral. This is the first time that more than half of the African American males referred to juvenile court lived with their mother only. For 14% of African American males the reported living arrangement was "Living With Relatives, followed by 9% "Unknown."

In summary, the 1999 data continued to show that most children were "Living With Their Mothers Only" at the time of referral to juvenile court. White children of both genders continued to appear to have higher percentages of "Living With Both Natural Parents", while their African American counterparts continued to have higher percentages of "Living With Relatives."

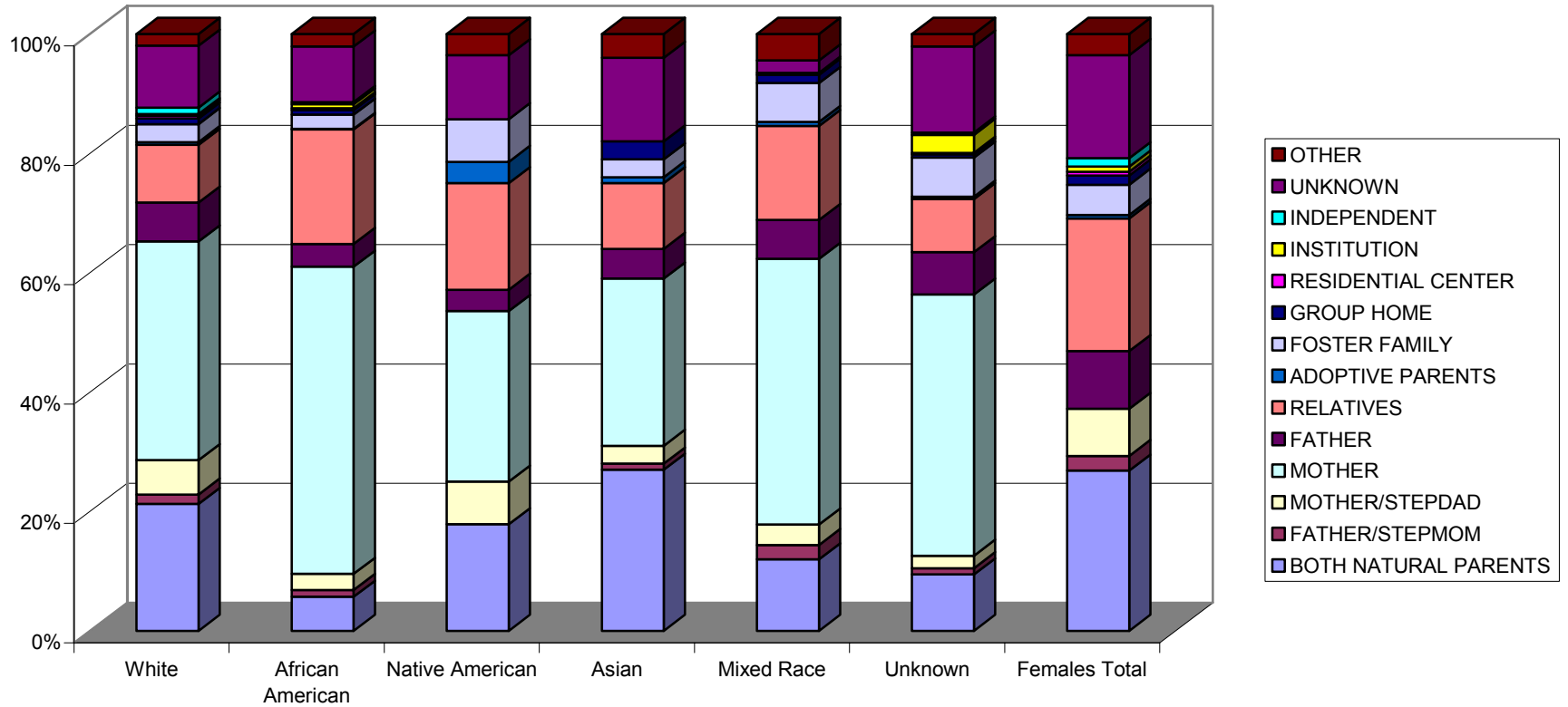
## Living Arrangement of Child At Time Of Referral January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



## Living Arrangement Of Child At Time Of Referral Percentage Of Males By Race January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



## Living Arrangement Of Child At Time Of Referral Percentage Of Females By Race January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999





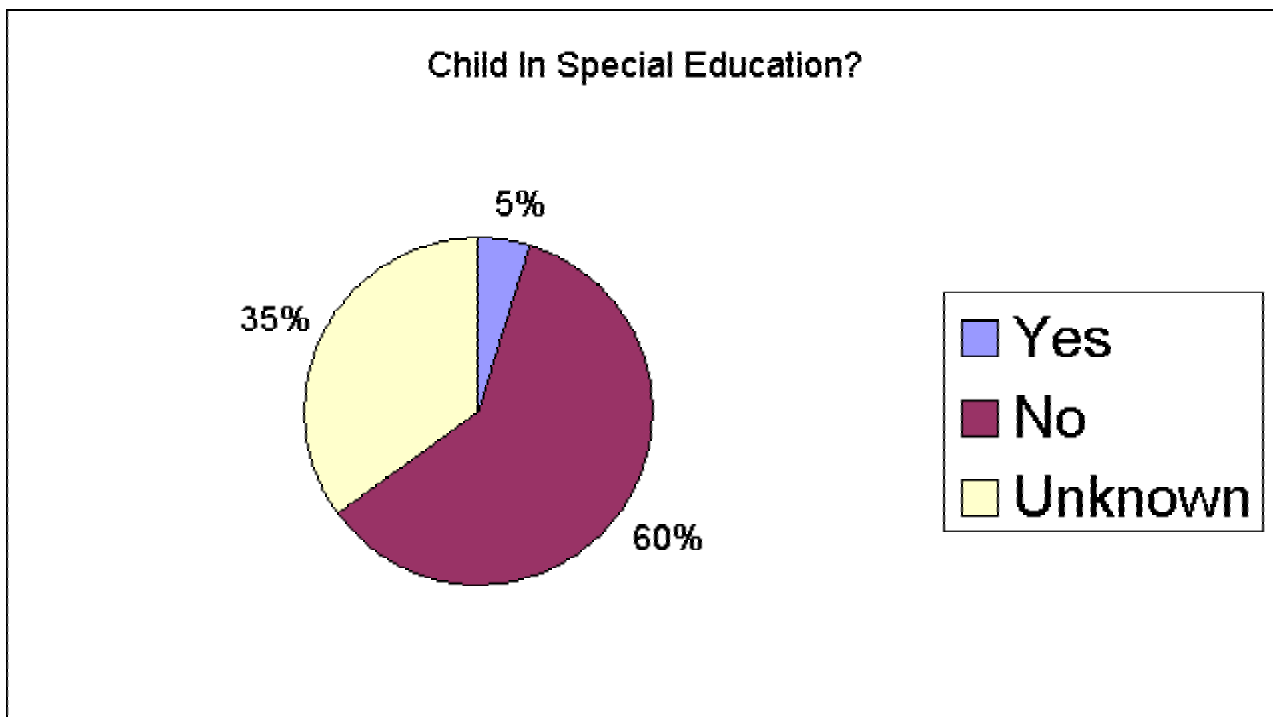
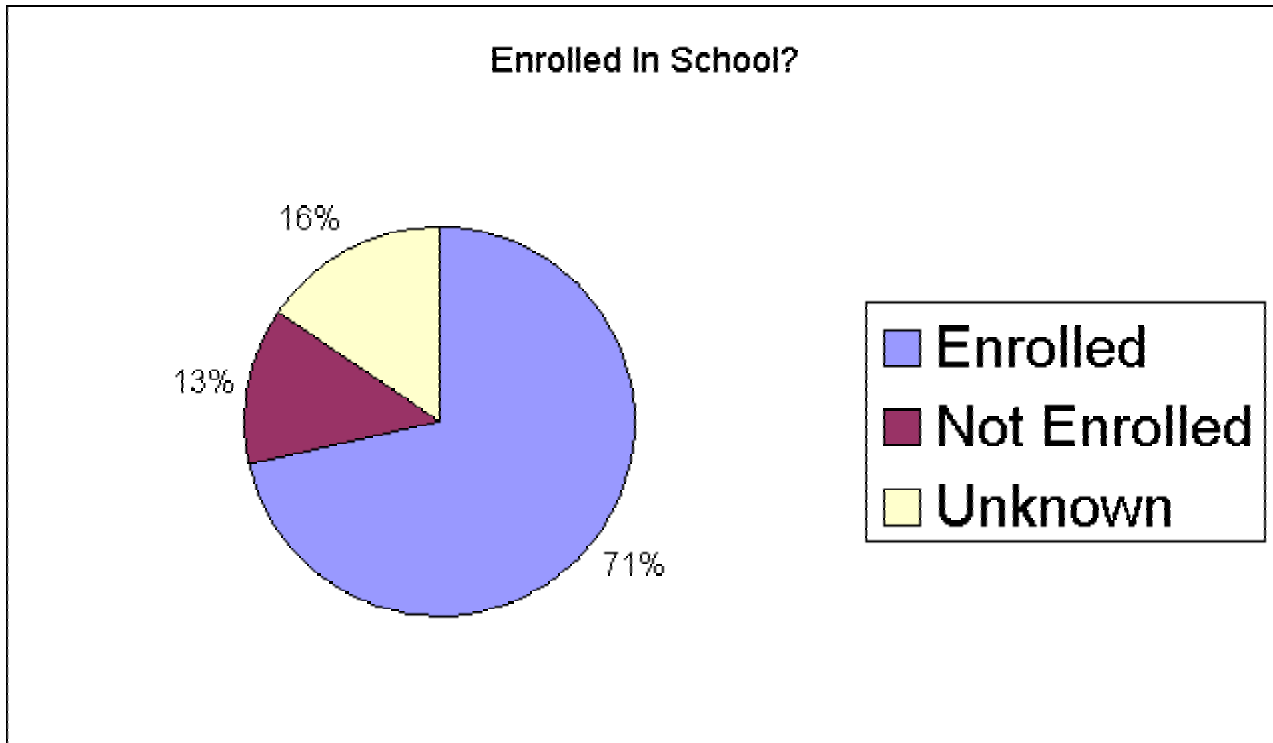
## **SCHOOL STATUS OF CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL TO JUVENILE COURT 1999**

The chart on page 22 shows that, in 1999, a majority (71%) of the children were reported as being formally enrolled (either full or part-time) in regular school at the time of referral to juvenile court, while 13% were reported as being out or not formally enrolled in regular school. This "out of regular school" category also included those children who had been expelled. Additionally, 5% of the general juvenile court population was reported as being enrolled in a special education curriculum at the time of referral.

Of the children whose school status was known, the 1999 data indicate that the majority of students had completed a high school grade (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>). These data are consistent with those presented in the 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 reports.

# School Status Of Child

## January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



Figures Based On Number of Children. Unknown Includes Not Reported.

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Educational Information About Children  
Based on Number of Children  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

The following school statistics pertain to the 73,036 children whose cases were processed.

1,669	Or	2%	Too Young For School
1,443	Or	2%	Finished Preschool
438	Or	1%	Finished Kindergarten
883	Or	1%	Finished First Grade
902	Or	1%	Finished Second Grade
946	Or	1%	Finished Third Grade
1,171	Or	2%	Finished Fourth Grade
1,683	Or	2%	Finished Fifth Grade
3,432	Or	5%	Finished Sixth Grade
4,684	Or	6%	Finished Seventh Grade
7,924	Or	11%	Finished Eighth Grade
8,781	Or	12%	Finished Ninth Grade
8,210	Or	11%	Finished Tenth Grade
5,645	Or	8%	Finished Eleventh Grade
993	Or	1%	Finished Twelfth Grade
97	Or	0%	Were Last Enrolled In Non-Graded Special Education
504	Or	1%	Earned Their GED
205	Or	0%	Graduated
622	Or	1%	Have Never Been In School
22,804	Or	31%	Were Unknown Or Not Reported
73,036			Total
3,630	Or	5%	Were Enrolled In Special Education
43,674	Or	60%	Were Not Enrolled In Special Education
25,732	Or	35%	Were Unknown Or Not Reported
<hr/> <u>73,036</u>		100%	Total

## REFERRAL INFORMATION BY RACE, SEX, AND CLASS OF REFERRAL/OFFENSE 1999

During the reporting period between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, information regarding 123,274 referral reasons disposed of by Tennessee juvenile courts was reported to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Information System. As in previous years, over half (54%) of the 1999 referral reasons disposed of by juvenile courts fell into the category of alleged delinquent offenses. Status offenses represented approximately 20% of referral reasons, while non-offense referral reasons comprised an additional 26% of the total 1999 juvenile court referral reasons.

