

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, &
Professional Papers

Graduate School

1971

A social and geographical analysis of juvenile delinquency in Missoula Montana

Jack Francis Paskvan
The University of Montana

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Paskvan, Jack Francis, "A social and geographical analysis of juvenile delinquency in Missoula Montana" (1971). *Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, & Professional Papers*. 9077.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd/9077>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate School at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, & Professional Papers by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

A SOCIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL
ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

By

Jack F. Paskvan

B.A., University of Montana, 1967

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

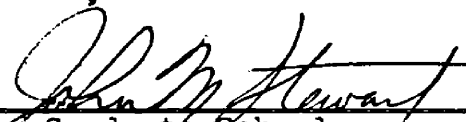
Master of Urban Studies

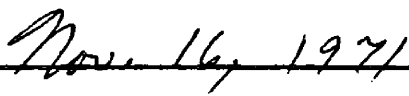
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

1971

Approved by:


Chairman, Board of Examiners


Dean, Graduate School


Date

UMI Number: EP39878

All rights reserved

INFORMATION TO ALL USERS

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.



UMI EP39878

Published by ProQuest LLC (2013). Copyright in the Dissertation held by the Author.

Microform Edition © ProQuest LLC.

All rights reserved. This work is protected against unauthorized copying under Title 17, United States Code



ProQuest LLC.
789 East Eisenhower Parkway
P.O. Box 1346
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 - 1346

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	iii
LIST OF MAPS	vii
CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER II. THE SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT POPULATION IN MISSOULA COUNTY	4
Introduction (4)--Ages of Juvenile Offenders (4)--Sex of Delinquents (6)--Racial Characteristics (9)--Location and Length of Residence (9)--Prior Offenses (10)--Religious Factors (13)-- Family Marital Status (29)--Annual Family Income (32)--School Status, Employment Status and School Misbehavior of Missoula's Delinquents (41)-- School Status (43)--Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior (48)-- Employment Status (54)--Summary and Conclusions (60)	
CHAPTER III. SOCIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF MISSOULA'S DELINQUENTS ON THE BASIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC BLOCK STATUS	64
Introduction (64)--Socio-economic Block Status and Age Groups (71)-- Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to School Status and School Attainment (72)--Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to Family Marital Status and Annual Family Income (75)--Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to Employment Status (79)--Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to the Religious Factors (80)--Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to Prior Offenses and Offenses Committed (83)-- Summary and Conclusions (87)	
CHAPTER IV. THE MISSOULA COUNTY COURT PROBATION OFFICE	89
The Staff (89)--The Operation (90)--The Programs (93)	
CHAPTER V. THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND SUGGESTED FURTHER RESEARCH	95
The Problems (95)--Suggested Research (97)	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	99
APPENDIX	100

LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
CHAPTER II.	
1. Ages of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled at the Time of Referral to the Missoula County Juvenile Probation Office .	5
2. Age and Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders	5
3. Sex and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders	7
4. Sex and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders	8
5. Sex and Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents	9
6. Racial Characteristics of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled . .	10
7. Length of Residence of Juvenile Offenders in Missoula County	10
8. Prior Delinquency and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders	12
9. Prior Delinquency and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders	13
10. Religious Denominations and Religious Beliefs of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled	15
11. Religious Involvement of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled . . .	15
12. Religious Denomination and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders . .	16
13. Religious Involvement and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders . .	18
14. Religious Denomination and Religious Participation of Juvenile Offenders	19
15. Religious Involvement and the Sex of Juvenile Offenders . . .	20
16. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and Annual Family Income	21

LIST OF TABLES--Continued

Tables	Page
CHAPTER II.--Continued	
17. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and Family Marital Status	23
18. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and School Attainment	24
19. Religious Denomination of Juvenile Offenders and the Number of Prior Offenses	24
20. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and the Number of Prior Offenses	26
21. Religious Denomination of Juvenile Offenders and the Offenses Committed	27
22. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and the Offenses Committed	28
23. Marital Status of the Parents of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled	29
24. Living Arrangements Found among the Juvenile Offenders Sampled	30
25. Family Marital Status and Ages of Juvenile Offenders	31
26. Family Marital Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders	32
27. Annual Incomes Received by the Parents of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled	33
28. Annual Family Income and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders . . .	35
29. Annual Family Income and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders	37
30. Annual Family Income and the Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents	37
31. Annual Family Income and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders	38
32. Annual Family Income and the Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders	40

LIST OF TABLES--Continued

Tables	Page
CHAPTER II.--Continued	
33. Employment Status and School Status of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled	42
34. Level of School Attainment Achieved by the Juvenile Offenders Sampled	42
35. School Status and Age and Sex of Juvenile Offenders	44
36. School Status and Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents	45
37. School Status and Annual Family Income of Delinquents' Parents	45
38. School Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed	47
39. School Status and the Offenses Committed	47
40. Juveniles Engaged in Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior and Offense Committed, Number of Prior Offenses, Religious Denomination, Religious Involvement, Age, School Attainment, Sex, Family Marital Status and Annual Family Income	50
41. Employment Status and Age, Sex and Location of Residence of Juvenile Offenders	54
42. Employment Status and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders	56
43. Employment Status and the Family Marital Status and Annual Income of Delinquents' Parents	57
44. Employment Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed and the Offenses Committed	58
CHAPTER III.	
1. The Location of Residence and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders	65
2. Socio-economic Block Status and Ages of Juvenile Offenders	72
3. Socio-economic Block Status and the School Status of Juvenile Offenders	73

LIST OF TABLES--Continued

Tables	Page
CHAPTER III.--Continued	
4. Socio-economic Block Status and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders	74
5. Socio-economic Block Status and the Juvenile Offenders Reported for Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior	75
6. Socio-economic Block Status and the Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents	76
7. Socio-economic Block Status and the Annual Family Incomes of Delinquents' Parents	77
8. Socio-economic Block Status and the Employment Status of Juvenile Offenders	80
9. Socio-economic Block Status and Religious Denomination and Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders	82
10. Socio-economic Block Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed	84
11. Socio-economic Block Status and the Offenses Committed . . .	86
CHAPTER IV.	
1. Dispositions Given to Sampled Juvenile Offenders by the Missoula County Juvenile Probation Office or Court Judge .	92

LIST OF MAPS

Maps	Page
1. Geographical Distribution of Juvenile Delinquents in Missoula	69
Supplement to Map 1	70

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to offer a descriptive analysis of juvenile delinquency in Missoula, Montana. This analysis will focus first of all on both the consistencies and the discrepancies in the delinquent population in terms of relevant social factors. These social factors will cover both the characteristics of the juveniles studied and the characteristics of their families. Secondly, a geographical analysis of juvenile delinquency in Missoula will be presented. Relevant social factors will be compared with geographical city block characteristics which will be made on the basis of occupational status. The last section of this paper will cover a brief, descriptive discussion of the Missoula County Juvenile Court Probation Office.

The data gathered for this study was taken from the records of the delinquents sampled through the cooperation of the Missoula County Juvenile Court Probation Office. Specifically, most of the information was obtained from Juvenile Statistical Analysis Code Sheets--a Montana State form accompanying the file of every juvenile offender handled by the probation agency. The population of the study consists of a 10 per cent random sample (95 individuals) of the juvenile offenses recorded during the year 1970. The classification system of the Missoula County Juvenile Court Probation Office lists the following offenses as constituting the crimes committed by juveniles in Missoula County and handled directly through the probation agency: assault, burglary or

illegal entry, curfew violations, disturbance and/or fighting, Montana State Fish & Game Department violations, grand larceny, liquor law violations, malicious mischief, narcotics violations, petty larceny, running away from home, traffic violations, trespassing, truancy, ungovernability, the unsupervised, vandalism and an "other" category which generally included indecent exposure and sex crimes.

In Chapter II the delinquent population sampled will be examined in terms of the social factors of age, sex, race, location and length of residence (urban/rural), the number of prior offenses, the offenses committed, family marital status, annual family income, school attainment, school status, school misbehavior, juvenile employment status and religious backgrounds. Generalizations will be made regarding social characteristics that appear to be associated with delinquency.

A geographical analysis of the juvenile delinquents sampled is made in Chapter III. Generalizations will be made in terms of the socio-economic characteristics of the delinquents' residential areas. The geographical analysis is made on the basis of block data. The indicator for determining the socio-economic statuses of the blocks involved in this study is the head of household occupational status found to be most prevalent in any given block. For the purpose of anonymity, the juveniles studied have been identified only on the basis of the blocks within which they live, not by their names or by their addresses.

The fourth chapter deals briefly with the Missoula County Juvenile Court Probation Office. The agency staff, the general operation of the agency and the present and planned programs stemming from the agency are discussed in this chapter and examined in terms of delinquency prevention.

It will be seen that the primary goal of the probation agency is the prevention of delinquency among both potential offenders and prior juvenile offenders.

Before beginning a discussion on the characteristics of juvenile delinquents in Missoula, three major points must be taken into account. First, the information contained in this paper applies only to juvenile delinquency in Missoula and not to the problem of juvenile delinquency on a generalized scale. Although much of the information to be presented in this paper does correspond to nationwide data on juvenile delinquency, the fact remains that this study is only a characterization of juvenile delinquency in Missoula, Montana. Second, the data contained in this paper do not account for "hidden delinquency," or those delinquent acts in which the offender is either not caught or not prosecuted. Third, the data available does not indicate how representative the delinquent sample is in reference to the Missoula juvenile population as a whole. The social characteristics covered in this paper apply only to juvenile delinquents, not to Missoula juveniles.

CHAPTER II

THE SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT POPULATION IN MISSOULA COUNTY

Introduction

A descriptive analysis of the social characteristics of juvenile delinquents in Missoula County is provided in this chapter. The following factors are taken into account to describe the county's delinquent population: age, sex, race, urban or rural residence, number of prior offenses committed, religious denominations, religious involvement, the marital statuses of parents, annual family income, school status and employment status. In addition, the characteristics of ten individuals who were reported for serious and persistent school misbehavior are also studied.

Ages of the Juvenile Offenders

Out of the random sample the youngest juvenile offender reported was 9 years old. As shown in Table II-1, each age category is represented by one or more offenders through the age of 17. Upon reaching the age of 18, an individual is no longer considered a juvenile, and the probation agency removes his records from its files. The median age for delinquents in Missoula County in 1970 was 15.7 years.

The school attainment of these delinquents when compared to their ages reveals some pertinent findings. The majority of juvenile offenders was found in the junior high school category--44 individuals

Table II-1. Ages of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled at the Time of Referral to the Missoula County Juvenile Probation Office.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	n	Percent
9 Years	1	1.1
10 Years	3	3.2
11 Years	1	1.1
12 Years	10	10.5
13 Years	10	10.5
14 Years	8	8.4
15 Years	21	22.1
16 Years	23	24.2
17 Years	18	18.9
Total	95	100.0

Median Age: 15.7 years.

Table II-2. Age and Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders.

Level of School Attainment	Age						Total	
	9-13		14-15		16-17			
	Years Old		Years Old		Years Old		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Grade School	19	76.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	20	21.1
Junior High	6	24.0	26	89.7	12	29.3	44	46.3
High School	0	0.0	2	6.9	28	68.3	30	31.6
No informa- tion	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	1	1.1
Total	25	100.0	29	100.0	41	100.0	95	100.1

(or 46.3 percent of the total sample). Twenty individuals (or 21.1 percent) were in grade school, and 30 (or 31.6 percent) were in high school. In the 9 through 13 years of age category, the distribution appears to be relatively normal in terms of school advancement for youths as a whole with 19 individuals in grade school and six juveniles in junior high. The age group of 14 and 15 year olds again appears to be normal in terms of school advancement for juveniles as a whole. Here there were 26 individuals in junior high and two individuals in high school. Only one offender in this category showed a definite failure to advance in school in relation to his appropriate age group, this person having only attained a grade school level of education. Most interesting are the 16 and 17 year olds. In this category 28 individuals had attained a high school level, and 12 juveniles had only attained a junior high level of education. These 12 individuals accounted for 29.3 percent of the 16 and 17 year olds. This information offers evidence to show that by the time many juvenile offenders (almost one-third of the oldest age group) had reached high school age, they had fallen behind in school.

Sex of Delinquents in Relation to Prior
Offenses, Age and Family Status

Males held a significant edge over females in the committing of juvenile offenses; they constituted 79 of the 95 delinquents studied (83.2 percent). From information obtained through the probation agency regarding the relationship of sex to crimes committed, it was found that only in the category of runaway did the females outnumber the male offenders, the ratio being 45 offenses to 35 offenses out of all the cases of runaways reported in 1970. For the most part, representation on

the part of females in the committing of juvenile offenses was generally found to be in the categories of curfew violations, liquor law violations, and petty larceny in addition to runaways.

This study shows conclusively that males, much more than females, tended to be repeaters in the committing of juvenile crimes. Thirteen females (81.3 percent) had no prior offenses. Of the remaining females, all of them had committed only one prior offense. On the other hand, only 48.1 percent of the males had no prior offenses. Twenty-two of them (27.8 percent) had one prior offense, and 19 of them (24.1 percent) had more than one prior offense. It can safely be said about juvenile delinquency in Missoula County that not only do fewer females than males commit offenses in the first place, but also the females, much more than the males, tend to commit fewer crimes.

Table II-3. Sex and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders.

Number of Prior Offenses	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	38	48.1	13	81.3	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	22	27.8	3	18.7	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	6	7.6	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	6	7.6	0	0.0	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	3	3.8	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	3	3.8	0	0.0	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	79	100.0	16	100.0	95	99.9

As shown in Table II-4, the proportions of male delinquents increased as their ages increased. There were 19 males (or 24.1 percent of all males) in the 9 through 13 years of age group, 27 (or 34.2 percent) in the 14 through 15 years of age group and 33 (or 41.8 percent) in the 16 through 17 years of age group. In contrast to this there were six females (37.5 percent) in the 9 through 13 years of age group, and their numbers dropped to two (or 12.5 percent) in the 14 through 15 years of age group. In the 16 through 17 years of age group their numbers increased to eight (or 50 percent). In this age group, however, many of the offenses by females were liquor law violations and were less serious than some of the offenses committed by males in the same age category.

Table II-4. Sex and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	19	24.1	6	37.5	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	27	34.2	2	12.5	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	33	41.8	8	50.0	41	43.2
Total	79	100.1	16	100.0	95	100.0

Accounting for the fact that females were found to be less frequent offenders than males is difficult on the basis of data at hand. In viewing their family backgrounds, as shown in Table II-5, the males and females are almost equally represented in terms of having complete or incomplete families. For both males and females, almost two-thirds

had complete families and one-third had incomplete families. Perhaps the best explanation for the differences between the sexes regarding juvenile delinquency is the general socialization process that takes place in this society, placing females within a certain realm where they allow themselves and are allowed the freedom to do only certain things. This may also apply to the committing of crimes.