For the following report, the broad categories of referrals/offenses (Delinquent, Status, and Non-Offense) were broken into these classes of referrals/offenses:

**Offenses Against Persons** - Delinquent offenses, such as Criminal Homicide, Assault, Rape, etc., that were committed against persons.

**Offenses Against Property** - Delinquent offenses, such as Burglary, Arson, Vandalism, etc., that were committed against property.

**Illegal Conduct** - Delinquent behavior that includes such offenses as Possession or Sale of Controlled Substances, Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Trespass, etc.

**Status Offenses** - Offenses committed by a child, that if committed by an adult, would not be considered an offense or unlawful act. These can include such actions as Runaway, Truancy, Unruly Behavior, etc.

**Dependency/Neglect Issues** - Issues that affect the safety and well being of the referred child, such as Abuse, Dependency, Neglect, Termination of Parental Rights, etc. This is a non-offense category as the referred child is the "victim", not the offender.

**Other Violation Proceedings** - Violation of Pretrial Diversion and Violation of Informal Adjustment.

**Special Proceedings** - Judicial actions taken on behalf of the child or upon request of the child and parent/guardian. Such actions include Consent to Marry, Parentage proceedings, Child Support, etc. This is also a non-offense category.

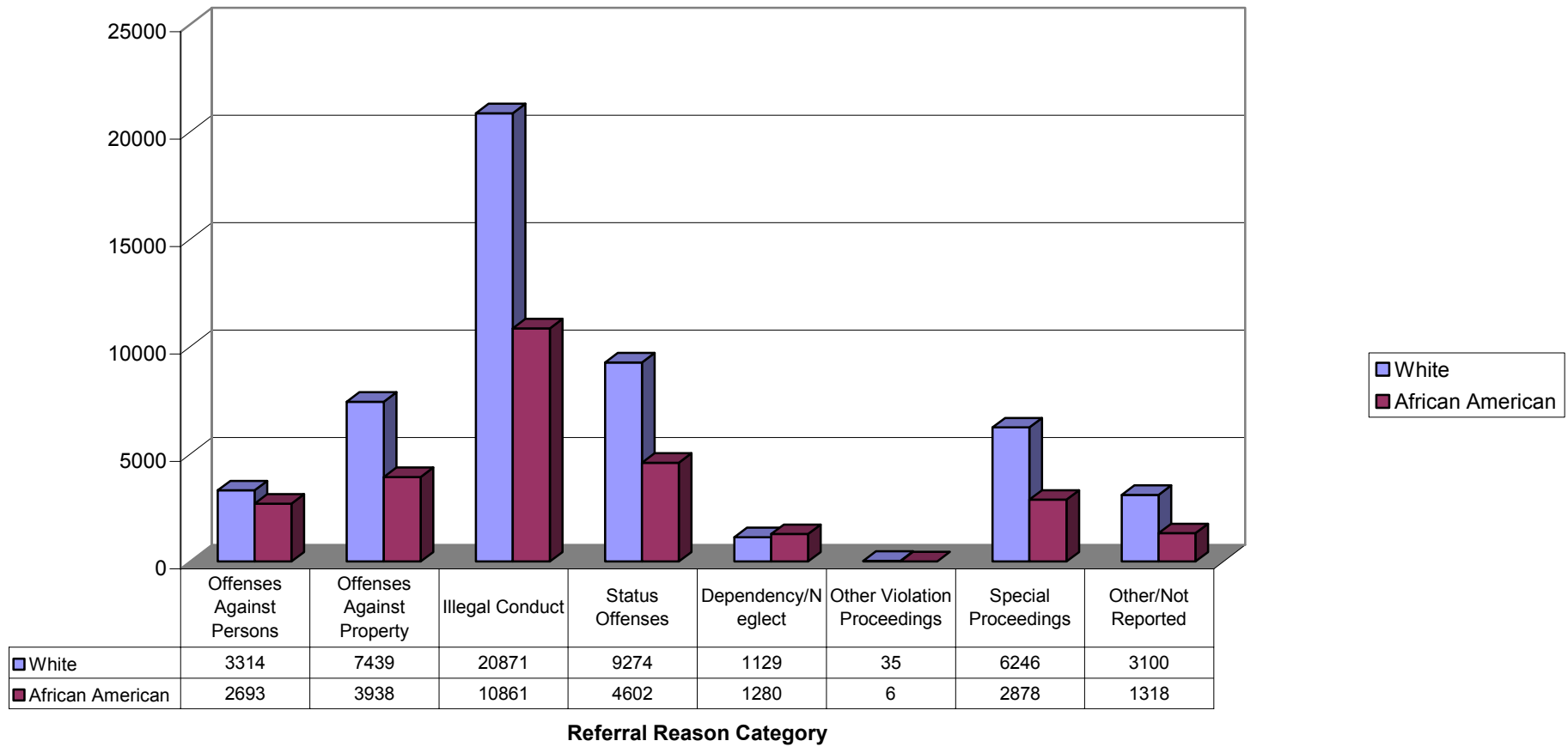
The chart on page 26 indicates that the first, second, and third most often reported classes of referral reasons for males did not differ by race. Among white males, the two most commonly reported classes of referral/offense continued to be Illegal Conduct and Property Offenses. Forty-one (41%) percent of white male referral reasons were for Illegal Conduct and 18% were for Offenses Against Property. Status Offenses represented the third most reported class of referral/offense for white male referrals at 14%.

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of African American male referral reasons were for Illegal Conduct. The second most reported class of referral/offense for African- American males was Status Offenses at 17%, and the third was Offenses Against Property at 14%.

The chart on page 27 indicates that the first and second most often reported classes of referral/offenses for females differed by race. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of white female referral reasons were for Illegal Conduct and 24% of African American female referral reasons were for Status Offenses. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of white female referral reasons were for Status Offenses, while 22% of African American female referral reasons were for Illegal Conduct. The third most often reported class for both white females and African American females was Special Proceedings at 21% each.

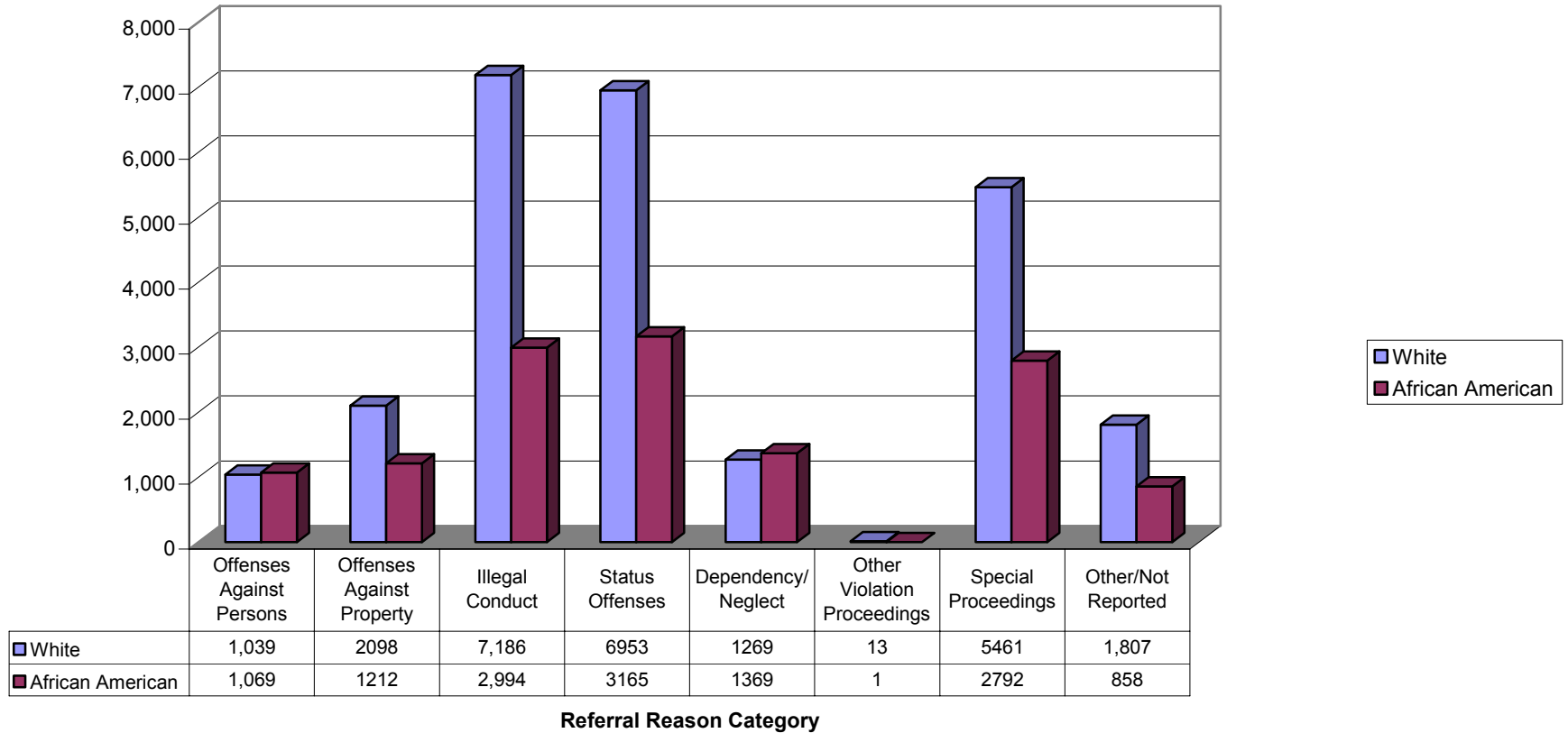
# Male Referrals By Race

## January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



# Female Referrals By Race

## January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



## REFERRAL REASONS BY RACE AND SEX 1999

Please refer to the tables on pages 29 – 31 for data regarding referral reasons by race and gender. Since these data are spread between 83 potential referral reasons, most of the percentages presented in this discussion will be small. ***It is important to note that many juvenile courts do not hear traffic cases. In these jurisdictions, traffic cases go to the court with jurisdiction for hearing adult traffic violations. It is also important to note that the category of “Unknown” includes not reported.***

The 1999 data showed the most commonly reported delinquent referral reasons to be traffic offenses, theft of property, assault, and disorderly conduct. The most often reported status offense referral reasons were truancy, in-state runaway and unruly behavior, while referral reasons surrounding issues of custody and dependency/neglect remained the most prevalent within the non-offense category. These data were consistent with those of 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998.

When looking at race and gender, the top four specific referral reasons for white males reported in 1999 were Traffic Offenses (16%), Theft of Property (7%), “Other” (6%), and Truancy (6%). The most often reported specific referral reasons associated with African American males were Theft of Property (9%), Disorderly Conduct (8%), Traffic (7%), and Other (5%).

The 1999 data revealed the most often cited specific referral reasons for white females were Traffic Offenses (13%), Truancy (10%), Other (7%), and In-State Runaway (6%). Regarding African American females, the most often cited specific referral reasons in 1999 were Disorderly Conduct (9.9%), Truancy (9.6%), Dependency/Neglect (9.5%), and Theft of Property (7%).



**Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
1999 Referral Reasons By Race And Sex**

	African	Unknown	African	Unknown	White	African	Other	Unknown	White	African	Other	Race	
	White	American	Other	Race	White	American	Other	Race	Unknown	American	Race	And Sex	
	Male	Male	Male	Male	Female	Female	Female	Female	Race	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Totals
<b><u>Offenses Against Persons</u></b>													
Criminal Homicide	19	7	0	0	6	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	35
First Degree Murder	26	21	0	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	58
Second Degree Murder	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Aggravated Rape	13	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Rape of a Child	67	18	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101
Aggravated Vehicular Homicide	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Especially Aggravated Robbery	13	14	1	2	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	41
Especially Aggravated Kidnapping	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Aggravated Robbery	67	177	5	2	12	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	270
Aggravated Kidnapping	5	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Aggravated Child Abuse/Neglect	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Aggravated Sexual Battery	62	31	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	96
Rape	42	61	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109
Voluntary Manslaughter	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Vehicular Homicide	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Sexual Abuse of Child	11	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Other Sexual Offense	92	78	3	2	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	185
Aggravated Assault	499	375	17	16	104	168	2	5	0	0	0	0	1,186
Robbery	27	77	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	112
Criminally Negligent Homicide	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Attempt Against Person	24	23	5	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
Assault	2,065	1,625	45	39	824	851	26	14	1	0	0	3	5,493
Reckless Endangerment	266	147	6	7	32	18	1	2	0	0	0	3	482
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>2,693</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8,342</b>
<b><u>Offenses Against Property</u></b>													
Aggravated Arson	15	14	2	1	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Arson	67	42	2	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	121
Aggravated Burglary	531	399	3	14	47	28	2	7	0	0	0	2	1,033
Theft Of Property	3,691	2,349	85	61	1,541	963	34	31	0	0	0	8	8,763
Vandalism	1,717	539	28	25	241	118	5	8	0	0	0	5	2,686
Forgery	99	34	5	1	65	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	230
Worthless Checks	23	4	0	0	34	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	68
Illegal Poss./Fraud. Cards	45	8	1	3	24	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	96
Burglary	1,033	439	24	19	54	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	1,587
Unauthorized Use Of A Vehicle	188	89	3	1	78	30	1	0	0	0	0	0	390
Cruelty to Animals	31	21	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>3,938</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15,072</b>

**Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
1999 Referral Reasons By Race And Sex**

	African		Unknown		African		Unknown		White	African	Other	Race	Totals
	White	American	Other	Race	White	American	Other	Race	Unknown	American	Race	And Sex	
	Male	Male	Male	Male	Female	Female	Female	Female	Race	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	
<b><u>Illegal Conduct</u></b>													
Sale Of Controlled Substances	135	441	4	3	23	23	1	1	0	0	0	0	631
Other Drug Offenses	1,117	342	36	22	234	21	3	1	0	0	0	1	1,777
Possession Of Controlled Substances	1,841	916	31	27	433	90	9	9	1	0	0	2	3,359
Criminal Attempt	77	175	6	0	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	279
Weapons On School Property	169	141	4	1	27	66	1	0	0	0	0	0	409
Carrying/Possession Of A Weapon	380	403	13	10	43	49	0	2	0	0	0	2	902
Evading Arrest	344	660	8	8	60	33	2	5	0	0	0	1	1,121
Escape	113	80	10	1	25	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	239
Driving Under The Influence (DUI)	299	34	4	11	46	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	397
Possession/Consumption Of Alcohol	2,461	276	26	53	888	42	9	8	1	0	0	2	3,766
Resist Stop Frisk Halt Arrest Or Search	217	270	8	6	46	54	0	1	1	0	0	0	603
Aggravated Criminal Trespass	29	78	1	1	7	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	130
Harassment	181	18	2	0	100	18	2	1	0	0	0	0	322
Failure To Appear	72	32	0	1	38	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	152
Filing A False Police Report	74	18	3	2	52	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	163
Criminal Impersonation	106	105	2	1	63	31	3	2	0	0	0	0	313
Disorderly Conduct	1,063	2,269	42	26	404	1,333	11	8	1	0	0	4	5,161
Criminal Trespass	632	852	9	14	177	140	1	7	0	0	0	0	1,832
Public Intoxication	359	177	5	10	95	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	672
Gambling	10	137	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	156
Traffic	8,180	1,873	166	140	3,445	487	45	39	0	0	0	3	14,378
Local Ordinances	317	198	26	3	78	55	6	3	1	0	0	1	688
Violation Of Wildlife Regulations	122	5	1	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	137
Contempt Of Court	393	241	5	41	197	186	7	20	1	0	0	13	1,104
Violation of Probation	2,040	963	51	21	664	262	9	6	0	0	0	5	4,021
Violation of Aftercare	139	157	6	1	23	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	350
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,870</b>	<b>10,861</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>7,186</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43,062</b>
<b><u>Status Offenses</u></b>													
Unruly Behavior	1,751	576	33	18	1,279	467	26	14	2	0	0	0	4,166
Truancy	2,958	1,776	59	79	2,680	1,303	50	86	1	0	0	0	8,992
In-State Runaway	1,088	750	34	17	1,455	998	35	15	0	0	0	1	4,393
Out-Of-State Runaway	53	16	2	1	86	24	2	1	0	0	0	1	186
Possession of Tobacco Products	1,552	243	15	5	545	32	1	3	0	0	0	0	2,396
Violation of a Valid Court Order	647	162	11	7	372	70	10	11	0	0	0	0	1,290
Violation Of Curfew	1,225	1,079	36	26	536	271	13	15	0	0	0	1	3,202
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,274</b>	<b>4,602</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>6,953</b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24,625</b>

**Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
1999 Referral Reasons By Race And Sex**

	African White Male	African American Male	Other Male	Unknown Race Male	African White Female	African American Female	Other Female	Unknown Race Female	White Unknown Race	African American Unknown	Other Race Unknown	Race And Sex Unknown	Totals
<b><u>Dependency/Neglect</u></b>													
Sexually Abused Child	3	2	0	2	30	1	0	11	0	0	0	2	51
Physically Abused Child	31	8	4	1	21	5	2	6	0	0	0	2	80
Dependency/Neglect	960	1,188	68	126	1,119	1,284	70	141	3	9	0	85	5,053
Termination of Parental Rights	135	82	7	30	99	79	5	21	1	0	0	8	467
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>5,651</b>
<b><u>Other Violation Proceedings</u></b>													
Violation of Pretrial Diversion	7	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Violation of Informal Adjustment	28	6	0	0	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>
<b><u>Special Proceedings</u></b>													
Judicial Review	2,370	168	27	46	1,540	97	23	43	0	0	0	6	4,320
Administrative Review	121	525	0	0	139	628	2	1	0	0	0	0	1,416
Foster Care Review	629	203	23	90	563	186	27	58	2	0	0	25	1,806
Custody	1,914	1,063	58	156	2,071	955	80	127	0	0	1	56	6,481
Visitation	288	255	10	36	255	295	14	28	0	0	0	9	1,190
Paternity/Legitimation	310	244	25	55	288	232	15	52	0	2	0	71	1,294
Child Support	587	412	17	89	545	394	22	77	1	1	0	70	2,215
Request For Medical Treatment	7	8	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Consent To Marry	20	0	0	1	53	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>2,792</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>18,823</b>
Other	3,100	1,318	98	161	1,807	858	77	143	6	0	0	74	7,642
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51,408</b>	<b>27,576</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>25,826</b>	<b>13,460</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>123,274</b>

## **THE REFERRAL SOURCES OF CHILDREN TO THE JUVENILE COURT 1999**

Anyone perceiving a need for the court to intervene in a child's affairs can refer that child to the juvenile court. Frequently, the referral source is closely related to the reason for referral. For example schools refer truants and law enforcement officers refer children who have committed illegal acts.

The table on page 33 lists each referral source and its corresponding percentage of referrals. As can be seen by this table, in 1999, law enforcement remained the most often cited referral source for juveniles to the courts (48.9%), while parents continued to represent the second most often cited referral source (9.6%). The 1999 data shows schools (9.2%) as the third most often reported source, while court staff (7.1%) was the fourth and relatives (6.6%) was the fifth.

When looking at the six most frequently reported referral reasons associated with each referral source, the table on pages 34 - 36 reveals that, in 1999, law enforcement personnel continued to appear more likely to refer juveniles for traffic complaints (21%), while unruly behavior (17%) was the most often cited reason for referral by parents. With regard to schools, truancy remained the most cited referral reason (67%), while victims continued to refer more often for theft of property (31%).

# Referral Source

January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999

	Total	Percent
Law Enforcement	60,308	48.9%
Parents	11,889	9.6%
Relatives	8,193	6.6%
Self	312	0.3%
School	11,286	9.2%
CSA	145	0.1%
DCS	6,308	5.1%
Other State Departments	203	0.2%
District Attorney	819	0.7%
Court Staff	8,772	7.1%
Social Agency	1,092	0.9%
Other Court	410	0.3%
Victim	5,167	4.2%
Child And Parent	498	0.4%
Hospital	20	0.0%
Unknown/Not Reported	4,306	3.5%
Other	3,546	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,274</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figures based on number of reported referrals disposed.

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
1999 Six Most Frequent Referral Reasons By Source  
Based On Number Of Referrals Disposed**

Referral Source Referral Reasons	Totals	Percent
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	65,819	
1. Traffic	14,082	21%
2. Theft of Property	6,731	10%
3. Disorderly Conduct	4,724	7%
4. Possession/Consumption of Alcohol	3,611	5%
5. Assault	3,508	5%
6. Possess Controlled	3,092	5%
<b>Parents</b>	12,654	
1. Unruly Behavior	2,181	17%
2. Custody	2,052	16%
3. Other	1,528	12%
4. In-State Runaway	1,510	12%
5. Child Support	1,050	8%
6. Parentage	898	7%
<b>Relatives</b>	8,353	
1. Custody	2,632	32%
2. Dependency/Neglect	2,568	31%
3. Administrative Review	1,174	14%
4. Other	779	9%
5. Visitation	484	6%
6. Unruly Behavior	167	2%
<b>Self</b>	326	
1. Other	227	70%
2. Custody	14	4%
3. Traffic	13	4%
4. Violation of Probation	10	3%
5. Truancy	8	2%
6. Judicial Review	8	2%
<b>School</b>	12,007	
1. Truancy	8,061	67%
2. Tobacco Products	873	7%
3. Unruly Behavior	589	5%
4. Other	336	3%
5. Disorderly Conduct	270	2%
6. Violation Of A Valid Court Order	244	2%

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
1999 Six Most Frequent Referral Reasons By Source  
Based On Number Of Referrals Disposed**

Referral Source	Totals	Percent
<b>Referral Reasons</b>		
<b>Community Service Agencies</b>	153	
1. Dependency/Neglect	34	22%
2. Custody	33	22%
3. Parentage	24	16%
4. Child Support	15	10%
5. Other	11	7%
6. In-State Runaway	7	5%
<b>Department of Children's Services</b>	6,775	
1. Foster Care Review	1,270	19%
2. Dependency/Neglect	919	14%
3. Other	764	11%
4. Judicial Review	757	11%
5. In-State Runaway	688	10%
6. Violation of Probation	557	8%
<b>Other State Department</b>	226	
1. Child Support	54	24%
2. Violation of Probation	26	12%
3. In-State Runaway	23	10%
4. Other	17	8%
5. Assault	15	7%
6. Violation of Aftercare	8	4%
<b>District Attorney</b>	842	
1. Child Support	472	56%
2. Parentage	170	20%
3. Other	75	9%
4. Judicial Review	35	4%
5. Theft of Property	21	2%
6. Burglary	20	2%
<b>Court Staff</b>	9,644	
1. Violation of Probation	2669	28%
2. Judicial Review	2186	23%
3. Other	978	10%
4. Violation of a Valid Court Order	826	9%
5. Contempt of Court	492	5%
6. Foster Care Review	419	4%

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
1999 Six Most Frequent Referral Reasons By Source  
Based On Number Of Referrals Disposed**

Referral Source	Totals	Percent
<b>Referral Reasons</b>		
<b>Social Agency</b>	1,252	
1. Violation of Probation	229	18%
2. Dependency/Neglect	150	12%
3. Termination of Parental Rights	123	10%
4. Administrative Review	98	8%
5. Foster Care Review	97	8%
6. Other	97	8%
<b>Other Court</b>	466	
1. Possession/Consumption Of Alcohol	65	14%
2. Theft of Property	58	12%
3. Other	49	11%
4. Violation of Probation	33	7%
5. Assault	25	5%
6. Substance Possession Of A Controlled	23	5%
<b>Victim</b>	5,619	
1. Theft of Property	1732	31%
2. Assault	1399	25%
3. Vandalism	534	10%
4. Criminal Trespass	235	4%
5. Harassment	186	3%
6. Aggravated Assault	166	3%
<b>Child and Parent</b>	518	
1. Child Support	101	19%
2. Other	82	16%
3. Parentage	75	14%
4. Assault	73	14%
5. Custody	31	6%
6. Traffic	23	4%
<b>Hospital</b>	37	
1. Other	17	46%
2. Medical Treatment	6	16%
3. Dependency/Neglect	3	8%
4. Foster Care Review	3	8%
5. Custody	3	8%
6. Parentage	3	8%



## **MANNER OF HANDLING THE REFERRAL 1999**

After determining that a referral warrants action, the court must decide whether to process the referral formally or informally. This decision affects how the referral is handled by court staff. If the referral is to be disposed of by a judge or referee through formal adjudicatory and dispositional proceedings, then a petition outlining the charges must be filed as part of the intake process. The filing of a petition, however, does not necessarily result in a formal hearing.

The table on page 38 shows that petitions or motions were filed on 51.8% of the 1999 referrals. This figure is reflective of the number of petitions or motions that resulted in judicial action of some kind. Petitions that were filed but ended in an informal adjustment are explained later in this report. Some petitions from 1999 may still be pending and do not show up in this report.

Citation/Tickets, which may be used by law enforcement in lieu of a petition, were issued in 11.7% of the referrals, while reviews accounted for 6.1% of reported referrals.

Another way that referrals reach the juvenile court is the notification of acknowledgment of parentage forwarded to the court by the hospital where the child in question was born. In 1999, courts reported receiving and processing 52 of these acknowledgments.