Table II-5. Sex and Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents.

Family Marital Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Complete Family	55	69.6	11	68.8	66	69.5
Incomplete Family	24	30.4	5	31.2	29	30.5
Total	79	100.0	16	100.0	95	100.0

Racial Characteristics

The vast majority of delinquent cases in Missoula County consisted of whites (see Table II-6). Of the 95 cases studied, whites constituted 91 of them. There was one Black and one Indian, and the remaining two were unidentified.

Urban/Rural Location and Length of Residence

Eighty-seven of the 95 individuals studied (91.6 percent) resided in or around the City of Missoula; thus they may be considered from an urban area. Most of the individuals studied (76.8 percent) had lived in Missoula County five years or more (see Table II-7). The number of delinquents who had lived in Missoula County under five years constituted only 20 cases (or 21.1 percent).

Table II-6. Racial Characteristics of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

<u>Race of Juvenile Offenders</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	91	95.7
Indian	1	1.1
Black	1	1.1
Other	1	1.1
No Information	1	1.1
Total	95	100.1

Table II-7. Length of Residence of Juvenile Offenders in Missoula County.

<u>Length of Residence of Juvenile Offenders</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Not Currently a Resident of Missoula County	1	1.1
Residence Under One Year	5	5.3
Residence Under Five Years	15	15.8
Residence of Five Years or More	73	76.8
No Information	1	1.1
Total	95	100.1

Prior Offenses in Relation to Age
and School Attainment

The ratio between those individuals not having any prior offenses and those who had committed one or more prior offenses was close. Fifty-one offenders (or 53.7 percent) had committed no prior offenses, and 44 offenders (or 46.3 percent) had one or more prior offenses. Of those who had committed prior offenses, over half (25 cases) had only one prior

offense on their records. Six individuals had committed two prior offenses, and six others had committed three prior offenses. In the categories of four and five prior offenses, there were three juvenile offenders each, and one individual had committed eight prior offenses.

Regarding prior delinquency, an interesting trend can be pointed out in relation to both age and school attainment. As shown in Table II-8, only seven out of the 25 offenders in the youngest age group, the 9 through 13 year olds, had committed prior offenses. The oldest age group, 16 and 17 year olds, had almost an identical number of people who had committed prior offenses as those who had not, 20 and 21 respectively. In contrast to this, the 14 and 15 year olds as a group tended to be recidivists. This group constituted 38.6 percent of the prior offenders and only 30.5 percent of the total number of individuals studied. Also, among the juveniles who had not committed prior offenses only 23.5 percent were found in this age group. In comparison, 35.3 percent in the youngest age group and 41.2 percent in the oldest age group had no prior offenses. Thus, only in the group of 14 and 15 year olds were there more individuals who had prior offenses than those who did not.

It might be noted here that although the largest percentage of prior offenders, 45.5 percent, fell among the 16 and 17 year olds, they are also older and consequently have had more time to commit crimes. Not only was it the largest group and not only did it have the highest percentage of prior offenders, but it also had the highest percentage of individuals who had not committed prior offenses. It is for this reason that the most important focus of study should be centered on the 14 and 15 year olds, the group that shows the highest tendency towards recidivism.

Table II-8. Prior Delinquency and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Prior Delinquency				Total	
	Yes		No			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	7	15.9	18	35.3	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	17	38.6	12	23.5	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	20	45.5	21	41.2	41	43.2
Total	44	100.0	51	100.0	95	100.0

A similar pattern can be seen regarding educational attainment. Again the junior high group (predominantly 14 and 15 year olds) showed a tendency towards prior delinquency with 54.5 percent of all the prior offenders. Again this category had more prior offenders than it had individuals without prior offenses. Those juveniles in grade school with no prior offenses outnumbered those with prior offenses by more than two to one. Among those who had attended high school, there were 17 individuals with no prior offenses in comparison to 13 who had committed previous crimes. (See Table II-9.)

Referring back to Table II-2, it was shown that 30 juvenile offenders had attained a high school level of education. Yet, as is seen in Table II-8, 41 of the juvenile offenders were either 16 or 17 years of age--high school age. In addition to this, the largest group of individuals studied with regard to school attainment--44 (or 46.3 percent of the total sample)--fell into the junior high category. This is explained in part at least by the 12 juveniles among the 16 and 17 year olds who had only attained a junior high level of education (see Table II-2). It

can easily be assumed, then, that some of the 12 individuals 16 or 17 years of age who had only attained a junior high level of education also accounted for the percentage increase of prior offenders that was found in the junior high category.

Table II-9. Prior Delinquency and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders

Level of School Attainment	Prior Delinquency				Total	
	Yes		No			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Grade School	7	15.9	13	25.5	20	21.1
Junior High	24	54.5	20	39.2	44	46.3
High School	13	29.5	17	33.3	30	31.6
No informa- tion	0	0.0	1	2.0	1	1.1
Total	44	99.9	51	100.0	95	100.1

Missoula's Delinquents and
the Religious Factors

There are a variety of social factors that can be considered contributors to juvenile delinquency. Such factors include the juvenile's family life, the values transmitted to the child through the family, the family socio-economic status and the neighborhood environment to name but a few. One such factor that is often overlooked is the lack of religious training in a juvenile's background. In this section the relationships between the religious factors and juvenile delinquency will be examined.

As Gerhard Lenski pointed out in The Religious Factor, definite relationships do exist between both religious denomination and religious participation and various patterns of social behavior, specifically

political, economic, and family patterns.¹ In addition, the importance of religion as a factor of socialization varies significantly with respect to both the type of denomination and the areas within which it is practiced. On the basis of the research done for this paper regarding Missoula County, a variety of significant and interesting relationships between the religious factors and juvenile delinquency do appear.

Catholics accounted for the largest representation among the cases studied with 21 individuals (or 22.1 percent of the total). As a group, the Protestants constituted 41 cases. Of this number, 14 individuals classified themselves as Protestants but did not specify any particular denomination. The Lutherans had the highest number of delinquents among the Protestant Religion with 10 individuals. Only four individuals classified themselves as having no religious beliefs. However, an inquiry about this at the probation agency revealed that the number of cases listed under the category of "Christian" could in fact be included in the category of having no religious beliefs (see Table II-10). This would show a total of 29 individuals in this group, or almost one-third of the cases studied.

In addition, 51 out of the 95 individuals studied listed themselves as non-participants in religious organizations. Thirty-five juveniles considered themselves to be moderately active in their religious faiths, and only six classified themselves as being very active.

¹Gerhard Lenski, The Religious Factor (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1963).

Table II-10. Religious Denominations and Religious Beliefs of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

Religious Denominations and/or Beliefs of Juvenile Offenders	n	Percent
None, Atheist or Agnostic	4	4.2
Christian--No Religious Denomination and/or Uncommitted Regarding Religious Beliefs and Denominations	25	26.3
Baptist	4	4.2
Catholic	21	22.1
Church of God	1	1.1
Episcopal	2	2.1
LDS, Mormon	1	1.1
Lutheran	10	10.5
Methodist	6	6.3
Pentecostal	1	1.1
Presbyterian	2	2.1
Protestant, Unspecified	14	14.7
No Information	3	3.2
Total	95	100.1

Table II-11. Religious Involvement of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders	n	Percent
Very Active in Religion	6	6.3
Moderately Active in Religion	35	36.8
Non-participating in Religion	51	53.7
No Information	3	3.2
Total	95	100.0

The relationship between the religious factors and the age groups of Missoula delinquents reveals some pertinent findings. Catholic juveniles had a much lower representation in the youngest age group than did the Protestants or those classifying themselves as being non-religious. Only 19 percent of the Catholic juveniles were found in the 9 through 13 years of age group, whereas 31.7 percent of the Protestants and 27.6 percent of the non-religious were found in this youngest age group. However, the representation of Catholic juveniles increased significantly among the 14 and 15 year olds; 57.1 percent of the Catholics were in this group. The Protestants had fewer individuals in this age group than in the youngest age group, and the non-religious remained the same. In the oldest age group, 16 and 17 year olds, there were only five Catholics (or 23.8 percent of that denomination). Both the Protestants and the non-religious had increased representation in this group.

Table II-12. Religious Denomination and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Religious Denomination										Total	
	Catholic		Protestant		None		Other		No Informa- tion			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	4	19.0	13	31.7	8	27.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	12	57.1	9	22.0	8	27.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	5	23.8	19	46.3	13	44.8	1	100.0	3	100.0	41	43.2
Total	21	99.9	41	100.0	29	100.0	1	100.0	3	100.0	95	100.0

It appears that those individuals classifying themselves as non-religious consistently engaged in delinquent behavior regardless of their age bracket. The Protestant juveniles, on the other hand, appear to be more prone towards delinquency in the youngest and oldest age groups with a decline in delinquent behavior among the 14 and 15 year olds. In contrast, Catholic juveniles in both the youngest and oldest age groups were far less likely to commit delinquent acts. This information is made even more evident by comparing the religious groups on a ratio basis. Among the 9 through 13 year olds, Protestant juveniles outnumbered Catholic juveniles by more than three to one, and the non-religious outnumbered the Catholics by two to one. In total numbers, however, the Protestants were not quite twice as many as the Catholics, and the non-religious had only eight more individuals than the Catholics. As shown in Table II-12, the same can be said for the oldest age group. According to this information, then, it can be concluded that Catholic juveniles in Missoula County appeared to be most likely to become delinquents around 14 or 15 years of age.

Again, an interesting relationship between age groups and religious participation can be presented. Among the 14 and 15 year olds and the 16 and 17 year olds, the numerical representation was relatively equal between those who were very or moderately active in their religions and those who were non-participants. In the youngest age group the non-participants outnumbered active members by almost two to one (see Table II-13). This seems rather strange, considering that young children are usually required more often by their parents to attend church than are older children. The answer may lie in the possibility that the

Table II-13. Religious Involvement and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moder- ately Active		Non- Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	9	22.0	16	31.4	0	0.0	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	14	34.1	15	29.4	0	0.0	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	18	43.9	20	39.2	3	100.0	41	43.2
Total	41	100.0	51	100.0	3	100.0	95	100.0

non-participation of younger individuals is not the norm for the community as a whole but instead is a characteristic of younger delinquents who do not receive religious encouragement in their homes. This brings up the question as to why is it that only the youngest group shows a dramatic lack of participation. The answer seems to lie in a variety of variables. Most important of these is the fact that the youngest group comes from a higher percentage of broken homes. This is clearly presented later in a discussion on family status, but for the present another variable should be considered--that of religious denomination in conjunction with religious participation.

As was mentioned previously, Catholic juveniles constituted a relatively large number of all the delinquents in the 14 and 15 years of age category. The Catholics also were by far the most active in religion with 17 of them being very or moderately active and only four being non-participants. In comparison, 22 of the Protestant juveniles (or 53.7 percent) were active to some degree in the churches, and 19 (or 46.3 percent) were non-participants.

Table II-14. Religious Denomination and Religious Participation of Juvenile Offenders.

Religious Partici- pation	Religious Denomination										Total	
	Catholic		Protestant		None		Other		No Informa- tion			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very or Moderately Active	17	81.0	22	53.7	1	3.4	1	100.0	0	0.0	41	43.2
Non- partici- pating	4	19.0	19	46.3	28	96.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	51	53.7
No Infor- mation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	100.0	3	3.2
Total	21	100.0	41	100.0	29	100.0	1	100.0	3	100.0	95	100.1

Since the Catholic representation in the middle age group was the highest, and since there were very few Catholic delinquents in the youngest age group, the Catholics undoubtedly contributed substantially to the high percentage of active participants in the middle age group. It appears that the distribution of the Catholic population with its high percentage of religious activity was significant enough to partially influence and explain the varying degrees of religious participation found in the three age groups. This applies particularly to the youngest age group with regards to the small proportion of Catholic juveniles in this group.

A brief statement can be made about the male-female comparison in relation to religious participation. Females, in comparison to males, were slightly more inclined towards active participation. Of those females who provided information on the subject, half were active or moderately active in their churches. On the other hand, only 43.6 percent

of the males listed themselves as being active or moderately active in their religious organizations, and 56.4 percent of the males were non-participants.

Table II-15. Religious Involvement and the Sex of Juvenile Offenders.

Sex of Juvenile Offenders	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moderately Active		Non-Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Male	34	82.9	44	86.3	1	33.3	79	83.2
Female	7	17.1	7	13.7	2	66.6	16	16.8
Total	41	100.0	51	100.0	3	99.9	95	100.0

Religious participation when compared to the annual family income of the delinquents' parents reveals some very significant facts. The juveniles of two family income groups--those families receiving public assistance to include those earning under \$3,000 a year and those families receiving an income from \$5,000 to \$9,000 a year--had a high proportion of religious non-participants. The individuals in the other two economic groups--those families receiving \$3,000 to \$4,999 annually and those receiving \$10,000 or more a year--showed just the opposite, a tendency towards active or moderately active participation.

In terms of numerical representation, the third economic group (families receiving from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year) is by far the most significant group. In this economic group also, juveniles who were religious non-participants outnumbered those active in religion by almost two to one. For reasons that will be mentioned later, it is difficult to call this group the middle class, but for the time being and the sake of simplicity that is what it will be termed.

Table II-16. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and Annual Family Income.

Annual Family Income	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moder- ately Active		Non- Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance	1	2.4	4	7.8	0	0.0	5	5.3
\$3,000- \$4,999	8	19.5	5	9.8	0	0.0	13	13.7
\$5,000- \$9,999	15	36.6	27	52.9	1	33.3	43	45.3
\$10,000 or More	15	36.6	6	11.8	0	0.0	21	22.1
No Information	2	4.9	9	17.6	2	66.6	13	13.7
Total	41	100.0	51	99.9	3	99.9	95	100.1

Traditionally, Protestants have comprised the majority of the middle class, whereas the majority of Catholics has generally been found in the working class.² Secondly, Protestants on the whole attend church less regularly than do Catholics.³ From the information at hand, it would appear, then, that the third economic group may have a large number of middle class Protestants. This could partially account for the lack of religious participation among the juveniles in this group. The second income group (families receiving an annual wage from \$3,000 to \$4,999) could possibly have enough working class Catholics in it to account for

² Lenski, The Religious Factor, p. 84.

³ Ibid., p. 38.

the fact that eight of the juvenile offenders in this group were very or moderately active in religion, and only five were non-participating. The major discrepancy lies in the fourth economic group, the one with families earning \$10,000 annually or more. Usually such an economic group would also be predominantly Protestant, but according to this study the children of these families by a ratio of more than two to one were active in their churches. As later information will bear out, Missoula is different in that many of the families in the highest income group were Catholic families. In addition, the Protestants in this group appear to be more inclined towards religious activity.