# Intake Actions

January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999

	Number	Percent
Petition Filed	63,865	51.8%
Motion Filed	7,536	6.1%
Citation Processed	14,409	11.7%
Parentage Processed	52	0.0%
Judicial Review	8,089	6.6%
Administrative Review	157	0.1%
Foster Care Review	589	0.5%
Unknown/Not Reported	2,066	1.7%
Does Not Apply	8,106	6.6%
Other	18,405	14.9%
Total	123,274	100.0%

Figures based on number of reported referral reasons disposed.

## DETENTION INFORMATION 1999

After receiving an offense-related referral, one of the immediate decisions the court must make is whether or not to detain the child. When the court believes that a child, referred for offense-related reasons, is in need of protection or may be a threat to the community, the court may elect to detain the child. The 1999 data revealed that in 74.39% of reported cases, children were not considered for detention. In 14.15% of reported cases, however, children were considered for and detained in a juvenile detention facility. Remember that the definition of case (from page 7) is “all referral reasons/charges reported to the court (via complaint, petition, motion, etc.) on a given day for a given child.” Please refer to the table below and the chart on page 40 for more information.

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not Considered For Detention	76,608	74.39%
Non-Secure Placement	2,920	2.84%
Juvenile Detention	14,568	14.15%
Jail Complete Separation	165	0.16%
Jail Partial Separation	15	0.01%
Jail No Separation	28	0.03%
Psychiatric Hospital	177	0.17%
Unknown/Not Reported	7,091	6.89%
Other	1,413	1.37%
 Total	 102,985	 100%

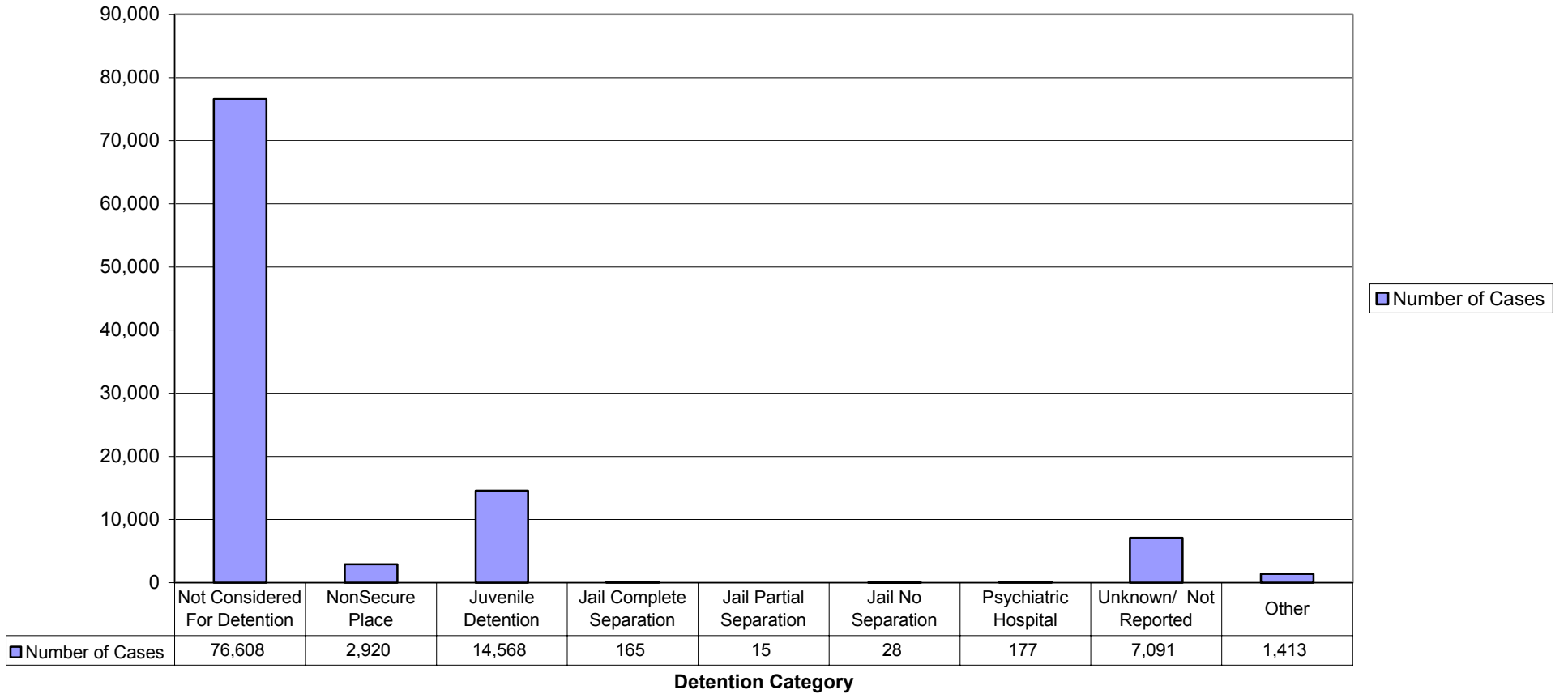
Non-secure placements provide children with shelter and supervision in a setting that enables them to continue as many normal activities as possible. Emergency foster homes and shelters constitute most of the non-secure placements used by juvenile courts. The 1999 data showed 2,920 or 2.84% of the juvenile court cases resulted in placement in one of these non-secure settings.

Conversely, the 1999 data revealed 165 or 0.16% of cases resulted in children being placed in adult jails completely separated by sight and sound from all adult prisoners, and 43 or 0.04% were placed in adult jails with partial or no separation.

If the child's behavior and mental health status so warrant, he/she may be placed in a secure psychiatric hospital setting. The 1999 data indicated that children were placed in a psychiatric hospital in lieu of juvenile detention in 177 or 0.17% of cases.

# Detention Information

## January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



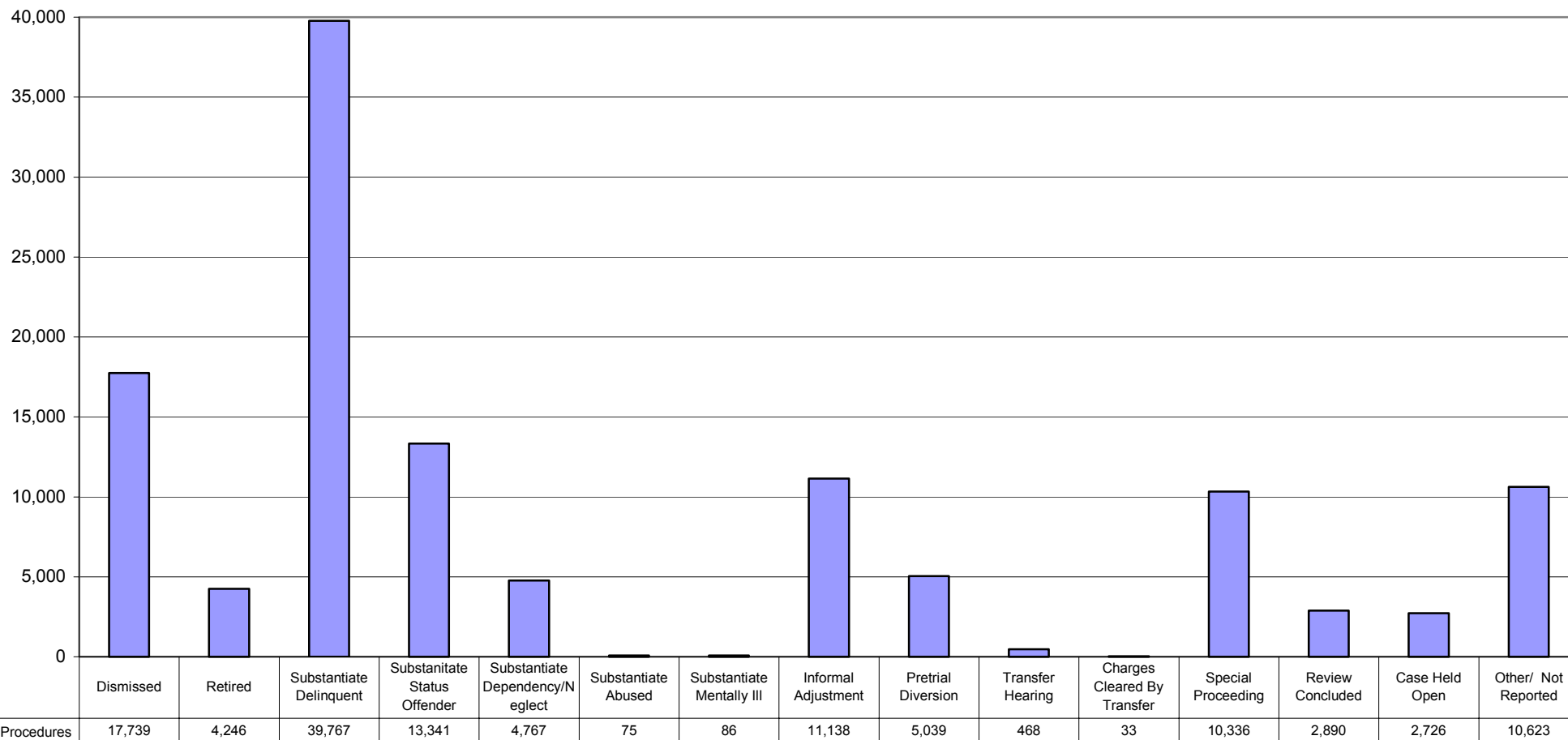
## **JUVENILE COURT ADJUDICATORY & DISPOSITIONAL PROCEDURES 1999**

As mentioned before, after a referral is made to the juvenile court, decisions are made regarding how the court will proceed. If the decision is made to handle the referral informally, two options are open to the court; Pretrial Diversion and Informal Adjustment. These two procedures are quite similar in that they are both a voluntary agreement between the court officer, the child and the parents which addresses the problem but avoids a formal court hearing and an official finding of guilt. The difference between Pretrial Diversion and Informal Adjustment is seen in the extent to which the judge or referee is involved. Pretrial Diversion requires judicial approval of the voluntary agreement. Informal Adjustment is subject to judicial approval but does not require it prior to initiation. The chart on page 42 reveals that, in 1999, 13% of the referrals to juvenile court were processed informally; 4% by Pretrial Diversion and 9% by Informal Adjustment.

When the court believes that it is in the best interest of the child and/or the community, a formal adjudicatory proceeding or hearing is held regarding the child's referral to juvenile court. The adjudicatory hearing is a formal proceeding in which the judge or referee determines whether the motion made on behalf of the child, or the complaint made against the child is substantiated. If substantiation of the motion/complaint occurs, a dispositional hearing must be held either immediately or at a later date. The table on page 43 indicates that 64.9% of the referrals to juvenile court resulted in a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The table on page 43 further shows that the formal adjudicatory proceedings resulted in 47.1% of the motions/complaints against children being substantiated, while 14.4% of motion/complaints were formally dismissed and 3.4% were retired.

# Adjudicatory Procedures

## January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999



**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**  
**Dispositional Procedures**  
**Based On Number Of Reported Cases**  
**January 1999 - December 1999**

Of the 102,985 cases disposed, the procedure used to dispose or adjust each of the 123,274 referral reasons was:

80,021 Or	64.9% Were Formally Adjudicated
11,138 Or	9.0% Were Informally Adjusted
32,115 Or	26.1% Were Otherwise Handled

Of the 80,021 referral reasons that were disposed by formal adjudicatory proceedings:

17,739 Or	22.17% Were Dismissed
4,246 Or	5.31% Were Retired
39,767 Or	49.70% Were Substantiated Delinquent
13,341 Or	16.67% Were Substantiated Status Offender
4,767 Or	5.96% Were Substantiated Dependency/Neglect
75 Or	0.09% Were Substantiated Abused
86 Or	0.11% Were Substantiated Mentally Ill

Of the 32,115 referral reasons that were otherwise handled:

5,039 Or	15.7%	Were Pretrial Diversion
468 Or	1.5%	Were Transfer Hearing
33 Or	0.1%	Were Charges Cleared By Transfer
10,336 Or	32.2%	Were Special Proceeding
2,890 Or	9.0%	Were Review Concluded
2,726 Or	8.5%	Were Case Held Open
10,623 Or	33.1%	Were Other/Not Reported

**DISPOSITIONAL PROCEDURE INFORMATION BY RACE, GENDER, AND  
CLASS OF REFERRAL/OFFENSE  
1999**

In looking at classes of referrals/offenses across the general juvenile court population, the 1999 data reflected in the table on pages 45 - 46 continued to indicate that referrals for delinquent, status, and dependency/neglect reasons were more likely to be formally adjudicated than informally adjusted (delinquent - 73.7%, status - 70.6%, dependency/neglect - 80.0%).

For the non-offense class of dependency/neglect, the rate of formal adjudication continued to be significantly higher than informal adjustment across all race and gender categories.