In The Religious Factor, Lenski points out that among Protestants those individuals who are religiously active tend to reach a higher socio-economic status than those individuals who are not so active. Regarding this Lenski says, "These data strongly indicate that the relationship of the individual white Protestant to his church antedates upward mobility." He goes on to say, "In the present instance our data indicate that a high degree of involvement in the white Protestant churches more often stimulates upward mobility than the other way around."⁴ It appears that the high degree of religious participation in this fourth economic group partially substantiates these findings among Protestants.

Religious participation also depends on the marital status of a given family. Table II-17 shows that among the delinquents who classified themselves as being very to moderately active in their religions, approximately one-fourth of them came from incomplete families. However, among

⁴Lenski, The Religious Factor, p. 117.

those classifying themselves as non-participants exactly one-third came from incomplete families. Of these individuals from incomplete families, only 39.3 percent were active to some degree, and 60.7 percent were religious non-participants. Among the complete families, 46.9 percent of the juvenile offenders were active in religion, and 53.1 percent were not.

Table II-17. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and Family Marital Status.

Family Marital Status	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moder- ately Active		Non- Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Complete Family	30	73.2	34	66.6	2	66.6	66	69.5
Incomplete Family	11	26.8	17	33.3	1	33.3	29	30.5
Total	41	100.0	51	99.9	3	99.9	95	100.0

It is interesting to note that religious participation appears to be directly related to school attainment. As the data indicate, the farther a juvenile offender has gone in school, the more likely he is to be involved to some degree with his religion. This substantiates earlier findings regarding the youngest group of juveniles. In this case the grade schoolers by a ratio of almost two to one were religious non-participants. The religious participation of those reaching high school had a slight edge over non-participation.

As shown in Table II-19, the religious denomination of a delinquent appears to be very significant in connection with the number of offenses committed. Catholics had the highest percentage of individuals

Table II-18. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and School Attainment.

Level of School Attainment	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moder- ately Active		Non- Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Grade School	7	17.1	13	25.5	0	0.0	20	21.1
Junior High	19	46.3	25	49.0	0	0.0	44	46.3
High School	15	36.6	13	25.5	2	66.6	30	31.6
No Information	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	1	1.1
Total	41	100.0	51	100.0	3	99.9	95	100.1

Table II-19. Religious Denomination of Juvenile Offenders and the Number of Prior Offenses.

Number of Prior Offenses	Religious Denomination										Total	
	Catholic		Protestant		None		Other		No Informa- tion			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	13	61.9	23	56.1	12	41.4	0	0.0	3	100.0	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	5	23.8	12	29.3	8	27.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	0	0.0	4	9.8	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	2	9.5	1	2.4	2	6.9	1	100.0	0	0.0	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	1	4.8	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	0	0.0	1	2.4	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	21	100.0	41	100.0	29	100.0	1	100.0	3	100.0	95	100.0

with no prior offenses--61.9 percent. Protestants followed closely with 56.1 percent having no prior offenses, and those classifying themselves as having no religion were third with only 41.4 percent having no prior offenses. This is far below the 53.7 percent of the total sample who had no prior offenses. Even more significant is the fact that proportionately those juveniles having no religious backgrounds far exceeded both Catholic and Protestant juveniles in recidivism. It is quite clear that on the basis of these data religion, or the lack of it, is a very important factor in conjunction with prior delinquency.

Religious participation also shows a similar pattern. Only three individuals who considered themselves somewhat active in their religions had more than one prior offense. More than half of those active in religion had no prior offenses, and 34.1 percent of the religious participants had only one prior offense. In contrast, less than half of the non-participants had no prior offenses, only 21.6 percent had one prior offense, and a total of 31.4 percent of this group had two or more prior offenses. Again, these data show conclusively that religious factors are significant in relation to juvenile delinquency in Missoula. In this case the relationship clearly shows a connection between religious non-participation and recidivist behavior.

It is very difficult to show conclusively that individuals belonging to certain religious denominations have a tendency to commit certain crimes. It does appear that the Catholic delinquents and the delinquents of no religious faith lean towards the more serious crimes. Table II-21 shows that all the crimes of violence were committed by Catholic and non-religious juvenile offenders, as were all the cases of

Table II-20. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and the Number of Prior Offenses.

Number of Prior Offenses	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moder- ately Active		Non- Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	24	58.5	24	47.1	3	100.0	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	14	34.1	11	21.6	0	0.0	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	0	0.0	6	11.8	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	2	4.9	4	7.8	0	0.0	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	1	2.4	2	3.9	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	0	0.0	3	5.9	0	0.0	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	41	99.9	51	100.1	3	100.0	95	99.9

grand larceny. The children of Protestants, on the other hand, displayed a propensity for violating liquor laws and committing petty larceny, in addition to a variety of other minor offenses.

It is also difficult to show a relationship between the offenses committed and religious participation. All that can be said is that religious non-participants committed a greater variety of crimes, and that on the whole non-participants accounted for most of the individuals committing these crimes. The exceptions were assault, liquor law violations, petty larceny, traffic offenses and truancy.

Table II-21. Religious Denomination of Juvenile Offenders and the Offenses Committed.

Offense Committed	Religious Denomination										Total	
	Catholic		Protestant		None		Other		No Informa- tion			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Assault	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Burglary	1	4.8	2	4.9	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Curfew Violation	6	28.5	2	4.9	2	6.9	0	0.0	1	33.3	11	11.6
Disturbance/ Fighting	1	4.8	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Fish and Game Violation	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Grand Larceny	2	9.5	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Liquor Law Violation	3	14.3	12	29.3	6	20.8	0	0.0	1	33.3	22	23.1
Malicious Mischief	0	0.0	4	9.8	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	5.2
Narcotics Violation	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Other	0	0.0	2	4.9	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Petty Larceny	3	14.3	8	19.5	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	13.7
Runaway	2	9.5	4	9.8	2	6.9	0	0.0	1	33.3	9	9.5
Traffic	1	4.8	2	4.9	3	10.4	1	100.0	0	0.0	7	7.4
Trespassing	0	0.0	1	2.4	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1
Truancy	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Ungovernable	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1
Unsupervised	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Vandalism	1	4.8	2	4.9	1	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	21	100.1	41	100.1	29	99.9	1	100.0	3	99.9	95	100.1

Table II-22. Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders and the Offenses Committed.

Offense Committed	Religious Involvement						Total	
	Very to Moder- ately Active		Non- Participating		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Assault	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Burglary	1	2.4	3	5.9	0	0.0	4	4.2
Curfew Violation	4	9.8	6	11.8	1	33.3	11	11.6
Disturbance/ Fighting	1	2.4	2	3.9	0	0.0	3	3.1
Fish and Game Violation	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Grand Larceny	2	4.9	2	3.9	0	0.0	4	4.2
Liquor Law Violation	11	26.8	10	19.6	1	33.3	22	23.1
Malicious Mischief	1	2.4	4	7.8	0	0.0	5	5.2
Narcotics Violation	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Other	1	2.4	3	5.9	0	0.0	4	4.2
Petty Larceny	8	19.5	5	9.8	0	0.0	13	13.7
Runaway	3	7.3	5	9.8	1	33.3	9	9.5
Traffic Violation	4	9.8	3	5.9	0	0.0	7	7.4
Trespassing	1	2.4	1	2.0	0	0.0	2	2.1
Truancy	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Ungovernable	0	0.0	2	3.9	0	0.0	2	2.1
Unsupervised	0	0.0	1	2.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Vandalism	2	4.9	2	3.9	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	41	99.9	51	100.1	3	99.9	95	100.1

Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents

The family environment is a key factor in the study of juvenile delinquency. Two very important variables within the family environment are the stability of the family and the family socio-economic status. The first of these variables, the family marital status, has already been discussed to a limited degree, and its significance in relation to other variables cannot be disputed. However, from the data obtained in this study of Missoula delinquents, family marital status may not be so significant when related to the sample as a whole.

Of the cases studied, 69.5 percent came from complete families (those parents who were married and living together) and lived in their own homes with both parents. The remaining 30.5 percent of the cases came from incomplete families (those families broken by divorce, separation or death). These statistics show an approximate two-thirds to one-third ratio, and that, in fact, is approximately the same figure for the success or failure of marriages in America today.

Table II-23. Marital Status of the Parents of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

<u>Marital Status of Parents</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Parents Married and Living Together	66	69.5
Father Dead	3	3.2
Mother Dead	1	1.1
Parents Divorced or Legally Separated	25	26.3
Total	95	100.1

Table II-24. Living Arrangements Found among the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

Living Arrangements of Juveniles	n	Percent
In Own Home with Both Parents	66	69.5
In Own Home with Mother and Stepfather	7	7.4
In Own Home with Father and Stepmother	2	2.1
In Own Home with Mother Only	13	13.6
In Own Home with Father Only	5	5.3
In the Home of a Relative	2	2.1
Total	95	100.0

A qualifying remark must be made, however. Not all broken marriages have children involved. In this study children are obviously involved. It would be incorrect to indicate that the ratio of broken homes among Missoula's delinquents and the national ratio of broken marriages were practically identical. On the other hand, divorce was not the only criteria for a broken home in this study. The death of a parent and legal separation were also considered. Thus, taking everything into account, it can be assumed that on the whole the ratio of broken homes among Missoula delinquents approximates the national ratio of families broken by divorce.

A crucial factor lies in the relationship between family marital status and the age of a juvenile offender. Forty-four percent of the youngest group of delinquents came from incomplete families. The percentage of individuals who came from incomplete families in the total sample was 30.5 percent, or 13.5 percent lower than that of the youngest

group. Among the 14 and 15 year olds, 34.5 percent came from incomplete families. In contrast, less than one-fifth of the juvenile offenders in the oldest age group came from incomplete families. A full 50 percent of all the juveniles having complete families were among the 16 and 17 year olds (see Table II-25). As the data indicate, the older an individual was when he committed a delinquent act the more likely it was he came from a complete family. The reverse of this, and far more significant, is that juveniles coming from incomplete families had a greater tendency to commit delinquent acts at a younger age.

Table II-25. Family Marital Status and Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Family Marital Status				Total	
	Complete Family		Incomplete Family			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	14	21.2	11	37.9	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	19	28.8	10	34.5	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	33	50.0	8	27.6	41	43.2
Total	66	100.0	29	100.0	95	100.0

Although the juveniles having incomplete families accounted for 30.5 percent of the total sample, they made up less than one-fifth of the group having no prior offenses. Forty-four percent of the individuals who had committed one prior offense came from incomplete families. As shown in Table II-26, the juveniles from incomplete families had a proportionately high rate of representation in each category of additional prior offenses. As the data indicate, the marital stability or

instability of a juvenile's family has a great deal of influence on whether or not he will be prone towards recidivist behavior.

Table II-26. Family Marital Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders.

Number of Prior Offenses	Family Marital Status				Total	
	Complete Family		Incomplete Family			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	41	62.1	10	34.5	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	14	21.2	11	37.9	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	3	4.5	3	10.3	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	4	6.1	2	7.0	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	2	3.0	1	3.4	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	2	3.0	1	3.4	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	0	0.0	1	3.4	1	1.1
Total	66	99.9	29	99.9	95	99.9

Annual Family Income of
Delinquents' Parents

A second factor that often is related to the causation of juvenile delinquency is family socio-economic status. For the purposes of this chapter, the only data available to indicate socio-economic status involves annual family income.

Of the 95 individuals sampled, 82 were able to give some estimate of their parents' annual incomes. A total of 45.3 percent of the

juveniles sampled came from families with annual incomes of \$5,000 to \$9,999, and 22.1 percent came from families earning \$10,000 a year or more. Although these incomes are certainly nowhere near the poverty level, the size of a given family is an important determinant in the financial stability of that family. It is conceivable that some of the cases studied in these income groups do come from families that undergo severe financial pressure because of the number of children involved. This would be particularly true of those families which fall near the lower limits of the \$5,000 to \$9,999 income group. Of the remaining income groups, 13 juveniles (or 13.6 percent) came from families earning from \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year, and only five juvenile offenders (or 5.3 percent) had families receiving under \$3,000 a year or public assistance.

Table II-27. Annual Incomes Received by the Parents of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

Annual Incomes of Parents	n	Percent
Parents Receiving Public Assistance at the Time Juvenile was Referred	3	3.2
Parents Earned Under \$3,000 Annually	2	2.1
Parents Earned from \$3,000 to \$4,999 Annually	13	13.6
Parents Earned from \$5,000 to \$9,999 Annually	43	45.3
Parents Earned \$10,000 or More Annually	21	22.1
No Information	13	13.6
Total	95	99.9

Before beginning a discussion on family income some points should be clarified. The data available through the juvenile probation agency places family incomes into the following categories: receiving public assistance, under \$3,000 annually, \$3,000 to \$4,999 annually, \$5,000 to \$9,999 annually and \$10,000 a year or more. These groupings, with the exception of the last two, are reasonably informative. It is, however, the exceptions that also happen to be the most important income groups, considering that most of the juveniles studied came from families in these two income groups. A spread of \$5,000 in the \$5,000 to \$9,999 income group leaves much to the imagination as to exactly what a delinquent's family income is, what his family socio-economic status is and where that family might be placed on the scale of social classes. Such a spread could include both the working class and the middle class. The highest income group could easily pertain to skilled workers in the working class, the middle class, the upper-middle class or even the upper class. Due to these discrepancies, the designations of social class and socio-economic status presented in this paper should be viewed as approximations.

Of the 20 individuals in the youngest age group who listed their parents' incomes, seven came from families receiving under \$5,000 a year. Of the 28 juveniles in the middle age group who listed their parents' incomes, there were again seven from families receiving under \$5,000 annually. In the oldest age group, 34 individuals listed their parents' incomes, and only three of these people came from families earning under \$5,000 a year. Table II-28 shows that juvenile offenders in the two higher income groups tended to also be in the oldest age group. Of the

Table II-28. Annual Family Income and the Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Annual Family Income												Total	
	Under \$3,000		\$3,000		\$5,000		\$10,000		No					
	of Public		to		to		or More		Infor-					
	Assistance		\$4,999		\$9,999				mation					
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
9-13 Years Old	2	40.0	5	38.5	10	23.3	3	14.3	5	38.5	25	26.3		
14-15 Years Old	2	40.0	5	38.5	15	34.9	6	28.6	1	7.7	29	30.5		
16-17 Years Old	1	20.0	3	23.1	18	41.9	12	57.1	7	53.8	41	43.2		
Total	5	100.0	13	100.1	43	100.1	21	100.0	13	100.0	95	100.0		

juveniles having families receiving from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year, 18 individuals (or 41.9 percent) were either 16 or 17 years old. This is not too significant considering that 15 juveniles (or 34.9 percent of the \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year income group) were found in the middle age group. The percentage of 16 and 17 year olds in this income group is significant, however, when compared to the low percentage of 16 and 17 year olds in the two lower income groups (see Table II-28). Even more important is the fact that 57.1 percent of the juvenile offenders in the highest income group were among the 16 and 17 year olds. This, of course, is in part natural owing to the fact that many young juveniles do come from young families that have not yet reached a peak level of annual earnings, and older juveniles obviously come from older and more established families. But the implications of these data go beyond that. A definite relationship between low family incomes and early signs of delinquency appears here. This is particularly true with regards to the 9 through 13 year olds and also pertains to a lesser degree to the 14 and 15 year olds.

The relationship between annual family income and the school attainment of a delinquent child is quite similar to that of age and annual family income. In fact, a comparison of Table II-28 and Table II-29 reveals only a slight difference in data. The only significance in this comparison can be found in the two higher income groups where the numerical representations are large enough to show definite relationships. In the \$5,000 to \$9,999 income group, 41.9 percent of the juveniles were 16 or 17 years of age, yet only 30.2 percent had attained a high school level of education. In the highest income group, 57.1 percent of the juveniles were among the 16 and 17 year olds, yet only 42.9 percent of these individuals had attained a high school level of education. The data available negates any possibility of explaining this. However, it might be assumed that some of the juveniles sampled did have a tendency to drop out of school or fall back in school attainment in or around the high school years. If this were the case and since most of the older juveniles were from families in the higher income brackets, it stands to reason that there would be a discrepancy between age and school attainment in relation to family income.

In general, as shown in Table II-30, the higher the annual family income the more likely it was that a family would be complete. This is dramatically revealed in that all five cases coming from families earning under \$3,000 a year or receiving public assistance also had incomplete families. In the next category (those families receiving from \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year), 69.2 percent of the delinquents had incomplete families. The income group receiving from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year shows just the opposite. In this group only 18.6 percent of the delinquents had

Table II-29. Annual Family Income and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders.

Level of School Attainment	Annual Family Income										Total	
	Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance		\$3,000 to \$4,999		\$5,000 to \$9,999		\$10,000 or More		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Grade School	3	60.0	5	38.5	5	11.6	2	9.5	5	38.5	20	21.1
Junior High	2	40.0	5	38.5	25	58.1	10	47.6	2	15.4	44	46.3
High School	0	0.0	3	23.1	13	30.2	9	42.9	5	38.5	30	31.6
No Information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	1.1
Total	5	100.0	13	100.1	43	99.9	21	100.0	13	100.1	95	100.1

Table II-30. Annual Family Income and the Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents.

Family Marital Status	Annual Family Income										Total	
	Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance		\$3,000 to \$4,999		\$5,000 to \$9,999		\$10,000 or More		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Complete Family	0	0.0	4	30.8	35	81.4	18	85.7	9	69.2	66	69.5
Incomplete Family	5	100.0	9	69.2	8	18.6	3	14.3	4	30.8	29	30.5
Total	5	100.0	13	100.0	43	100.0	21	100.0	13	100.0	95	100.0

incomplete families. In the highest income group, juveniles having complete families outnumbered those having incomplete families by a ratio of six to one. The implications are again obvious--that the incidence of broken homes is highest among families in the lower income brackets and that such factors within the family environment could be conducive to juvenile delinquency.

Family income, as compared to family status, appears to be not quite as significant when related to the number of prior offenses. As shown in Table II-31, the individuals coming from families receiving

Table II-31. Annual Family Income and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders.

Number of Prior Offenses	Annual Family Income											
	Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance		\$3,000 to \$4,999		\$5,000 to \$9,999		\$10,000 or More		No Infor- mation		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	0	0.0	8	61.5	21	48.8	12	57.1	10	76.9	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	2	40.0	5	38.5	10	23.3	6	28.6	2	15.4	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	2	40.0	0	0.0	4	9.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	9.3	1	4.8	1	7.7	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	9.5	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	5	100.0	13	100.0	43	100.0	21	100.0	13	100.0	95	99.9

under \$3,000 or public assistance have all been recidivists. However, juveniles in the next income group revealed just the opposite--a tendency away from recidivism with only 38.5 percent of the individuals in this category having had prior offenses. In addition, all the recidivists in this income group had only one prior offense. In the next highest income group, 51.2 percent of the juveniles were prior offenders. Although this

group was the largest with 43 individuals, it accounted for only 45.3 percent of the total sample but a full 50 percent of all the prior offenders in the total sample. In the highest income group, 57.1 percent of the juveniles had no prior offenses, as compared to 53.7 percent for the total sample.

The similarity between the recidivist behavior of juveniles in the highest income group and the recidivism of juveniles in the next to the lowest income group is a unique one. The only explanation for this appears to lie in previous information on the delinquent activities of Catholic juveniles, who tended to avoid recidivism. The Catholic distribution could account in part for the similarity between these two totally different income groups. Information contained in Chapter III partially substantiates this when socio-economic block status is related to religious denomination.

Other than sketchy generalizations, it is difficult to determine the relationship between family income and the type of offense committed. As shown in Table II-32, juveniles coming from families earning from \$5,000 to \$9,999 annually accounted for the majority of crimes committed, among which were the most serious offenses--assault, burglary, grand larceny and a narcotics violation. Juveniles in the lower income groups had a far higher incidence of petty larceny offenses than did the juveniles in the higher income groups. On the other hand, juveniles in the higher income groups had the vast majority of liquor law violations, traffic violations and curfew violations.

Table II-32. Annual Family Income and the Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders.

Offense Committed	Annual Family Income										Total	
	Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance		\$3,000 to \$4,999		\$5,000 to \$9,999		\$10,000 or More		No Infor- mation			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Assault	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Burglary	0	0.0	1	7.7	3	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Curfew Violation	0	0.0	1	7.7	5	11.6	5	23.8	0	0.0	11	11.6
Disturbance/ Fighting	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	9.5	0	0.0	3	3.1
Fish and Game Violation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	1.1
Grand Larceny	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	4.7	1	4.8	0	0.0	4	4.2
Liquor Law Violation	0	0.0	1	7.7	10	23.3	8	38.1	3	23.1	22	23.1
Malicious Mischief	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	9.3	1	4.8	0	0.0	5	5.2
Narcotics Violation	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Other	0	0.0	2	15.4	2	4.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Petty Larceny	2	40.0	5	38.4	3	7.0	2	9.5	1	7.7	13	13.7
Runaway	1	20.0	0	0.0	5	11.6	0	0.0	3	23.1	9	9.5
Traffic Violation	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	4.7	2	9.5	2	15.4	7	7.4
Trespassing	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	2.1
Truancy	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Ungovernable	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	2.1

Table II-32--Continued.

Offense Committed	Annual Family Income										Total	
	Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 or More	No Infor- mation							
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Unsupervised	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	1.1
Vandalism	0	0.0	1	7.7	3	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	5	100.0	13	100.0	43	100.1	21	100.0	13	100.1	95	100.1

The School Status, Employment Status and
School Misbehavior of Missoula's Delinquents

A substantial percentage of the juvenile offenders studied were in school and unemployed--73.7 percent. On the other hand, 17.8 percent of the sample were not employed and out of school. These percentages when viewed together are very significant, indicating a fairly high dropout rate from school and an extremely low rate of employment. The sample indicated that a substantial number of juveniles were dropping out of school or falling behind their classmates in grade advancement towards the end of the junior high years or the beginning of high school. Also, 10 individuals out of the sample had been reported by their respective schools for serious and persistent school misbehavior.

For the sake of clarity, these three variables--school status, employment status and serious and persistent school misbehavior--have been broken down into three sections. The first section is concerned with the school status of the juveniles sampled. It should be understood that school status and school attainment are not the same. School status refers to whether or not a juvenile is in or out of school. School

attainment refers to the level of education a juvenile has achieved and offers no information as to whether or not that juvenile is still in school.

Table II-33. Employment Status and School Status of the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

Employment and School Statuses of Juvenile Offenders	n	Percent
Not Employed, Out of School	17	17.8
Employed Full Time, Out of School	2	2.1
Employed Part Time, Out of School	1	1.1
Not Employed, In School	70	73.7
Employed Full Time, In School	1	1.1
Employed Part Time, In School	3	3.2
No Information	1	1.1
Total	95	100.1

Table II-34. Level of School Attainment Achieved by the Juvenile Offenders Sampled.

School Grade Completed	n	Percent
First Grade	1	1.1
Second Grade	0	0.0
Third Grade	1	1.1
Fourth Grade	1	1.1
Fifth Grade	7	7.4

Table II-34--Continued.

School Grade Completed	n	Percent
Sixth Grade	10	10.5
Seventh Grade	8	8.4
Eighth Grade	24	25.3
Ninth Grade	12	12.6
Tenth Grade	17	17.8
Eleventh Grade	12	12.6
Twelfth Grade	1	1.1
No Information	1	1.1
Total	95	100.1

The School Status of
Missoula's Delinquents

The fact that 20 juveniles (or 21.3 percent of those who listed their school status) were out of school shows that there is a relatively high dropout rate among Missoula's delinquents. As shown in Table II-35, three of the school dropouts were in the 9 through 13 years of age group, and eight of them were among the 14 and 15 year olds. The remaining nine were of high school age. Out of the 20 school dropouts, 19 were males. According to these data, female delinquents have a far greater tendency to stay in school.

Truly significant is the fact that 50 percent of the school dropouts came from incomplete families. In comparison, only 25.7 percent of the juveniles in school were from incomplete families, while a full 74.3

Table II-35. School Status and Age and Sex of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	School Status						Total	
	Out of School		In School		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	3	15.0	22	29.7	0	0.0	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	8	40.0	21	28.4	0	0.0	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	9	45.0	31	41.9	1	100.0	41	43.2
Total	20	100.0	74	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.0
Sex of Juvenile Offender								
Male	19	95.0	60	81.1	0	0.0	79	83.2
Female	1	5.0	14	18.9	1	100.0	16	16.8
Total	20	100.0	74	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.0

percent of those in school were from complete families. To be more specific, less than one-sixth of those juveniles coming from complete families were out of school, whereas slightly more than one-third of the juvenile offenders from incomplete families were out of school. Family marital status is once again revealed to be a very important factor regarding juvenile delinquency. In this case the relationship is highly significant in terms of whether or not a juvenile offender stays in school.

Of those who listed their school status and family incomes, exactly 65 percent of the dropouts came from families earning from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year (see Table II-37). The \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year income group accounted for only 45.3 percent of the total sample. In this one

Table II-36. School Status and Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents.

Family Marital Status	School Status						Total	
	Out of School		In School		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Complete Family	10	50.0	55	74.3	1	100.0	66	69.5
Incomplete Family	10	50.0	19	25.7	0	0.0	29	30.5
Total	20	100.0	74	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.0

Table II-37. School Status and Annual Family Income of Delinquents' Parents.

Annual Family Income	School Status						Total	
	Out of School		In School		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance	2	10.0	3	4.1	0	0.0	5	5.3
\$3,000 to \$4,999	1	5.0	12	16.2	0	0.0	13	13.7
\$5,000 to \$9,999	13	65.0	30	40.5	0	0.0	43	45.3
\$10,000 or More	0	0.0	21	28.4	0	0.0	21	22.1
No Informa- tion	4	20.0	8	10.8	1	100.0	13	13.7
Total	20	100.0	74	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.1

income group, 30.2 percent of the juveniles had dropped out of school. This percentage is almost 10 percent higher than that for the total sample. Two-fifths of the juveniles from the income group receiving under \$3,000

or public assistance had dropped out of school. Since there was a high proportion of young juveniles in this income group, the preceding statistic undoubtedly accounts for some of the younger juveniles who were found to be out of school. On the other hand, the income group receiving from \$3,000 to \$4,999 annually had only one dropout (or an intergroup dropout rate of only 7.7 percent). The highest income bracket had no school dropouts.

Proportionately, school dropouts committed more delinquent acts than those juveniles in school. Only 30 percent of the dropouts had no prior offenses, whereas 59.5 percent of the juveniles still in school had no prior offenses. Even in relation to the total sample, the juveniles out of school accounted for a substantial percentage of prior delinquent acts (see Table II-38). Representing 21.3 percent of those listing their school status (94 individuals), the school dropouts constituted no less than 33.3 percent of the individuals in any given category of prior offenses (with the exception of that group having only one prior offense). The relationship found in these data between dropping out of school and delinquent acts is so significant that it speaks for itself.

Seventy-five percent of the crimes of burglary were committed by school dropouts. Other than that, school dropouts tended to commit relatively minor crimes, with the exception of the narcotics violation. The only other observation that can be made is that school dropouts appeared to be more prone than the juveniles in school to run away from home.

Table II-38. School Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed.

Number of Prior Offenses	School Status							
	Out of School		In School		No Information		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	6	30.0	44	59.5	1	100.0	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	4	20.0	21	28.4	0	0.0	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	4	20.0	2	2.7	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	2	10.0	4	5.4	0	0.0	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	1	5.0	2	2.7	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	2	10.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	20	100.0	74	100.1	1	100.0	95	99.9

Table II-39. School Status and the Offenses Committed.

Offenses Committed	School Status						Total	
	Out of School		In School		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Assault	0	0.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Burglary	3	15.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	4	4.2
Curfew Violation	2	10.0	9	12.1	0	0.0	11	11.6
Disturbance/ Fighting	1	5.0	2	2.7	0	0.0	3	3.1

Table II-39--Continued.

Offenses Committed	School Status						Total	
	Out of School		In School		No Information			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Fish and Game Violation	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Grand Larceny	0	0.0	4	5.4	0	0.0	4	4.2
Liquor Law Violation	5	25.0	16	21.6	1	100.0	22	23.1
Malicious Mischief	0	0.0	5	6.7	0	0.0	5	5.2
Narcotics Violation	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Other	1	5.0	3	4.1	0	0.0	4	4.2
Petty Larceny	1	5.0	12	16.2	0	0.0	13	13.7
Runaway	3	15.0	6	8.1	0	0.0	9	9.5
Traffic Violation	1	5.0	6	8.1	0	0.0	7	7.4
Trespassing	0	0.0	2	2.7	0	0.0	2	2.1
Truancy	0	0.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Ungovernable	1	5.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	2	2.1
Unsupervised	0	0.0	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.1
Vandalism	0	0.0	4	5.4	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	20	100.0	74	100.1	1	100.0	95	100.1

The Juvenile Offenders Reported for
Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior

Due to the fact this section deals with a small number of individuals, it is difficult to show conclusive relationships between variables. At best, the characteristics of the individuals discussed

in this section and those of the total sample can only be compared in terms of broad generalizations. Table II-40 contains the various relationships that exist between the 10 individuals discussed and a variety of factors.