**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
 Procedure Used By Class Of Referral/Offense  
 By Race And Sex  
 January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	African American				Other Race				Unknown Race				Race And Sex	Total
	White Male	African American Male	Other Race Male	Unknown Race Male	White Female	African American Female	Other Race Female	Unknown Race Female	White Unknown	African American Unknown	Other Race Unknown	Unknown Unknown		
Formal Adjudication	2,168	2,024	48	51	661	818	12	16	1	0	0	4	5,803	
Pretrial Diversion	259	154	5	1	101	86	2	1	0	0	0		609	
Informal Adjustment	212	72	13	9	106	61	9	2	0	0	0	2	486	
Other	297	96	6	5	107	32	3	2	0	0	0	0	548	
Total	2,936	2,346	72	66	975	997	26	21	1	0	0	6	7,446	

Offenses Against Property

Formal Adjudication	4,462	2,940	73	71	1,092	860	23	25	0	0	0	6	9,552
Pretrial Diversion	369	119	10	9	203	68	4	2	0	0	0	2	786
Informal Adjustment	584	173	29	14	468	163	13	14	0	0	0	5	1,463
Other	345	54	9	4	135	33	1	4	0	0	0	0	585
Total	5,760	3,286	121	98	1,898	1,124	41	45	0	0	0	13	12,386

Illegal Conduct

Formal Adjudication	11,357	6,927	223	202	3,859	1,979	44	40	5	0	0	14	24,650
Pretrial Diversion	1,104	248	25	17	435	54	4	10	0	0	0	4	1,901
Informal Adjustment	2,331	506	88	40	1,109	289	31	23	0	0	0	2	4,419
Other	2,073	293	31	37	885	133	10	24	0	0	0	12	3,498
Total	16,865	7,974	367	296	6,288	2,455	89	97	5	0	0	32	34,468

Status Offenses

Formal Adjudication	5,444	3,326	108	86	4,239	2,430	72	93	3	0	0	0	15,801
Pretrial Diversion	381	106	7	14	195	52	3	8	0	0	0	0	766
Informal Adjustment	1,489	462	35	24	1,250	371	34	20	0	0	0	3	3,688
Other	969	173	13	11	804	146	10	15	0	0	0	0	2,141
Total	8,283	4,067	163	135	6,488	2,999	119	136	3	0	0	3	22,396

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**  
**Procedure Used By Class Of Referral/Offense**  
**By Race And Sex**  
**January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

Neglect and Abuse

	African American Male			Other Race Male			Unknown Race Male			African American Female			Other Race Female			Unknown Race Female			White Unknown Unknown Sex			Total
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Formal Adjudication	745	1,038	43	132	1,101	48	148	2,150	4	9	0	91	5,509
Pretrial Diversion	9	7	1	6	7	9	0	6	0	0	0	2	47
Informal Adjustment	4	2	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	16
Other	352	230	35	15	378	251	29	16	0	0	0	2	1,308
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>6,880</b>

Violation Proceedings

Formal Adjudication	23	5	1	0	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	37
Pretrial Diversion	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Informal Adjustment	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>

Special Proceedings

Formal Adjudication	1,419	929	19	242	1,287	892	22	172	1	2	0	130	5,115
Pretrial Diversion	46	25	0	3	30	18	0	4	0	0	0	0	126
Informal Adjustment	151	9	0	2	121	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	287
Other	4,357	1,809	134	187	3,804	1,778	156	167	2	1	1	171	12,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,973</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>5,242</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>18,095</b>

Other

Formal Adjudication	906	252	18	84	349	110	5	72	0	0	0	52	1,848
Pretrial Diversion	110	12	0	2	50	12	2	3	0	0	0	0	191
Informal Adjustment	154	22	2	19	58	11	1	16	0	0	0	10	293
Other	1,631	928	73	49	1,215	712	66	51	6	0	0	11	4,742
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>7,074</b>

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN TRANSFERRED TO ADULT COURT  
BY COURT, RACE AND SEX  
1999**

The 1999 data were analyzed to determine the number of children transferred to adult court for the alleged commission of delinquent offenses. The data reported in the table on pages 51 - 52 show that 363 children were transferred to adult court in 1998. Males (93.1%) were the overwhelming majority of transferred children. When looking at race, 62.0% of the children transferred were African American males, while their white male counterparts represented 28.4% of the overall transfers. African American females represented 2.1% of all transfers and white females represented 4.8% of all transfers to adult court.

The court reporting the largest number of children transferred was the Shelby County Juvenile Court, which accounted for 44.1% of the statewide transfers. The court with the next highest number of transfers to adult court was Rutherford County Juvenile Court (5.2%). Madison County Juvenile Court transferred 17 (4.7%) children to the adult court. Both Knox and Davidson County accounted for 4.4% of cases transferred each. Fifty-four courts reported at least one transfer while 44 reported no transfers.

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Total Number Of Children Transferred By Race And Sex  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	Race				Race				Race				Total
	White Male	African American Male	Other Race Male	Unknown Race Male	White Female	African American Female	Other Race Female	Unknown Race Female	White Unknown	African American Unknown	Other Race Unknown	And Sex Unknown	
BEDFORD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
BLEDSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRADLEY	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
CAMPBELL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CARROLL	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
CLAIBORNE	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
CLAY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
COCKE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COFFEE	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
CROCKETT	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
DAVIDSON *	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
DICKSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAYETTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GIBSON	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
GILES	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
GRAINGER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRUNDY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAMBLEN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HAMILTON	3	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
HAYWOOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HENRY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HOUSTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUMPHREYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KNOX	6	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
LAUDERDALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEWIS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
LOUDON	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MCMINN	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
MACON	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
MADISON	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Total Number Of Children Transferred By Race And Sex  
January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	Race				Race				Race And Sex				Total
	White Male	African American Male	Other Race Male	Unknown Race Male	White Female	African American Female	Other Race Female	Unknown Race Female	White Unknown	African American Unknown	Other Race Unknown	Unknown Sex	
MARSHALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAURY	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
MONROE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MONTGOMERY	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
OBION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUTNAM	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
ROANE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROBERTSON	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
RUTHERFORD	9	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
SEVIER	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SHELBY	7	145	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	160
STEWART	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUMNER	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
TIPTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNICOI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WARREN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
WAYNE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEAKLEY	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
WILLIAMSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WILSON	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
JOHNSON CITY	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
BRISTOL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SULLIVAN DIV 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>325</b>

\* Davidson County underreported their data.

## INDIVIDUAL DISPOSITIONAL ACTIONS BY RACE AND SEX 1999

This report looks at individual dispositional actions taken by the juvenile courts in 1999. As the data are spread between sixty-one (61) potential dispositional actions, most of the percentages presented will be small. **The users of the 1999 data should keep in mind that these figures reflect the numbers of individual dispositional actions, not the number of children disposed with these outcomes. Multiple cases that are disposed together can result in inflated outcomes.**

With respect to the 1999 reporting of individual dispositional actions, the table on pages 54-56 reveals that the most often reported specific dispositional choice was "Other". **Because of the uninterpretable nature of this dispositional choice, "Other" will not be included in the most often cited dispositional actions presented in the remainder of this discussion.** Of the remaining dispositional choices, "Court Costs", "Case Dismissed", and "Warned/ Counseled" were the three most often cited for the general juvenile court population.

When looking at race and gender, the top three dispositional actions associated with white males were reported to be Court Costs (13.0%), Public Service (8.3%), and Case Dismissed (7.5%). The most often reported dispositional actions associated with African American males were Warned/Counseled (12.0%), Case Dismissed (11.6%), and Probation To Court (6.7%).

The three most often reported dispositional actions for white females were Court Costs (11.5%), Case Dismissed (8.5%), and Public Service (6.3%). On the other hand, the most often cited dispositional action for African American females was Case Dismissed (14.3%). Warned/Counseled (12.4%) and Relative Placement (9.2%) were the second and third most commonly reported actions for African American females.

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**  
**Outcome/Dispositional Data**  
**January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	Race				Race				Race				Total
	White	African	Other	Unknown	White	African	Other	Unknown	White	African	Other	And	
	Male	American	Race	Race	Female	American	Race	Race	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Sex	
<b>General Action Codes</b>													
Case Dismissed	6,634	4,193	106	220	3,667	2,517	76	161	0	0	1	56	17,631
Case Retired	1,441	469	25	45	746	177	9	22	1	0	0	9	2,944
Warned/Counseled	4,466	4,347	98	65	2,653	2,187	38	40	0	0	0	4	13,898
Held Open For Review	3,018	978	52	55	1,815	414	27	32	1	0	0	3	6,395
Probation To Court	5,312	2,418	116	113	2,348	715	38	44	1	0	0	10	11,115
Probation To Parents	721	213	14	24	443	115	4	20	0	0	0	5	1,559
Referred For Supervision	1,422	944	39	15	895	801	21	15	1	0	0	1	4,154
Mental Health Counseling	847	347	25	22	384	171	2	16	0	0	0	2	1,816
Alcohol and Drug Counseling	1,783	513	42	32	560	43	6	9	0	0	0	4	2,992
Alternative School	232	19	7	3	129	14	6	1	0	0	0	0	411
Private Agency	35	12	3	0	20	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	79
Defensive Driving School	2,574	132	38	24	1,259	78	20	12	0	0	0	1	4,138
Alcohol Safety School	349	97	5	10	125	15	3	4	0	0	0	2	610
Court Education-Based Program	757	196	32	12	427	111	18	6	0	0	0	4	1,563
Driver's License Held Informally	1,509	349	23	16	537	46	5	0	0	0	0	1	2,486
Voluntary MHMR Placement	10	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Private Mental Health Placement	18	3	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Priv. Mental Retardation Place.	5	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
City/County Placement	365	1,141	30	8	75	130	1	0	0	0	0	2	1,752
Relative Placement	770	1,615	32	50	721	1,614	29	44	2	6	0	23	4,906
Fine	6,049	733	92	72	2,322	241	18	33	3	0	0	3	9,566
Public Service	7,299	2,398	150	148	2,719	774	53	61	2	0	0	11	13,615
Restitution	2,142	829	50	35	446	200	7	7	0	0	0	3	3,719
Runaway Returned	173	62	4	5	175	50	3	7	0	0	0	1	480
No Contact Order	1,273	402	23	27	644	182	3	22	0	0	0	9	2,585
Injunction	213	52	3	4	156	34	2	4	0	0	0	0	468
House Arrest	721	225	13	15	265	41	4	4	0	0	0	1	1,289
Court Curfew	512	206	15	11	242	58	5	4	0	0	0	1	1,054
Dismissed From Informal	203	31	3	7	117	14	1	3	0	0	0	0	379
Dismissed From Diversion	217	18	0	6	149	15	0	6	0	0	0	1	412
Released From Probation	622	147	11	7	229	69	4	7	0	0	0	0	1,096

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**

**Outcome/Dispositional Data**

**January 1, 1999 - December 31, 1999**

	Race				Race				Race					
	African	Other	Unknown		African	Other	Unknown		African	Other	Unknown	Race		
	White	American	Race	Race	White	American	Race	Race	White	American	Race	And		
	Male	Male	Male	Male	Female	Female	Female	Female	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Sex	Total	
<b>Formal Action Codes</b>														
Transferred To Adult Court	180	218	6	2	35	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	452
MHMR Involuntary Commitment	37	15	1	0	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
DCS Commitment - Determinate	138	61	2	3	15	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	230
DCS Commitment	2,005	1,284	64	70	1,054	508	21	62	1	0	0	25	5,094	
DCS Commitment - Suspended	776	515	14	19	186	66	4	4	0	0	0	2	1,586	
DCS Intensive Probation	216	103	5	10	45	10	0	2	0	0	0	1	392	
Other Intensive Probation	662	213	7	1	112	38	6	1	1	0	0	0	1,041	
DCS Probation	1,804	389	32	21	486	145	10	8	1	0	0	0	2,896	
Placed Under Valid Court Order	2,256	303	35	30	1,072	155	30	17	2	0	0	0	3,900	
DCS Supervision	246	19	4	15	158	11	3	9	0	0	0	5	470	
Tranferred To Other Juv. Court	636	110	9	14	257	42	2	3	0	0	0	1	1,074	
Parental Rights Terminated	96	74	12	25	106	71	7	20	1	0	0	9	421	
Parental Rights Not Terminated	5	1	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	
<b>Special Proceedings</b>														
Order of Reference To DCS	147	38	7	7	153	21	5	5	0	0	0	0	383	
Court Costs	11,470	2,165	198	223	4,941	1,011	103	115	4	4	0	41	20,275	
Foster Care Terminated	99	19	3	5	105	13	4	3	0	0	0	1	252	
Foster Care Continued	560	136	10	87	556	130	13	83	2	0	0	33	1,610	
Custody Changed	1,945	562	98	118	1,872	589	96	110	2	9	0	81	5,482	
Custody Unchanged	534	152	19	115	548	137	29	87	2	0	0	47	1,670	
Visitation Changed	506	319	13	50	545	321	28	32	0	0	0	21	1,835	
Visitation Unchanged	36	9	4	7	37	20	7	8	0	0	0	7	135	
Parentage Voluntary														
Acknowledgment	21	4	0	4	25	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	60	
Parentage Determined	171	148	19	31	140	133	13	27	1	1	0	61	745	
Parentage Not Determined	60	10	0	4	15	9	0	1	0	1	0	7	107	
Child Support Granted	399	336	22	65	369	311	25	55	1	2	0	55	1,640	
Child Support Amended	190	174	3	22	179	175	5	34	1	1	0	13	797	
Child Support Denied	8	5	0	2	9	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	34	
Child Support Terminated	9	2	3	4	14	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	40	
Medical Treatment Granted	57	4	0	0	14	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	80	
Medical Treatment Denied	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Consent To Marry Granted	16	1	0	0	45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	
Consent To Marry Denied	10	2	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	
<b>All Other Outcome Actions</b>	11,025	5,700	2	384	5,728	2,787	168	244	11	2	0	122	26,173	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>88,013</b>	<b>36,184</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>43,118</b>	<b>17,576</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>192,205</b>	



## JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS DISPOSED BY

JANUARY 1, 1999 - DECEMBER 31, 1999

As mentioned earlier in this report, juvenile court cases and referrals can be disposed of (depending upon the procedure used) by Judges, Referees, or Youth Services/Probation Officers. All cases resulting in a formal hearing and adjudication must be disposed of by judicial staff (Judges, Referees, Special Judges). Cases that are handled informally through informal adjustment or other informal, non-judicial actions can be disposed of by the court officers.