Of the 10 juveniles who were reported by their schools for serious and persistent school misbehavior, five were involved in offenses that were directly related to friction at home or in school. One was referred for being ungovernable, three for running away from home and one for truancy.

Only three of the 10 individuals had no prior offenses. The juveniles classified as being school problems accounted for 42.9 percent of all the individuals in the total sample committing four or more previous crimes. Seventy percent of these juveniles had committed prior offenses, whereas only 46.3 percent of the entire sample had committed prior offenses.

Forty percent of the 10 juveniles had no religious backgrounds, as compared to 30.5 percent for the total sample. Sixty percent of these 10 delinquents were religious non-participants, whereas 53.7 percent of the total sample were non-participants.

Of the 10 delinquents reported for school misbehavior, 60 percent were either 14 or 15 years of age, and 30 percent were found in the youngest age group of 9 through 13 year olds. One individual was in the oldest age group.

With regard to school attainment the distribution is exactly the same as that for age. Three were in grade school, six were in junior high, and one was in high school. Eight of these individuals were males, and two were females.

Like the total sample, approximately two-thirds of these juveniles came from complete families, and one-third came from incomplete families. Due to the fact that 30 percent of these individuals did not list their family incomes, it is difficult to make any statements about this group in relation to annual family income. Of those who did give their family incomes, 71.4 percent were in the two higher income groups. This appears to be about the same percentage in these two income groups as found in the total sample.

Table II-40. Juveniles Engaged in Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior and Offense Committed, Number of Prior Offenses, Religious Denomination, Religious Involvement, Age, School Attainment, Sex, Family Marital Status and Annual Family Income.

Offense Committed	Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior	
	Yes (n=10)	
	n	%
Assault	0	0.0
Burglary	1	10.0
Curfew Violation	0	0.0
Disturbance/ Fighting	0	0.0
Fish and Game Violation	0	0.0
Grand Larceny	1	10.0
Liquor Law Violation	1	10.0
Malicious Mischief	0	0.0
Narcotics Violation	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0

Table II-40--Continued.

Offense Committed	Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior	
	Yes (n=10)	
	n	%
Petty Larceny	1	10.0
Runaway	3	30.0
Traffic Violation	1	10.0
Trespassing	0	0.0
Truancy	1	10.0
Ungovernable	1	10.0
Unsupervised	0	0.0
Vandalism	0	0.0
Total	10	100.0
Number of Prior Offenses		
No Prior Offense	3	30.0
One Prior Offense	3	30.0
Two Prior Offenses	1	10.0
Three Prior Offenses	0	0.0
Four Prior Offenses	1	10.0
Five Prior Offenses	2	20.0
Eight Prior Offenses	0	0.0
Total	10	100.0

Table II-40--Continued.

Religious Denomination	Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior	
	Yes (n=10)	
	n	%
Catholic	3	30.0
Protestant	3	30.0
None	4	40.0
Other	0	0.0
Total	10	100.0
<hr/>		
Religious Involvement		
Very to Moderately Active	4	40.0
Non-Participating	6	60.0
Total	10	100.0
<hr/>		
Ages of Juvenile Offenders		
9-13 Years Old	3	30.0
14-15 Years Old	6	60.0
16-17 Years Old	1	10.0
Total	10	100.0
<hr/>		
Level of School Attainment		
Grade School	3	30.0
Junior High	6	60.0

Table II-40--Continued.

Level of School Attainment	Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior	
	Yes (n=10)	
	n	%
High School	1	10.0
Total	10	100.0
Sex of Juvenile Offender		
Male	8	80.0
Female	2	20.0
Total	10	100.0
Family Marital Status		
Complete Family	7	70.0
Incomplete Family	3	30.0
Total	10	100.0
Annual Family Income		
Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance	1	10.0
\$3,000-\$4,999	1	10.0
\$5,000-\$9,999	4	40.0
\$10,000 or More	1	10.0
No Information	3	30.0
Total	10	100.0

The Employment Status of
Missoula's Delinquents

Again, only a small number of individuals will be dealt with in this section. Since the number of unemployed juveniles is nearly as large as the total sample, it would be repetitious to discuss them in relation to various factors. For this reason, only the employed juveniles will be discussed.

In preface to this section, it should be pointed out that employment is not a causal factor of juvenile delinquency. However, some factors that do result in juvenile delinquency could also lead to the individual's seeking employment. These are the relationships that will be covered.

Only seven juveniles out of the entire sample were employed, either part-time or full-time. Of the four individuals working part-time, three were in the 16 and 17 year old age group, and one was among the 14 and 15 year olds. Of those employed full-time, two were in the 16 and 17 year old age group, and one individual was in the 14 and 15 year old age group. All seven of the individuals employed were males, and all of them lived within what was designated the Missoula urban area.

Table II-41. Employment Status and Age, Sex and Location of Residence of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Employment Status										Total
	Not		Employed		Employed		No Infor-				
	Employed		Part Time		Full Time		mation				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
9-13 Years Old	25	28.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	26.3	
14-15 Years Old	27	31.0	1	25.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	29	30.5	

Table II-41--Continued.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Employment Status								Total	
	Not Employed		Employed Part Time		Employed Full Time		No Infor- mation			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
16-17 Years Old	35	40.2	3	75.0	2	66.6	1	100.0	41	43.2
Total	87	99.9	4	100.0	3	99.9	1	100.0	95	100.0
Sex of Juvenile Offenders										
Male	72	82.8	4	100.0	3	100.0	0	0.0	79	83.2
Female	15	17.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	16	16.8
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.0
Location of Residence										
Rural	8	9.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	8.4
Urban	79	90.8	4	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	87	91.6
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.0

As indicated by their ages, most of the employed juveniles had fallen behind in school attainment. Of those employed part-time, two individuals had only attained a junior high school level, whereas three juveniles in this employment status were in the oldest age group. All three of the juveniles employed full-time had only reached a junior high level, and of these individuals two were among the 16 and 17 year olds.

Three of the juveniles who were employed part-time came from complete families, and only one had an incomplete family background. This is proportionately somewhat better than the entire sample. Among

Table II-42. Employment Status and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders.

Level of School Attainment	Employment Status								Total	
	Not Employed		Employed Part Time		Employed Full Time		No Infor- mation			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Grade School	20	23.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	21.1
Junior High	39	44.8	2	50.0	3	100.0	0	0.0	44	46.3
High School	28	32.2	2	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	31.6
No Information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	1.1
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	95	100.1

those employed part-time, there were also three individuals who came from the upper two income brackets, and one came from the \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year income group (see Table II-43). In contrast, two out of the three individuals in the full-time employment group came from incomplete families. One of the juveniles in this group also came from a family earning less than \$3,000 a year or receiving public assistance. As was mentioned earlier, all five individuals listing themselves as coming from such an income group also came from broken families. The other two individuals employed full-time (one of whom also came from an incomplete family) had families in the two upper income brackets.

It is difficult to make hard statements regarding the relationships between the employment status of a juvenile, his family status and his parents' income on the basis of only seven cases. At the risk of making assumptions, however, there is the possibility that part-time

employment tends to be characteristic of juveniles coming from stable families receiving higher annual incomes. If this is the case, then full-time employment among juveniles shows just the opposite--a relationship with incomplete families which may or may not lean towards the lower income brackets.

Table II-43. Employment Status and the Family Marital Status and Annual Income of Delinquents' Parents.

Family Marital Status	Employment Status										Total
	Not Employed		Employed Part Time		Employed Full Time		No Infor- mation				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Complete Family	61	70.1	3	75.0	1	33.3	1	100.0	66	69.5	
Incomplete Family	26	29.9	1	25.0	2	66.6	0	0.0	29	30.5	
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	99.9	1	100.0	95	100.0	
Annual Family Income											
Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance	4	4.6	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	5	5.3	
\$3,000 to \$4,999	12	13.8	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	13.7	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	41	47.1	1	25.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	43	45.3	
\$10,000 or More	18	20.7	2	50.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	21	22.1	
No Information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	1.1	
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	99.9	1	100.0	95	100.1	

Among those employed part-time, there was a high percentage having no prior offenses. As shown in Table II-44, just the opposite occurs among those employed full-time. As also shown in Table II-44, employed juveniles, in proportion to the unemployed group, had a far higher percentage of individuals committing liquor law violations.

Table II-44. Employment Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed and the Offenses Committed.

Number of Prior Offenses	Employment Status								Total	
	Not Employed		Employed Part Time		Employed Full Time		No Infor- mation			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	46	52.9	3	75.0	1	33.3	1	100.0	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	24	27.6	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	4	4.6	0	0.0	2	66.6	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	6	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	99.9	1	100.0	95	99.9
Offenses Committed										
Assault	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Burglary	4	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2

Table II-44--Continued.

Offenses Committed	Employment Status								Total	
	Not Employed		Employed Part Time		Employed Full Time		No Infor- mation			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Curfew Violation	10	11.5	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	11	11.6
Disturbance/ Fighting	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.1
Fish and Game Violation	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Grand Larceny	4	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Liquor Law Violation	17	19.5	3	75.0	1	33.3	1	100.0	22	23.1
Malicious Mischief	5	5.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	5.2
Narcotics Violation	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Other	3	3.4	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Petty Larceny	12	13.8	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	13	13.7
Runaway	9	10.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	9.5
Traffic Violation	7	8.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	7.4
Trespassing	2	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1
Truancy	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Ungovernable	2	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1
Unsupervised	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Vandalism	4	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	87	100.0	4	100.0	3	99.9	1	100.0	95	100.1

Summary and Conclusions

Chapter II has dealt with both the social factors found in the backgrounds of the delinquents studied and the primary characteristics of those delinquents. On the basis of data available, the most important social factors were family marital status, annual family income, religious factors, and school status. The important variables with regards to the characteristics of the delinquents sampled were age, the number of prior offenses and school attainment.

Of any single age group, the largest percentage of the juveniles sampled (43.2 percent) was found among the 16 and 17 year olds. Data obtained through the probation agency revealed, however, that as a whole the individuals in this age group did not show serious signs of delinquency. A substantial number in this age group had only been referred once for liquor law or curfew violations. On the basis of recidivism, the 14 and 15 year olds appeared to have the most serious problems with delinquency. Although the 9 through 13 year olds had the lowest numerical representation of any age group and the lowest percentage of recidivism, various social factors found prevalent in the backgrounds of these individuals indicated that the youngest juveniles would become more prone towards delinquency as they grew older. The youngest age group had the highest percentage of broken homes, the highest percentage of individuals receiving no religious training and the highest percentage of lower income families.

In relation to age, Missoula's delinquents had a tendency to fall behind in school attainment towards the end of junior high school or the beginning of high school. Of the 41 juveniles either 16 or 17 years of

age (high school age), 12 individuals (or 29.3 percent) had only attained a junior high level of education.

Regarding school status, the dropout rate for Missoula's delinquents was 21.3 percent. Proportionately, school dropouts were also more inclined towards recidivism than were those juveniles in school. More than any other social factor, family marital status had the most influence as to whether or not a juvenile offender stayed in school. Half of the school dropouts came from incomplete families. Although 21.3 percent of the sample were out of school, only seven individuals in the entire sample were employed. Of these seven juveniles, four were in school. This left 17.8 percent of the entire sample as being unemployed and out of school.

Ten individuals were reported for serious and persistent school misbehavior. The number was small, but the data on these individuals did indicate that this group was definitely inclined towards recidivism.

Family marital status appeared to be the most important social factor. Two-thirds of Missoula's delinquents came from complete families and one-third came from incomplete families. Juveniles from broken homes, in comparison to those from complete families, had a higher percentage of religious non-participants, a higher percentage of young delinquents, a higher percentage of individuals from lower income families, a higher rate of recidivism and a higher dropout rate from school.

In terms of family income, delinquency in Missoula can be viewed primarily as a problem among juveniles with families in the two upper income brackets. These two higher income groups would be largely representative of the working class, the lower-middle class and the middle

class. There were more delinquents from families receiving from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year than there were in any other income group. Also, a relatively high percentage of delinquents--22.1 percent of the total sample--came from families earning \$10,000 a year or more. The lowest income group (those families receiving under \$3,000 a year or public assistance) was represented by only 5 individuals. In relating family income to age, the data revealed that in general the older a delinquent was the more likely it was that his parents' annual income would be higher.

The final social factor, but certainly not the least in importance, is religion. Of any single religious denomination, the Catholics had the largest representation of delinquents. As a group, the Protestant juveniles outnumbered the Catholic juveniles by almost two to one. Although the Catholics and Protestants differed in some respects as to the characteristics of their delinquents, individuals of both faiths were significantly less prone towards delinquent behavior than were the individuals of no religious faith. Catholic juveniles tended to commit serious offenses but had very little recidivism. Protestant juveniles committed a variety of offenses, many of them minor, and they too had a lower rate of recidivism than was the norm for the total sample. The non-religious group, on the other hand, had the highest percentage of recidivists--58.6 percent as compared to 46.3 percent for the total sample. Of the delinquents sampled, over half were religious non-participants. Between those juveniles who participated in religion and those who did not, the religious non-participants had the higher rate of recidivism. The information contained in Chapter II showed conclusively

that the religious factors are very important with regards to juvenile delinquency. The presence of religious orientation in the backgrounds of delinquents generally tended to restrict the delinquent behavior of those individuals. The absence of religion among other delinquents revealed just the opposite.

CHAPTER III

SOCIAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF MISSOULA'S DELINQUENTS ON THE BASIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC BLOCK STATUS

Introduction

In this chapter the social and geographical classifications of the sampled delinquents are discussed in relation to various social factors. Classifications in terms of socio-economic block status are related to the following: age, school status, school attainment, serious and persistent school misbehavior, family marital status, annual family income, employment status, religious denomination, religious involvement, number of prior offenses and the offenses committed. In addition, Chapter III also shows the geographical distributions of the delinquents sampled. Before beginning a discussion on socio-economic block status and social factors, some background material must first be presented in order to explain the techniques and the overall framework behind the information in this chapter.

Delinquency is for the most part an urban problem. Eighty-seven of the 95 individuals studied were classified as residing within the Missoula urban area. Of the urban delinquents, 51.7 percent had no prior offenses, whereas a full 75 percent of the rural delinquents had no prior offenses. Although the data for this study pertain to Missoula County, the primary focus has been and will be on the urban delinquent within the Missoula urban area.

Table III-1. The Location of Residence and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed by Juvenile Offenders.

Number of Prior Offenses	Location of Residence				Total	
	Urban		Rural			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	45	51.7	6	75.0	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	25	28.7	0	0.0	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	6	7.0	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	5	5.7	1	12.5	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	3	3.4	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	2	2.3	1	12.5	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	1	1.1	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	87	99.9	8	100.0	95	99.9

The term "urban area" is being used because the Missoula City Limits exclude numerous sections that are well populated and completely tied both economically and socially to the City of Missoula. A line on a map does not create a gap that separates sociological phenomena into those pertaining to urban and those pertaining to rural. Many of the individuals studied who were classified as urban delinquents did live outside the Missoula city limits. Most of the juveniles clearly lived in populated residential districts. However, a few appeared to be on the fringe between urban and rural areas. Primarily, these were the individuals living in East Missoula and those residing on the west edge of

town (specifically, this applies to the west ends of Spurgin Road and North Avenue). Due to the fact that the major area of influence for these areas is the City of Missoula, these sections were thus classified as being urban.

Rural classifications pertained strictly to small towns outside the immediate Missoula area (with the exception of East Missoula), locations west of the Bitterroot River and locations in the area of the Mullan Road. The towns represented by delinquents and receiving rural classifications were Bonner, Frenchtown, Clinton, Ronan and Pryor.

In addition to rural and urban classifications, locations of residences were further classified by a measure of socio-economic status-- occupation of the head of the household. The method used for measuring socio-economic status in terms of occupational criteria was derived from Millard O. Hulse's thesis, "A New Technique for Analyzing the Morphology of Residential Areas, and Its Application to Missoula, Montana."⁵ Hulse utilized a socio-economic index developed by Otis Dudley Duncan; therefore the socio-economic block classifications found in this paper are based on Duncan's occupational scale. Duncan's studies, "A Socio-economic Index for All Occupations" and "Properties and Characteristics of the Socio-economic Index," are found in chapters 6 and 7 of Occupations and Social Status by Albert J. Reiss, Jr.

Briefly, Duncan's occupational index of socio-economic status, as found in Hulse's work, divides socio-economic status into four

⁵Millard O. Hulse, "A New Technique for Analyzing the Morphology of Residential Areas, and Its Application to Missoula, Montana" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1969).

categories. Category 1 can be termed for the most part upper-middle class. This occupational group consists of physicians, lawyers, etc. to include almost all professional and high managerial positions. According to Hulse, this group comprises the "highest social stratum" of Missoula.⁶ Category 2 includes proprietors and managers of medium sized or small businesses.⁷ Hulse classified these individuals as upper-middle class, but for the purposes of this study they will be considered middle to upper-middle class. Category 3 consists of skilled workers--plumbers, carpenters, mechanics, etc.⁸ Hulse classified these individuals as lower-middle class, and for the purposes of this paper that is what they will be considered. Category 4 consists of the laborers.⁹ The individuals in this category can be termed the working class, ranging from lower class to the lower-middle class.

The reason for the discrepancies between Hulse's designations of social class and those of this study is simple. Social class depends on more than just occupational status. It includes area of residence, standards of living, annual income and family background. In addition, more social class designations exist than just the "highest stratum," the "upper-middle class," the "lower-middle class," and the "lowest stratum" as Hulse defined them. Social class structure ranges from the lower-lower class to the upper-upper class. It is not, however, an

⁶ Hulse, "A New Technique for Analyzing the Morphology of Residential Areas," p. 100.

⁷ Ibid., pp. 101-104.

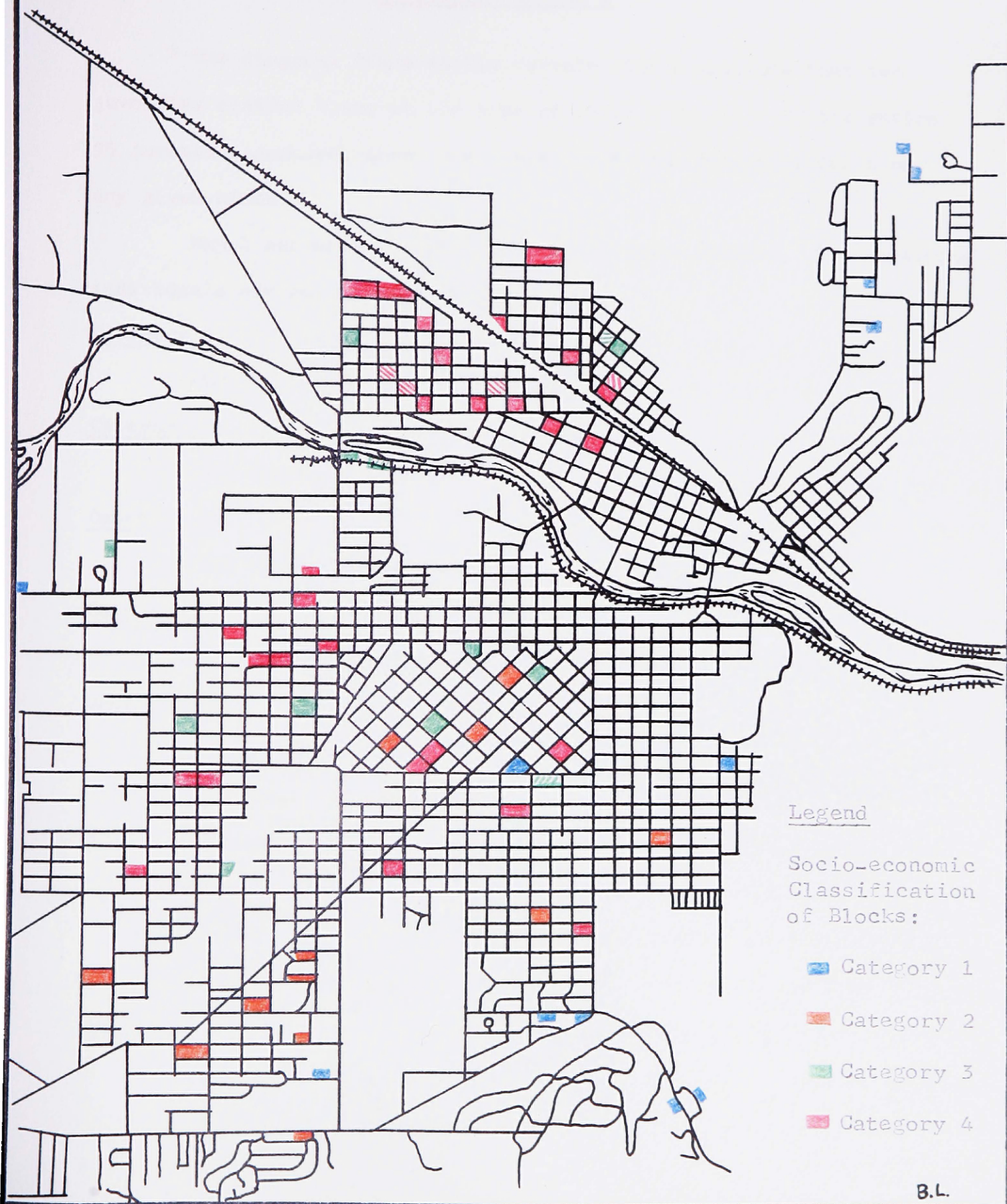
⁸ Ibid., pp. 104-105.

⁹ Ibid., pp. 105-106.

argument of semantics that is presented here but instead the argument that Missoula, like most smaller cities in America, does not really have an upper-class--with the possible exception of a handful of individuals who comprise a minute percentage of the community. Just as it would be a mistake to consider the income classification of \$5,000 to \$9,999 annually (as found in the Juvenile Statistical Analysis Form) to be specifically middle class, so would it be a mistake to say that the individuals in Category 2 of the socio-economic index are specifically upper-middle class. It is much safer with the information available to classify locations and families by Categories 1, 2, 3 or 4 only on the basis of occupational description and social class estimation.

Hulse's study categorized numerous families throughout Missoula and pinpointed each individual residence on various maps. This paper, however, is concerned more with block data and areas of influence. The technique used in developing this was simple. First the delinquent was located on a map by his address. As shown on Map 1, the delinquent's address and his area of residence were then treated as one specific block for the purposes of anonymity. Block classifications were then derived from Hulse's individual family classifications. For example, if a delinquent's block had a majority of Category 4 households, then the area of residence for that delinquent was a Category 4 block. However, there were some difficulties in this. Various blocks throughout Missoula had mixed dispersions of categories. Most of these mixed dispersions were between two categories that most closely resembled each other--Category 1 and Category 2 on one hand and Category 3 and Category 4 on the other. Occasionally, a Category 4 family would show up on a predominately

Map 1 - Geographical Distribution of Juvenile
Delinquents in Missoula (n=76) *



Supplement to Map 1

* The diagonal lines within certain blocks indicate that two juveniles resided there at the time of their referral. Of the entire 95 juveniles sampled, there were never more than two individuals on any given block.

Map 1 accounts for 76 of the individuals studied. The remaining individuals are categorized as follows:

Category 1:

2800 block, West Central Avenue

Category 2:

2300 block, 43rd Avenue

Category 3:

2700 block, Strand Avenue

Category 4:

All juveniles in Category 4 are accounted for on Map 1.

Unclassified:

Bonner (n=1)
Clinton (n=1)
East Missoula (n=4)
El Mar Trailer Court (n=1)
Florence (n=1)
North Avenue West (n=1)
Pryor (n=1)
Ronan (n=1)
Route 1, Big Flat (n=1)
Route 2, Mullan Road (n=1)
Route 4, West Riverside (n=1)
Spurgin Road (n=2)

Category 1 or Category 2 block, or the reverse of this would happen. The criterion for designating a block under these circumstances was simply the numerical influence of any given category within that area. This influence could be either the number of families in a specific category within the block itself, or as sometimes was the case, the number of families in a specific category surrounding a given block. Those juveniles living in rural areas were placed in an "Unclassified Category."

Socio-economic Block Status and Age Groups

Of the juveniles from Category 1 blocks, 61.5 percent were in the oldest age group, and of those from Category 2 blocks, 46.2 percent were in the oldest age group. This corresponds with information in Chapter II regarding the relationship between families in the higher income brackets and older delinquents. It is interesting to note, however, that 38.5 percent of the juveniles from Category 2 blocks were in the 9 through 13 years of age group. This appears to indicate the presence of a younger middle class in the better residential areas of Missoula.

As shown in Table III-2, the largest percentage of juveniles from Category 3 blocks was found among the 14 and 15 year olds--44.4 percent. This was twice as high as the percentage representation of the youngest age group in this category. In contrast, the delinquents from Category 4 blocks had a steadily increasing representation with each successive age group. A comparison of these two categories indicates a definite tendency for juveniles from Category 3 families to become delinquents around 14 or 15 years of age, whereas juveniles from Category 4 families appeared to be more prone towards delinquency the older they became.

Table III-2. Socio-economic Block Status and Ages of Juvenile Offenders.

Ages of Juvenile Offenders	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclas- sified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
9-13 Years Old	2	15.4	5	38.5	4	22.2	9	25.7	5	31.3	25	26.3
14-15 Years Old	3	23.1	2	15.4	8	44.4	11	31.4	5	31.3	29	30.5
16-17 Years Old	8	61.5	6	46.2	6	33.3	15	42.9	6	37.5	41	43.2
Total	13	100.0	13	100.1	18	99.9	35	100.0	16	100.1	95	100.0

Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to
School Status and School Attainment

The relationship between school status and the block categories is very revealing. None of the delinquents from both Category 1 and Category 2 blocks were out of school. This clearly shows the influence of upper-middle class and middle class values placed on education. On the other hand, 38.9 percent of the delinquents residing on Category 3 blocks were out of school (see Table III-3). In comparison, the juveniles from Category 4 blocks had a dropout rate of 20 percent. This percentage is slightly lower than that for the total sample with regards to dropping out of school. Of the delinquents from unclassified areas, 37.5 percent were out of school. With the data available there is no conclusive explanation for the high dropout rate among rural delinquents. What is important, however, is the high dropout rate among juveniles from Category 3 blocks. Data in Chapter II indicated that the 14 and 15 year olds were more prone towards delinquency than any other age group. As was shown previously in this chapter, the largest percentage of Category 3

delinquents were 14 or 15 years of age. This, in connection with a high dropout rate among Category 3 delinquents, shows that definite problems exist among juveniles from Category 3 families.

Table III-3. Socio-economic Block Status and the School Status of Juvenile Offenders.

School Status	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Out of School	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	38.9	7	20.0	6	37.5	20	21.1
In School	13	100.0	13	100.0	11	61.1	27	77.1	10	62.5	74	77.9
No Information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	13	100.0	13	100.0	18	100.0	35	100.0	16	100.0	95	100.1

As shown in a comparison of Table III-2 and Table III-4, age and school attainment in relation to the block categories show strong percentage inconsistencies but minor numerical inconsistencies. Both Category 1 and Category 2 have a relatively small number of cases. Because a small number of cases tends to distort percentages, it can be concluded that as a whole juveniles from Category 1 and Category 2 families did keep up in school in relation to their ages. It should also be pointed out that the groupings of ages and the groupings of school levels of attainment are not exactly geared to each other. Although 13 year olds were included in the youngest age group, their normal level of school attainment would be in junior high. The significant information lies in the fact that both Category 3 and Category 4 juveniles did show definite signs of falling behind in school. As shown in Table III-4, 22.2 percent of the

Table III-4. Socio-economic Block Status and the Level of School Attainment Achieved by Juvenile Offenders.

Level of School Attainment	Socio-economic Block Status											
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Grade School	1	7.7	4	30.8	3	16.7	9	25.7	3	18.8	20	21.1
Junior High	5	38.5	4	30.8	11	61.1	16	45.7	8	50.0	44	46.3
High School	7	53.8	5	38.5	4	22.2	9	25.7	5	31.3	30	31.6
No Information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	13	100.0	13	100.1	18	100.0	35	100.0	16	100.1	95	100.1

Category 3 juveniles had attained a high school level of education, yet 33.3 percent of this category were of high school age. According to previous information, Category 3 had a high percentage of school dropouts, who it appears left school sometime during the junior high years. The difference between age and school attainment among the Category 4 juveniles is even more obvious. Nine juveniles in this group (or 25.7 percent) were in high school, yet 15 of them (or 42.9 percent) were of high school age. To a lesser degree, the juveniles in the unclassified category also show a higher percentage of junior high attainment than their age distributions would normally indicate. These data strongly indicate that juveniles from Category 3 families and particularly those from Category 4 families did in proportion to the other categories tend to fall behind in school attainment.