The 1999 data, as reflected in the table below, shows that 78% of referral reasons were disposed of by judicial staff: 51% by Judges and 27% by Referees. Youth Services/Probation Officers were reported as disposing of 20% of referral reasons, while 2% of referral reasons were reported as being disposed by Other.

	Total	Percent
Judge	62,369	51%
Referee	33,896	27%
YSO	24,211	20%
Other	2,798	2%
	<hr/>	
	123,274	100%





**APPENDIX**

**Number of Children By Referral Reason**

**Trends**

**1995 – 1999**

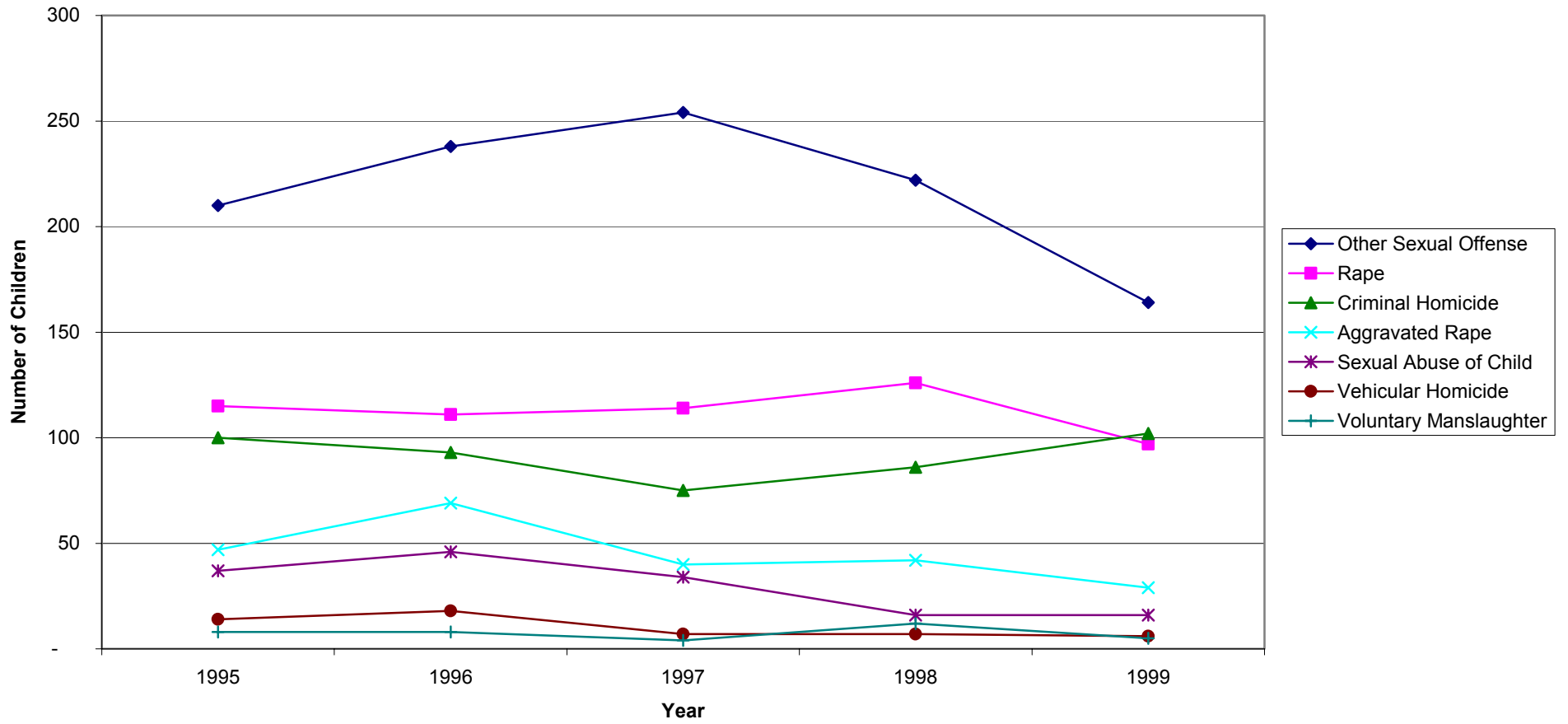
**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**  
**Number of Children By Referral Reason 1995 - 1999**  
**(Data Based On Cases Concluded)**

Referral Reason			95-96			96-97			97-98	1998-1999
	1995	1996	Percent Change	1997	Percent Change	1998	Percent Change	1999	Percent Change	
<i>Offenses Against Persons</i>										
Criminal Homicide	100	93	-7%	75	-19%	86	15%	102	19%	
Aggravated Rape	47	69	47%	40	-42%	42	5%	29	-31%	
Aggravated Robbery	520	496	-5%	428	-14%	326	-24%	217	-33%	
Rape	115	111	-3%	114	3%	126	11%	97	-23%	
Voluntary Manslaughter	8	8	0%	4	-50%	12	200%	5	-58%	
Vehicular Homicide	14	18	29%	7	-61%	7	0%	6	-14%	
Assault	4,244	4,379	3%	4,611	5%	4,618	0%	4,911	6%	
Sexual Abuse Of A Child	37	46	24%	34	-26%	16	-53%	16	0%	
Other Sexual Offense	210	238	13%	254	7%	222	-13%	164	-26%	
Aggravated Assault	1,172	1,336	14%	1,399	5%	1,168	-17%	1,044	-11%	
Robbery	205	258	26%	189	-27%	180	-5%	109	-39%	
<i>Offenses Against Property</i>										
Arson	216	186	-14%	159	-15%	163	3%	103	-37%	
Aggravated Burglary	829	1,005	21%	1,080	7%	1,060	-2%	892	-16%	
Theft Of Property	9,063	9,017	-1%	8,970	-1%	8,021	-11%	7,630	-5%	
Vandalism	2,533	2,723	8%	2,458	-10%	2,120	-14%	2,423	14%	
Forgery	199	219	10%	199	-9%	184	-8%	164	-11%	
Worthless Checks	55	58	5%	41	-29%	29	-29%	50	72%	
Illegal Poss./Fraud. Use Of Credit/Debit Cards	76	72	-5%	74	3%	74	0%	78	5%	
Burglary	1,677	1,901	13%	1,711	-10%	1,437	-16%	1,207	-16%	
Unauthorized Use Of A Vehicle	304	325	7%	280	-14%	345	23%	362	5%	
Cruelty To Animals	59	29	-51%	37	28%	34	-8%	50	47%	

**Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**  
**Number of Children By Referral Reason 1995 - 1999**  
**(Data Based On Cases Concluded)**

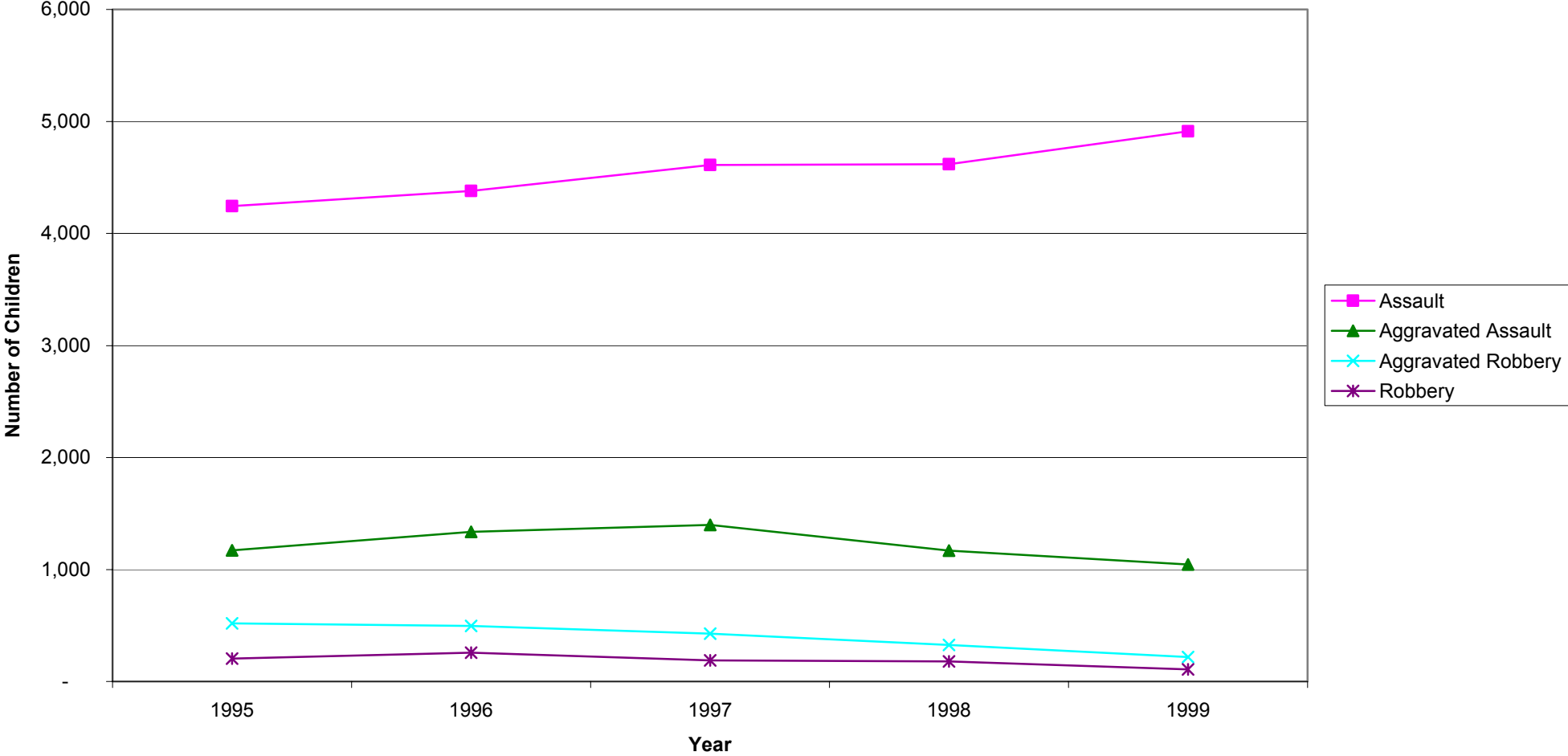
Referral Reason	1998-1999								
	1995	1996	95-96 Percent Change	1997	96-97 Percent Change	1998	97-98 Percent Change	1999	Percent Change
<i>Illegal Conduct</i>									
Sale Of Controlled Substances	834	811	-3%	796	-2%	675	-15%	536	-21%
Other Drug Offenses	1,680	2,004	19%	2,107	5%	1,565	-26%	1,565	0%
Possession Of Controlled Substances	1,706	2,016	18%	2,347	16%	3,040	30%	3,108	2%
Criminal Attempt	516	509	-1%	452	-11%	383	-15%	258	-33%
Carrying Weapons On School Property	652	557	-15%	436	-22%	488	12%	389	-20%
Unlawful Carrying/Possession Of A Weapon	995	881	-11%	843	-4%	984	17%	848	-14%
Evading Arrest	1,086	1,267	17%	1,176	-7%	1,123	-5%	1,011	-10%
Escape	132	163	23%	217	33%	331	53%	209	-37%
Driving Under The Influence (DUI)	334	352	5%	345	-2%	369	7%	379	3%
Possession/Consumption Of Alcohol	2,330	2,378	2%	2,375	0%	3,233	36%	3,409	5%
Resisting Stop, Frisk, Halt, Arrest, Or Search	569	529	-7%	614	16%	620	1%	567	-9%
Aggravated Criminal Trespass	248	287	16%	146	-49%	58	-60%	123	112%
Harassment	248	317	28%	294	-7%	316	7%	305	-3%
Failure To Appear	60	79	32%	68	-14%	96	41%	135	41%
Disorderly Conduct	3,304	3,454	5%	4,040	17%	4,430	10%	4,654	5%
Criminal Trespass	1,643	1,570	-4%	1,850	18%	1,741	-6%	1,670	-4%
Public Intoxication	722	717	-1%	853	19%	637	-25%	644	1%
Gambling	109	86	-21%	130	51%	135	4%	144	7%
Traffic	9,740	8,783	-10%	9,629	10%	10,262	7%	11,025	7%
Local Ordinances	910	659	-28%	485	-26%	588	21%	631	7%
Violation Of Wildlife Resource Regulations	141	124	-12%	90	-27%	183	103%	113	-38%
<i>Status Offenses</i>									
Ungovernable/Unruly Behavior	4,548	4,490	-1%	3,838	-15%	3,564	-7%	3,765	6%
Truancy	6,882	6,925	1%	6,832	-1%	7,491	10%	8,270	10%
In-State Runaway	3,965	4,155	5%	3,778	-9%	3,636	-4%	3,548	-2%
Out-Of-State Runaway	304	270	-11%	182	-33%	136	-25%	178	31%
Violation Of Curfew	2,354	2,337	-1%	2,720	16%	2,820	4%	2,968	5%
Violation Of Probation	2,127	2,225	5%	2,274	2%	2,620	15%	2,938	12%
Violation Of Aftercare	194	206	6%	190	-8%	247	30%	255	3%
Violation Of A Valid Court Order	896	753	-16%	849	13%	415	-51%	1,048	153%

**Offenses Against Persons 1995 - 1999**  
(Data Based On Cases Concluded)



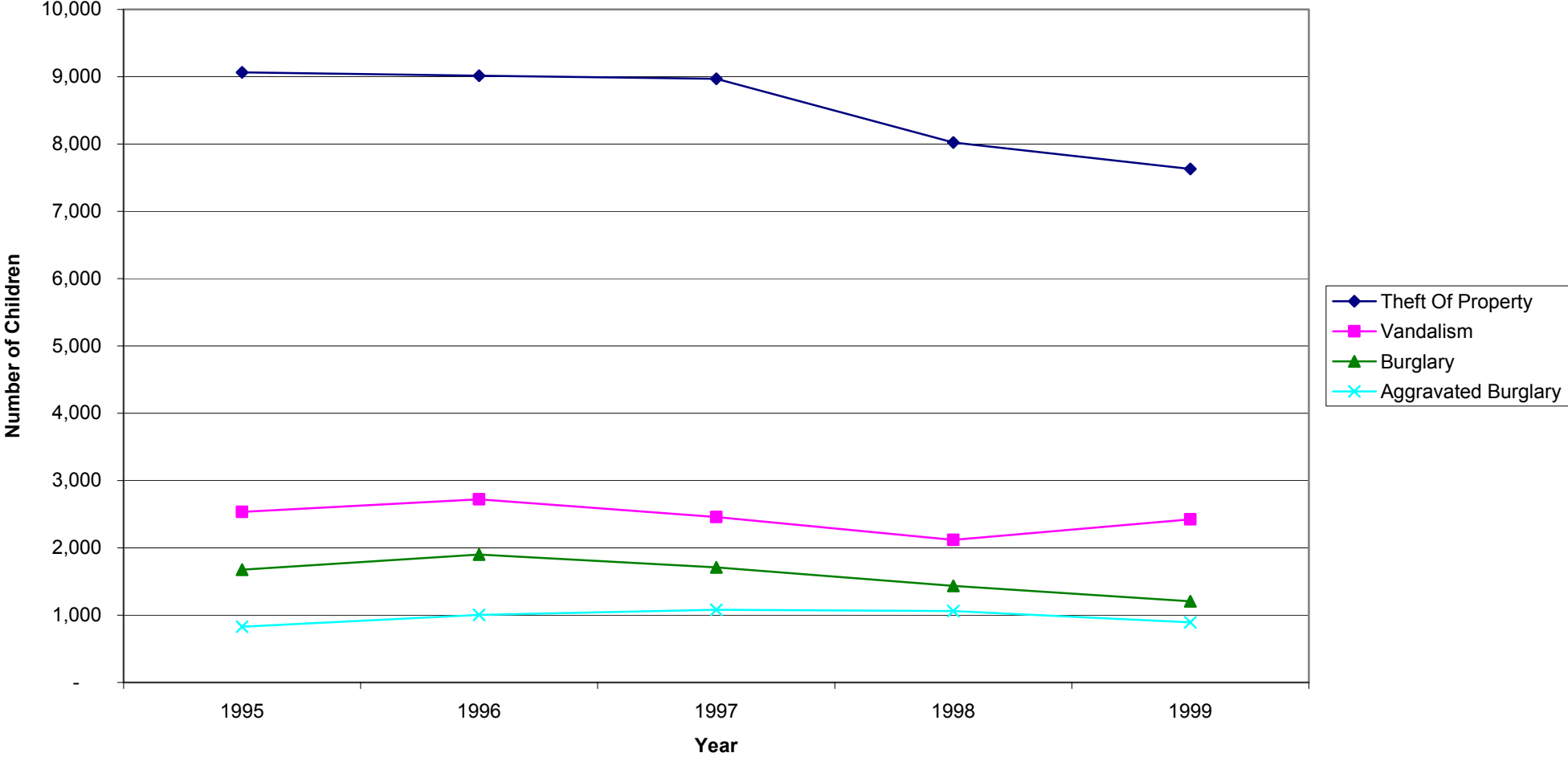
### Offenses Against Persons 1995 - 1999

(Data Based On Cases Concluded)