Due to the fact that the small number of juvenile offenders reported for serious and persistent school misbehavior was widely distributed throughout four of the five categories, very little can be said about these individuals in relation to socio-economic block status. It does seem significant, however, that the highest socio-economic category had no juveniles reported for serious and persistent school misbehavior. On the other hand, Category 2 had two juveniles reported for misbehaving in school.

Table III-5. Socio-economic Block Status and the Juvenile Offenders Reported for Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior.

Serious and Persistent School Misbehavior	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclas- sified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Yes (N=10)	0	0.0	2	20.0	2	20.0	4	40.0	2	20.0	10	100.0

Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to
Family Marital Status and Annual Family Income

A high percentage of the delinquents residing on Category 1 blocks had complete families--92.3 percent. Those individuals in Category 2 also had a higher rate of family stability than was found in the total sample. Only three delinquents (or 23.1 percent of Category 2) came from incomplete families, as compared to 30.5 percent for the total sample.

In contrast, a full 50 percent of the Category 3 delinquents came from broken homes (see Table III-6). This in itself explains a great deal with regards to this group's high dropout rate from school. Furthermore, the high percentage of broken homes in this category could possibly

account in part for the recidivism of the 14 and 15 year olds. Category 3 had a higher percentage (44.4 percent) of 14 and 15 year olds than any other group. With the data available, however, this relationship between the recidivism of the 14 and 15 year olds and the high percentage of incomplete families in Category 3 is based more on assumptions than anything else.

Table III-6. Socio-economic Block Status and the Family Marital Status of Delinquents' Parents.

Family Marital Status	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Complete Family	12	92.3	10	76.9	9	50.0	23	65.7	12	75.0	66	69.5
Incomplete Family	1	7.7	3	23.1	9	50.0	12	34.3	4	25.0	29	30.5
Total	13	100.0	13	100.0	18	100.0	35	100.0	16	100.0	95	100.0

The family marital status of Category 4 residents revealed a slightly higher percentage of incomplete families than was found in the total sample. Among the delinquents in the unclassified category, 75 percent came from complete families. This possibly reflects the rural influence in this group with regards to the stability of rural families.

For the most part, the relationship between annual family income and occupational socio-economic status is strong, although there are some discrepancies. In Category 1, 76.9 percent of the delinquents came from families in the highest income bracket. Of the remaining two delinquents in this category who listed their family incomes, both came from families in the second highest income bracket.

Ten juveniles who resided on Category 2 blocks listed their parents' annual incomes. Of these, eight came from families in the two upper income groups, one had parents in the \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year income group, and one came from a family in the lowest income group. It was mentioned in the introduction to this chapter that such discrepancies did occur due to the fact that there frequently were mixings of socio-economic statuses within certain blocks (see Table III-7).

Table III-7. Socio-economic Block Status and the Annual Family Incomes of Delinquents' Parents.

Annual Family Income	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified			
	1		2		3		4					
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Under \$3,000 or Public Assistance	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	11.1	2	5.7	0	0.0	5	5.3
\$3,000 to \$4,999	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	11.1	7	20.0	3	18.8	13	13.7
\$5,000 to \$9,999	2	15.4	4	30.8	10	55.6	17	48.6	10	62.5	43	45.3
\$10,000 or More	10	76.9	4	30.8	3	16.7	4	11.4	0	0.0	21	22.1
No Infor- mation	1	7.7	3	23.1	1	5.6	5	14.3	3	18.8	13	13.7
Total	13	100.0	13	100.1	18	100.1	35	100.0	16	100.1	95	100.1

In Category 3, 55.6 percent of the juvenile offenders had families who earned from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year. Of the remaining Category 3 juveniles, 22.2 percent had families in the two lower income groups and 16.7 percent had families in the highest income group. Such a distribution could possibly be common for lower-middle class areas, considering

that some laborers and unemployed individuals are bound to be found in these areas in addition to a certain percentage of individuals (particularly skilled workers) earning \$10,000 a year or more.

In general, the annual incomes of Category 4 families corresponded with the status of their areas of residence. This is seen particularly with respect to the \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year income group. This income group had 20 percent of the delinquents in Category 4 but accounted for only 13.7 percent of the entire sample. Also, Category 4 blocks had a significantly low percentage of juveniles coming from families earning \$10,000 a year or more--11.4 percent. Such a low percentage representation of this income group is indeed consistent with the characteristics of Category 4 areas.

The delinquents from the unclassified category came from families heavily represented in the second highest income group. The remainder of those individuals in this category who listed family incomes all came from families earning from \$3,000 to \$4,999 a year.

Before going on to another section, a major conclusion should be presented here. With regards to socio-economic status, the bulk of most communities can generally be classified as being lower-middle class and working class. The incomes for such social classes are approximately within the \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year range. Such incomes are also characteristic of the Category 3 and Category 4 residents in this study. These two categories together account for 55.8 percent of the total sample, and presumably, if the occupational statuses in the unclassified group were known, this percentage would be boosted even more. Among all the delinquents listing their family incomes as being in the \$5,000 to

\$9,999 a year range, 62.8 percent were found in Category 3 and Category 4. These facts--in addition to previous information about family status, school status, and the ages at which juveniles were prone to commit delinquent acts--indicate that juvenile delinquency in Missoula is predominantly a lower-middle class and working class problem. Although the numerical representation of delinquents from working class families was much higher than that of any other group, it should also be remembered that unskilled laborers usually account for the largest percentage of the work force in most communities. This study is not attempting to indicate that Missoula's working class delinquency is based entirely on the law of averages, but it is suggested that the major focus of attention be shifted to the socio-economic group that has shown a variety of causal factors and extensive problems with juvenile delinquency--Category 3, or the lower-middle class. Furthermore, since 22.1 percent of the delinquents studied came from families earning \$10,000 or more, some attention should also be shifted to middle class delinquency in Missoula.

Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to the Employment Status of Delinquents

Little can be added here regarding the employment status of the juveniles studied in relation to their residential classifications. The section in Chapter II dealing with employment status and family income reveals practically the same as does the data here, and it does so in more detail. Again, as shown in Table III-8, three individuals--two employed part-time and one employed full-time--were found in the highest socio-economic category (in Chapter II the exact same distribution for employed juveniles was found in the highest income group). Three other

employed juveniles came from Category 3 families, and one came from a Category 4 family. This distribution also corresponds a great deal to the relationship between employed juveniles and annual family income as found in Chapter II.

Table III-8. Socio-economic Block Status and the Employment Status of Juvenile Offenders.

Employment Status of Juvenile Offenders	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclass- sified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not Employed	10	76.9	13	100.0	15	83.3	33	94.3	16	100.0	87	91.6
Employed Part Time	2	15.4	0	0.0	1	5.6	1	2.9	0	0.0	4	4.2
Employed Full Time	1	7.7	0	0.0	2	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	3.2
No Infor- mation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	13	100.0	13	100.0	18	100.0	35	100.1	16	100.0	95	100.0

Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to
Religious Denomination and Religious Involvement

In Chapter II it was shown that juveniles from families in the highest income bracket also had the highest percentage of individuals belonging to religious denominations and the highest percentage of religious participants. This information corresponds a great deal to the data presented here. Of the juveniles from Category 1 blocks, 53.8 percent were Catholics. As was shown previously, Catholic juveniles had the highest percentage of religious participants. The juveniles in Category 1 had deeper backgrounds in religion than any other group. Not

one of them listed himself as being non-religious, and only 23.1 percent of this group were non-participants in religious activity.

With regard to religion, the difference between Category 1 juveniles and Category 2 juveniles is considerable (see Table III-9). In fact, on the basis of religious denominations, the greatest similarity was found between Category 2 juveniles and Category 3 juveniles. Both categories had a relatively small representation of Catholics and a much larger representation of Protestants. Among the Category 2 delinquents, 38.5 percent had no religious inclinations, and among the Category 3 delinquents, 38.9 percent listed themselves as being non-religious. The only real difference between these two categories lies in religious participation. Religious non-participants accounted for 46.2 percent of the juveniles in Category 2, whereas 61.1 percent of the juveniles in Category 3 were religious non-participants.

The Catholic representation in Category 4 increases considerably over the two preceding groups, as would be expected with the working class. Catholics accounted for 22.9 percent of this category, and the Protestants made up 42.9 percent of this group. In comparison, Category 4 blocks also had a lower percentage of non-religious delinquents than did Category 2 and Category 3 blocks. However, Category 4 blocks did show a high percentage of religious non-participation among those delinquents who resided in these areas. In Category 4, 57.1 percent of the delinquents were non-participants.

The delinquents in the unclassified category were almost equally divided between Protestants and the non-religious. Those in this group belonging to religious denominations had a very high percentage of non-participants--68.7 percent.

Table III-9. Socio-economic Block Status and Religious Denomination and Religious Involvement of Juvenile Offenders.

Religious Denomina- tion	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Catholic	7	53.8	2	15.4	2	11.1	8	22.9	2	12.5	21	22.1
Protestant	6	46.2	5	38.5	8	44.4	15	42.9	7	43.8	41	43.2
None	0	0.0	5	38.5	7	38.9	11	31.4	6	37.5	29	30.5
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
No Infor- mation	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	1	2.9	1	6.3	3	3.2
Total	13	100.0	13	100.1	18	100.0	35	100.1	16	100.1	95	100.1

Religious Involvement												
Very or Moderately Active	10	76.9	6	46.2	7	38.9	14	40.0	4	25.0	41	43.2
Non-parti- cipating	3	23.1	6	46.2	11	61.1	20	57.1	11	68.7	51	53.7
No Infor- mation	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	1	2.9	1	6.3	3	3.2
Total	13	100.0	13	100.1	18	100.0	35	100.0	16	100.0	95	100.1

Two important observations can be made about the religious factors and socio-economic block status. The first is that Category 3 delinquents once again had the poorest record regarding sociological criteria that might prevent delinquency. The delinquents in this group had the highest percentage of non-religious individuals. With the exception of those delinquents coming from unclassified areas, Category 3 delinquents also had the highest percentage of religious non-participants.

The second observation can be made regarding the Category 2 delinquents. Since this group was composed mainly of middle to upper-middle class families, it seems inconsistent that the religious characteristics of Category 2 delinquents should differ so much from those of Category 1 delinquents. Referring back to previous information, however, it was noted that there was a high percentage of delinquents in the youngest age group on Category 2 blocks--38.5 percent. It was also noted previously that some of the middle to upper-middle class families from Category 2 blocks could possibly be younger families due primarily to the fact that a high percentage of young juveniles was found in this category. Further studies in Missoula might show a substantial decline over recent years in the religious affiliations and religious participation of younger middle class families. The data available for this study, however, precludes the possibility of showing such a phenomenon, and until more information can be obtained, the relationship between a younger middle class and a decline in religious affiliations is based only on speculation.

Socio-economic Block Status in Relation to
Prior Offenses and Offenses Committed

The delinquents from Category 1 blocks had the highest percentage of individuals with no prior offenses and the lowest percentage with prior offenses (86.4 percent and 15.4 percent respectively). Of the two Category 1 delinquents who had committed prior offenses, both had committed only one prior offense. This information obviously shows that the problem with delinquency among Category 1 families is relatively minor.

The rate of recidivism in Category 2 increased substantially over the rate of recidivism found in Category 1. As shown in Table III-10,

Table III-10. Socio-economic Block Status and the Number of Prior Offenses Committed.

Number of Prior Offenses	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified			
	1		2		3		4					
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Prior Offenses	11	84.6	7	53.8	7	38.9	16	45.7	10	62.5	51	53.7
One Prior Offense	2	15.4	4	30.8	4	22.2	12	34.3	3	18.8	25	26.3
Two Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.1	4	11.1	0	0.0	6	6.3
Three Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	16.7	2	5.7	1	6.3	6	6.3
Four Prior Offenses	0	0.0	2	15.4	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	3	3.1
Five Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	2	12.5	3	3.1
Eight Prior Offenses	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Total	13	100.0	13	100.0	18	100.1	35	100.0	16	100.1	95	99.9

only 53.8 percent of the Category 2 delinquents had no prior offenses. This is extremely close to the percentage of individuals in the total sample with no prior offenses (53.7 percent). However, the data on Category 2 delinquents is distorted somewhat by the fact that two individuals in this category had four prior offenses each. In previous sections it was seen that Category 2 also had two juveniles from lower income families and two who misbehaved in school. Since a relatively small number of cases is represented in Category 2, and presuming that the two juveniles in each example were the same people, the possibility

does exist that the middle class characteristics of this category have been distorted by two individuals with completely different socio-economic characteristics.

Again, Category 3 juveniles showed excessive delinquent patterns. Only 38.9 percent of the Category 3 delinquents had no prior offenses. The percentage of individuals in Category 3 having only one prior offense dropped below both that of Category 2 and Category 4. In Category 3, the percentage of recidivists involved in two or more prior offenses (with the exception of four prior offenses) was proportionately much higher than the percentage of recidivists among Category 4 delinquents. Those delinquents coming from unclassified residential locations had a rather high percentage of no prior delinquency--62.5 percent. In this group, however, 50 percent of those who had committed prior delinquent acts had committed three or more, a pattern somewhat similar to that of Category 3 delinquents.

A few minor generalizations can be made regarding the relationship between socio-economic block categories and the offenses committed. Most of the delinquents from Category 1 blocks had committed curfew and liquor law violations. Not one of the delinquents in this group had committed what might be termed a serious offense. Category 2 delinquents also confined themselves explicitly to the more minor crimes. Petty larceny had the highest representation in this category, followed closely by liquor law violations. As shown in Table III-11, the delinquents in both Category 3 and Category 4 were widely represented by a variety of offenses committed, many of them serious--burglary, grand larceny, sex crimes and assault. The offense committed by the delinquents in the

unclassified category were for the most part minor. The most notable exceptions to this were the two cases of grand larceny. Delinquents in this group also had a tendency to commit petty larceny and run away from home.

Table III-11. Socio-economic Block Status and the Offenses Committed.

Offenses Committed	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclas- sified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Assault	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Burglary	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	3	8.5	0	0.0	4	4.2
Curfew Violation	3	23.1	2	15.4	1	5.6	4	11.4	1	6.25	11	11.6
Disturbance/ Fighting	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.7	0	0.0	3	3.1
Fish and Game Violation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.25	1	1.1
Grand Larceny	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	1	2.9	2	12.5	4	4.2
Liquor Law Violation	6	46.2	3	23.1	4	22.2	8	22.9	1	6.25	22	23.1
Malicious Mischief	0	0.0	2	15.4	1	5.6	1	2.9	1	6.25	5	5.2
Narcotics Violation	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.25	1	1.1
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	16.7	1	2.9	0	0.0	4	4.2
Petty Larceny	1	7.7	4	30.8	2	11.0	2	5.7	4	25.0	13	13.7
Runaway	1	7.7	2	15.4	0	0.0	2	5.7	4	25.0	9	9.5
Traffic Violation	1	7.7	0	0.0	2	11.0	3	8.5	1	6.25	7	7.4

Table III-11--Continued.