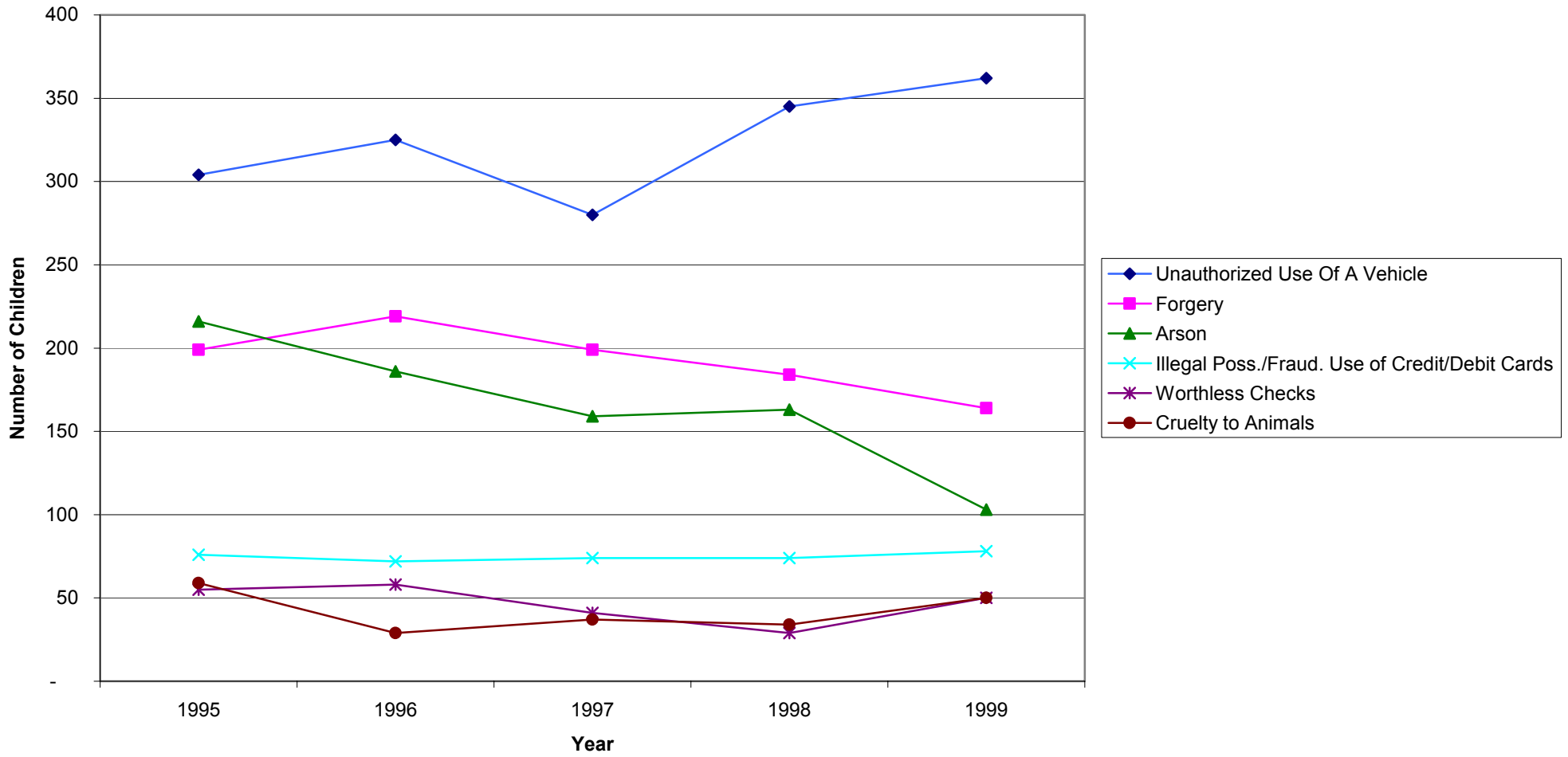




**Offenses Against Property 1995 - 1999**  
(Data Based On Cases Concluded)

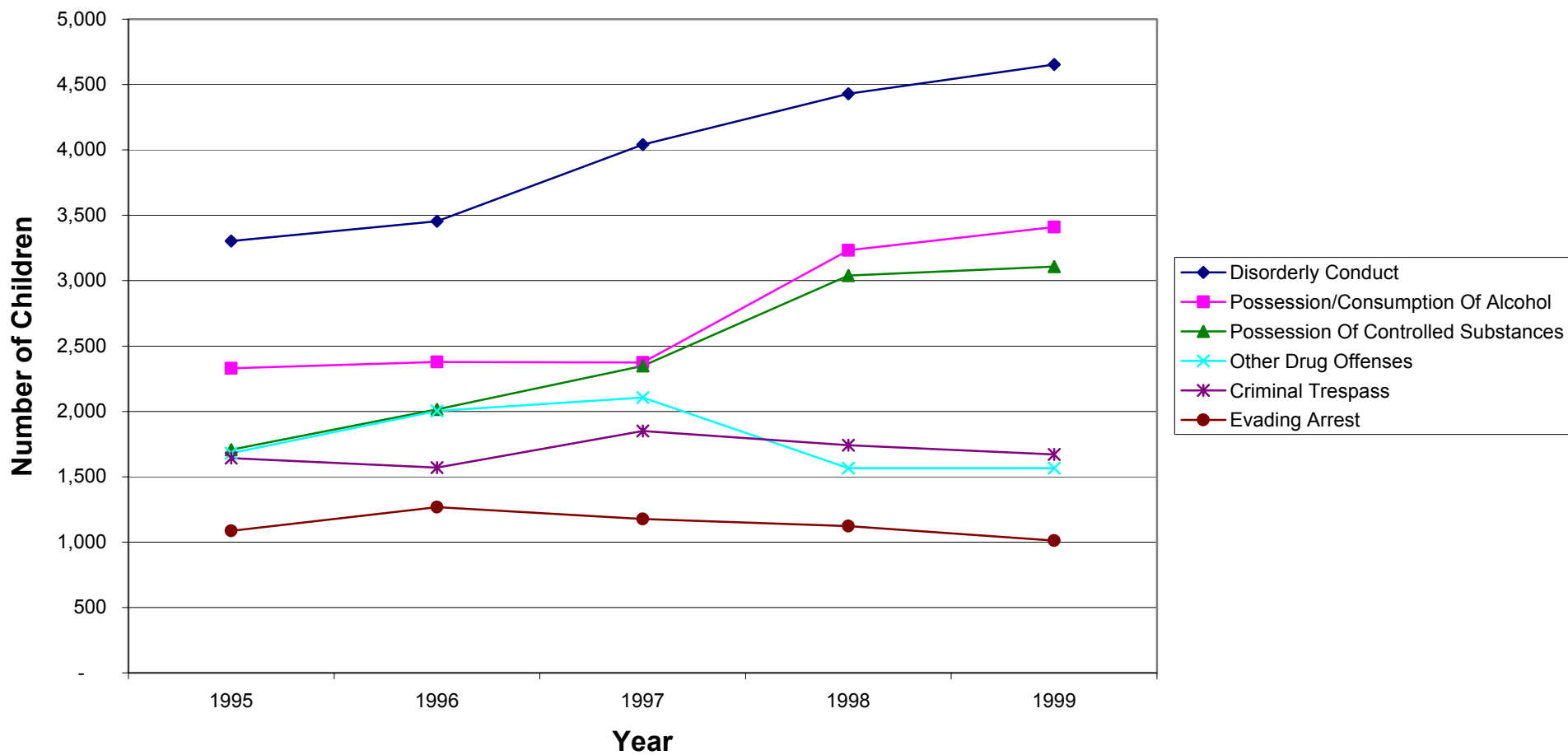


**Offenses Against Property 1995 - 1999**  
(Data Based On Cases Concluded)



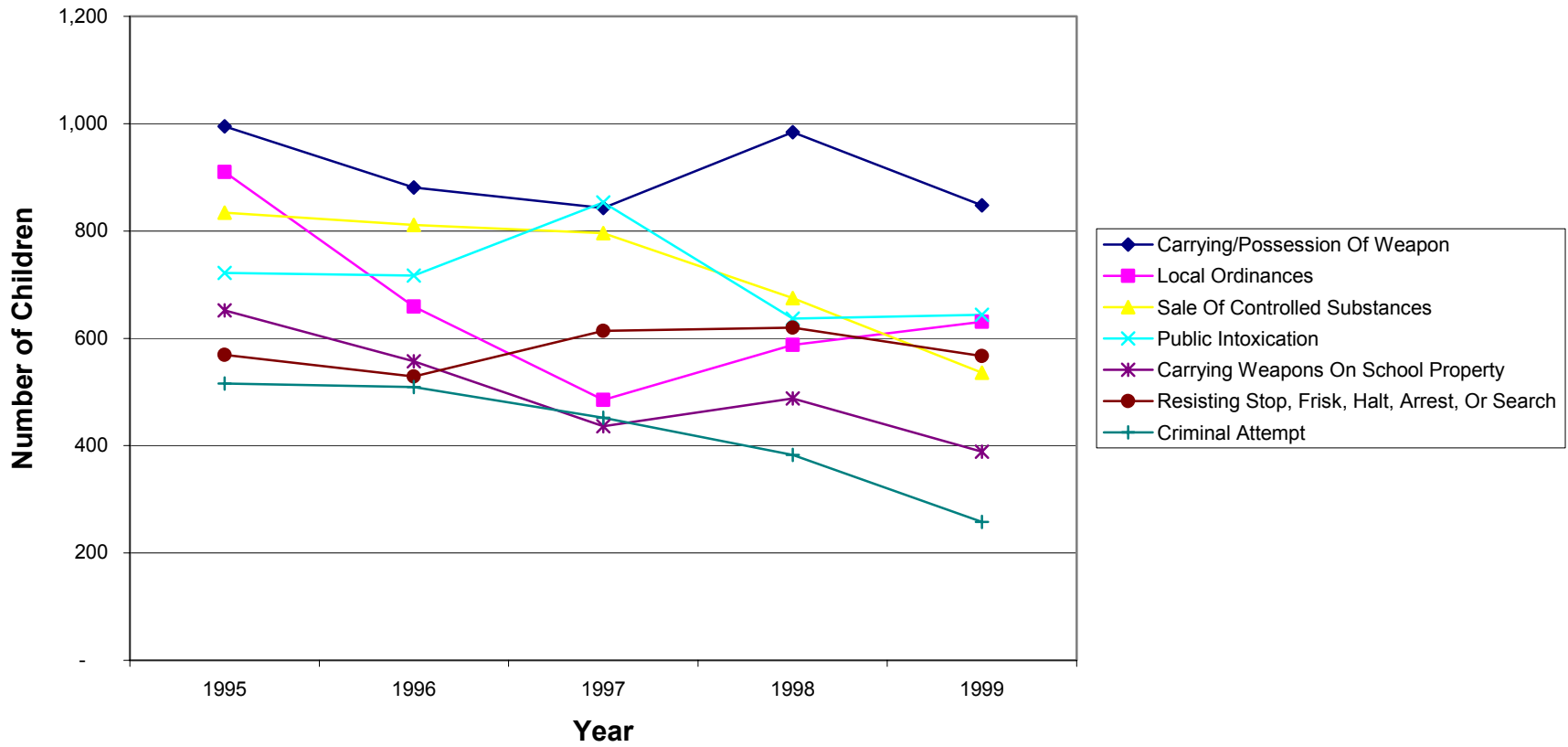
### Illegal Conduct 1995 - 1999

(Data Based On Cases Concluded)



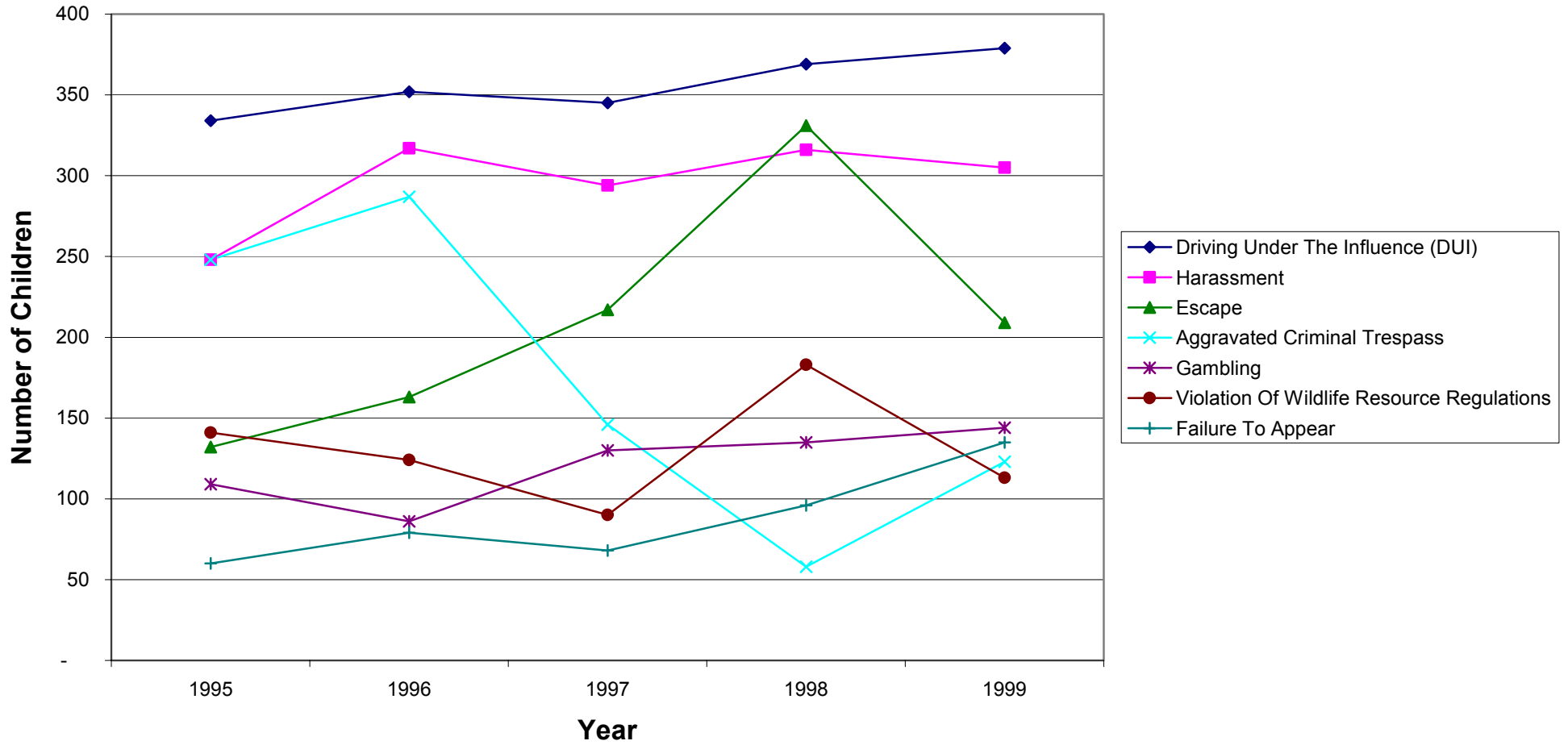
### Illegal Conduct 1995 - 1999

(Data Based On Cases Concluded)



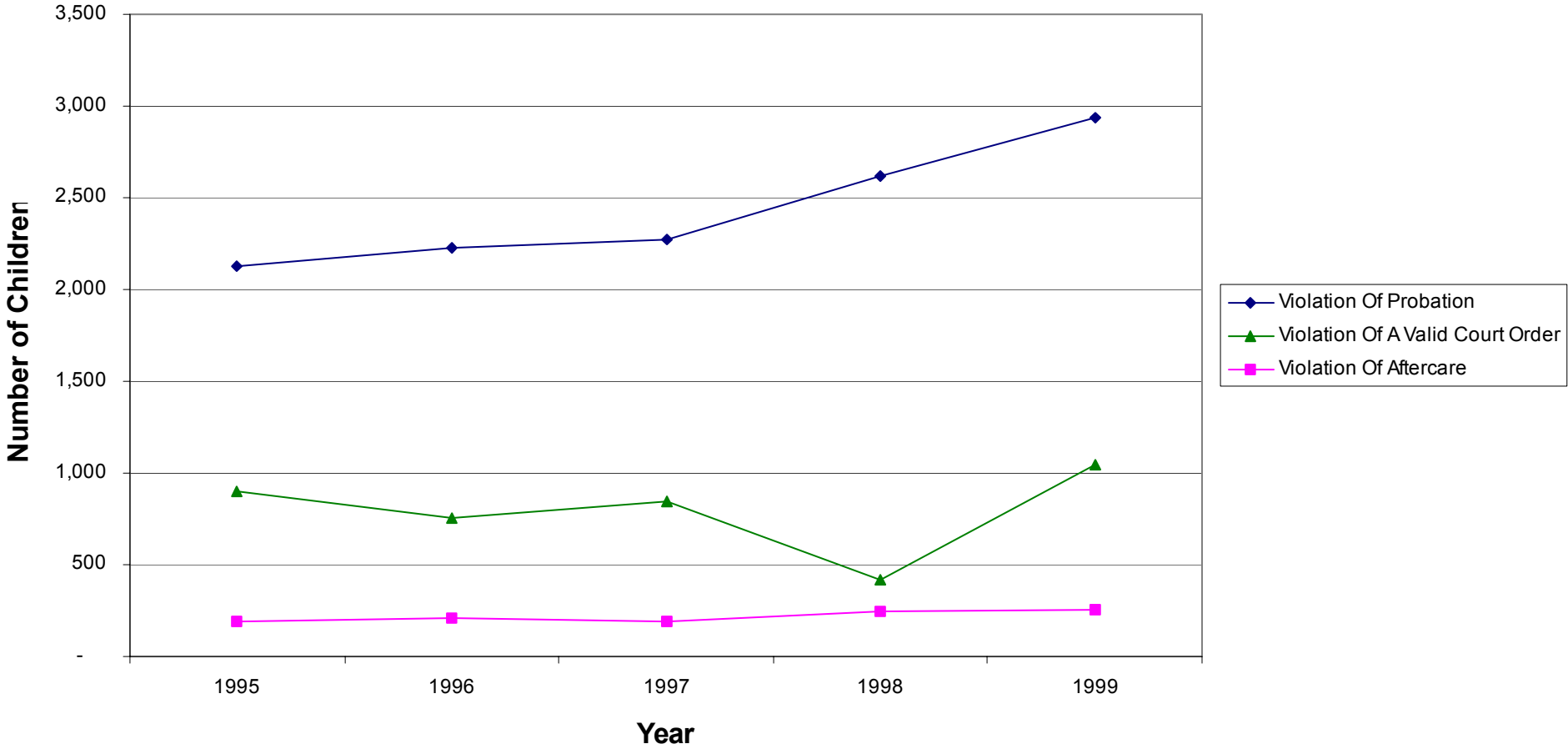
# Illegal Conduct 1995 - 1999

(Data Based On Cases Concluded)



# Violation Proceedings 1995 - 1999

(Data Based On Cases Concluded)



**Status Offenses 1995 - 1999**  
(Data Based On Cases Concluded)