Offenses Committed	Socio-economic Block Status										Total	
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Unclassified			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Trespassing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.7	0	0.0	2	2.1
Truancy	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.1
Ungovernable	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	1	2.9	0	0.0	3	3.1
Unsupervised	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.1
Vandalism	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.6	3	8.5	0	0.0	4	4.2
Total	13	100.1	13	100.1	18	100.1	35	100.0	16	100.0	95	100.1

Summary and Conclusions

In Chapter II it was suggested that on the basis of family incomes the real problem with juvenile delinquency in Missoula was found not among the lower income families but among families in the two higher income brackets, specifically those families earning from \$5,000 to \$9,999 a year. This is not to say that low income families did not have juvenile delinquency problems, but the fact remains that there were just not that many juveniles from lower income families represented in the sample. Of the entire sample, only 18 individuals were found in the two lower income groups put together. On the basis of this, then, it was determined that the problem of delinquency centered mainly around working class families in the higher income brackets, around lower-middle class families and around middle class families.

The information in Chapter III has conclusively narrowed down the scope with regard to what families of what social classes are most likely to produce juvenile delinquents. Category 3 families (the lower-middle class) in almost every instance had the highest percentage of causal factors that could lead to juvenile delinquency. Category 4 families (the working class group) had more delinquents than any other group, but most of the significant problems were still found primarily among families and delinquents listed in Category 3. Fifty percent of the Category 3 families were incomplete. In addition to family variables, the delinquents from Category 3 families showed the highest rate of recidivist behavior, the highest percentage of school dropouts, the lowest rate of religious affiliation and the highest percentage of 14 and 15 year olds--the problem group. What was suggested before, now appears proved. The primary problem of juvenile delinquency in Missoula is a lower-middle class problem.

In addition, attention should not only be given to the delinquency problem found among working class families, but it should also be given to the middle class delinquency problem in Missoula. In the middle class, definite signs of suburban delinquency and signs of delinquency among younger juveniles have appeared.

CHAPTER IV

THE MISSOULA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PROBATION OFFICE

To this point much has been said about the social characteristics of juvenile delinquents in Missoula and their geographical classifications, but it is also worthy to note the operations of the agency that is responsible for the handling of these delinquents.

The Staff of the Probation Agency

When this study was taken, the Missoula County Juvenile Probation Office was staffed by two full-time probation officers, and a third staff member was to join the office in the immediate future. The individuals working in the probation office were all relatively young--either in their late twenties or early thirties. On the basis of non-participant observation, it appeared that the staff in its entirety and the juvenile offenders in general had excellent rapport.

In addition to the regular staff, there are on the average four University of Montana work-study students working with the agency per academic quarter. These individuals are quite skilled in the handling of casework, and they devote a great deal of time to the agency. The University of Montana also supplies on the average eight field work practicum students per academic quarter. The practicum students assist in counseling and routine duties connected with the agency. In addition, approximately 25 university students donate their time each academic

quarter to work on a voluntary tutoring program, which works in conjunction with the juvenile probation agency. This program is designed to reach out to those juveniles who come from underprivileged backgrounds or those who show early signs of delinquency. The policy of the probation agency in utilizing the resources of so many individuals is that such an operation provides a variety of alternatives in working with a delinquent child. Whether it be counseling, tutoring or merely spending time in recreation with a delinquent child, the human resources available through the University of Montana are readily utilized by the agency.

The Operation of the Probation Agency

The operation of the agency can best be described as being, for the most part, cyclical in nature. Through such a procedure, most juvenile offenders are referred directly to the probation agency following delinquency charges on the part of some authority, whether it be a law enforcement agency, a social agency, a school or the family of the juvenile. Most delinquents then receive some form of disposition from the agency and are released into the custody of their parents or guardians. A new offense on the part of the delinquent will send the offender through the same process again, for there is no set limit as to how many times a delinquent can be referred to and handled by the agency. It is the attitude of the staff of the juvenile probation agency that a juvenile offender will be recycled through the probation office as long as the staff members feel they can work with the juvenile and make some progress with him.

However, there are some exceptions to this cyclical process. In some cases the juvenile pleads innocent, and his case is brought before

a formal court hearing. If he is found innocent by this formal court, he is never processed through the probation agency and is released instead. In other cases a string of offenses may send a juvenile offender to a judge on an informal basis without petition. If the County Attorney wishes, he can make a formal petition alleging delinquency and send the delinquent to a juvenile court judge. In either case the offender will receive a more severe disposition than could be handed out by the probation agency. Such dispositions include commitment to a public institution, court or formal probation, commitment to a private agency or individual, or a deferred or suspended commitment. Of course, in the case of a juvenile who commits a major crime, such as murder, the process of handling takes the offender immediately through the probation agency and directly to a court hearing for disposition.

In making these decisions as to whether or not a juvenile offender will be retained under the jurisdiction of the probation agency or referred to court, three factors are taken into consideration. The first, of course, is the nature of the crime or the number of serious delinquent acts. The second is the attitude of the youth being handled. If a juvenile offender maintains a good attitude and shows progress, then the agency personnel will continue to work with the individual. Attitude also dictates the disposition imposed by the agency. The policy of the probation agency is to base treatment on progression. A first time offender usually receives a light disposition. If a juvenile persists in committing more offenses and more serious offenses, then the severity of dispositions is increased. The final step is probation. The third factor in handling a juvenile offender is based on that individual's

parental and school authority. If a juvenile delinquent comes from a good home and is well behaved in school, then the agency personnel tend to be more flexible in their treatment. On the other hand, if a juvenile does not have a good home life or if that individual is having trouble in school, then the agency personnel are inclined to gear their dispositions towards the creation of a new environment or special counseling. This might include temporary custody such as foster home placement or additional efforts in the areas of counseling and tutoring.

Table IV-1. Dispositions Given to Sampled Juvenile Offenders by the Missoula County Juvenile Probation Office or Court Judge.

Dispositions Given Juvenile Offenders	n	Percent
Complaint Unsubstantiated--Dismissed	2	2.1
Juvenile Warned, Adjusted, Counseled	53	55.8
Case Held Open, Continued or Pending	13	13.6
Informal Probation	14	14.7
Juvenile Referred to Other Agency or Return of Runaway	4	4.2
Temporary Custody (Including Group or Foster Home Placement)	2	2.1
Other	4	4.2
Juvenile Committed to Public Institution for Delinquency or Other Public Institution	1	1.1
Deferred or Suspended Commitment	1	1.1
No Information	1	1.1
Total	95	100.0

One final point should be added about the handling of dispositions. The individuals working in the probation office are well aware that a consistent pattern of treatment for specific cases can prove unsatisfactory. The juvenile offenders themselves can and have observed a pattern to treatment, and as a result they can gear their reactions and offenses to receive the minimum dispositions for the maximum number and types of offenses. It is for this reason that staff members at the agency sometimes alternate their methods of handling offenders in order to avoid a pattern. At any given time for any given offense, the agency can and will administer the maximum disposition if staff members feel the juvenile delinquent warrants such action.

The Programs of the Probation Agency

With an abundance of outside help from the university, the Missoula County Juvenile Probation Office is in the position to engage in a variety of new programs designed for delinquency prevention. The foster home program, largely operated by student help, is now in operation in Missoula County, Lake County, and Ravalli County. Within the first year of operation, 31 foster home placements were made for delinquents through the probation agency. Of the 31 juveniles who received foster home placements, seven failed to adjust and were later sent to institutions for delinquent youths. The remaining individuals are still in foster homes or have returned to their normal lives after making successful adjustments. The agency also works in conjunction with a youth camp sponsored by various law enforcement agencies in Missoula. In this program, grade school children displaying potential problems are given the opportunity to join police officers for a week at Seeley Lake.

The program is designed to give these children exposure to law enforcement officials in an informal atmosphere. Another program, the Student Intervention Trainee System, is in the planning for the probation agency. This program would provide for the employment of twelve upper-division university students who plan a career in probation or parole. Students working with the agency would undergo in-service training through a familiarization with the practical setting of the agency, academic training and field work, which would entail actual casework with delinquents.

The programs mentioned, in addition to other minor projects, are mainly designed to follow a policy of prevention rather than a policy of punishment for crimes already committed. In general this is the attitude of the agency also--to prevent delinquency, to help those who show potential signs of delinquent behavior, and to carefully guide those individuals who have committed crimes but who have not yet shown the signs of becoming habitual delinquents. With this emphasis on prevention policies, the juvenile probation agency is now discovering an increase in case referrals from sources other than law enforcement agencies. In some cases the delinquents are actually referring themselves to the agency for help.

CHAPTER V

THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND SUGGESTED FURTHER RESEARCH

The Problems

This study of juvenile delinquency in Missoula County was plagued by two basic problems--inaccuracies in the information available and the unavailability of specific data needed to fill various gaps found in the information that was obtained.

The inaccuracies can be directly traced to the Missoula County Juvenile Court Probation Office. The first source for errors can be the juveniles themselves. A juvenile is interviewed by a probation officer, and the information he gives that probation officer is recorded on the Juvenile Statistical Analysis Form. It can easily be seen that sometimes juveniles might be confused or uncertain about pieces of information, thus leaving it up to the probation officer to record that information in the best manner possible. When the probation officer does that, he himself is susceptible to the making of errors. With regards particularly to the religious information and the information on annual family income, a great deal was left up to interpretation and the discretion of the probation officers. Also, under the category of prior offenses, the analysis form requests the total number of prior offenses not previously reported. If a prior offense was previously reported, then it was not listed on the form, and as a result that data

became distorted. For the information in this study, the entire file of a juvenile was hand checked to get the total number of prior offenses.

Of course, some errors were typically human mistakes. The individuals working in the agency are many times hurried, and occasionally they do not take the time to carefully fill out the data analysis form. This is understandable, considering that the analysis form was created solely for the use of state offices in Helena, and when a counselor is dealing with an individual he is sometimes inclined to not take so much care in the filling out of forms that are really of little use to the local office.

The unavailability of information was strictly the fault of those individuals who created the statistical analysis form. As was pointed out time and again, the categorization of family incomes was lacking. It is extremely difficult to determine family financial status when a \$5,000 gap exists in one income category. The family incomes should have been broken down to have a \$1,000 spread between each group. In addition, some information should have been supplied on the number of individuals in the delinquent's family and the occupation of the head of the delinquent's household. If this information had been supplied, there would not have been near the problem in trying to determine the socio-economic statuses and social class structures of the juveniles studied and their families.

In addition to the problems mentioned, there is also the question of credibility regarding some of the data found on the Juvenile Statistical Analysis Form. Such information, not used in this study because it was subject to question, covered the authority of referral and the estimated

mental capacity of a juvenile offender. The first of these was consistently listed on the form as referral by a law enforcement agency. However, many cases were actually referred to the probation agency by their parents, or their schools, or some other authority. Although schools do have the facilities to estimate mental capacity, these facilities are not always utilized to their fullest extent. In many cases, the mental capacities of the juveniles sampled were merely assigned arbitrarily without adequate substantiation. However, this is not to say that the juvenile probation agency in Missoula does not have close contact with the schools the juvenile offenders are attending, because it does. For some reason these ties between the probation agency and the schools just don't show up on the Juvenile Statistical Analysis Form. It is for this reason and the absence of substantiation that the categories involving the referral authority and estimated mental capacity could not be used.

Suggested Research

The presentation of a comprehensive social analysis of juvenile delinquency slights a great deal of information. In each area, whether it was religious information, information on family status or whatever, there was a wealth of data that could have undergone further, extensive study. Future studies on juvenile delinquency in Missoula could be made taking one or two factors into account and thoroughly analyzing them. The religious factors in relation to delinquency are in themselves a thesis. The same can be said about family marital statuses or family socio-economic standings. At any rate, the information is there, and in

the future considerable benefit could be gained if studies of a narrower scope and a more extensive nature could be undertaken.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Duncan, Otis Dudley. "A Socio-economic Index for All Occupations." and "Properties and Characteristics of the Socio-Economic Index." Chapters 6 and 7 in Reiss, Albert J., Jr. Occupations and Social Status. Glencoe, N.Y.: Free Press, 1961.
- Hulse, Millard O. "A New Technique for Analyzing the Morphology of Residential Areas, and Its Application to Missoula, Montana." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1969.
- "Juvenile Statistical Analysis Code Sheet." Prepared by the Governor's Crime Control Commission. Helena, Montana: n.d.
- Lenski, Gerhard. The Religious Factor. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1961.
- Missoula County. Juvenile Court Probation Office. Juvenile Offenses, 1970.
- _____. Juvenile Court Probation Office. Juvenile Files.

APPENDIX

(Mail Reports To)
JUVENILE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLANNING
1336 HELENA AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601

N^o
28991

N^o
28991

PART A—(not for statistical analysis)

A. NAME: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

B. ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ PHONE _____

PART B—(Data for analysis)

C. JUDICIAL DIST. Number: _____

D. COUNTY: (Code) _____

E. DATE OF BIRTH: _____
(mo.) (day) (year)

F. AGE AT TIME OF REFERRAL: _____

G. SEX: 1. Male 2. Female _____

H. RACE: 1. White 2. Indian 3. Negro 4. Spanish 5. Other _____

I. DATE OF REFERRAL: _____
(mo.) (day) (year)

J. REFERRED BY:
1. Law Enforcement Agency 4. County Attorney
2. School 5. Parents
3. Social Agency 6. Other Court _____
7. Other (Specify) _____

K. REASON REFERRED: _____

1. Offense (Code) _____

2. (Number of additional charges and/or offenses presently involved
with the one listed above) (Not code No.) _____

L. PRIOR DELINQUENCY: (excluding traffic) _____

1. Yes 2. No _____

3. Total number of prior delinquent offenses:
(Not previously reported) _____

M. CARE PENDING DISPOSITIONS: _____

1. No detention or shelter care
(Over night or longer)
2. Jail or Police Department Detention
3. Detention Home
4. Foster Home
5. Other (specify) _____

N. NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED: _____

O. MANNER HANDLED:
1. Informal w/o petition 2. Formal w/petition _____

P. DISPOSITION: (Code) _____

Q. DATE OF DISPOSITION: _____
(mo.) (day) (year)

R. DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES:

Need for Diagnostic Services

	Indicated and provided	Indicated but not available	Not Indicated
--	---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------

a. Mental 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

b. Medical 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

S. _____

T. EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOL STATUS: _____

Not employed	Out of School	In School
Employed	1	5
Full time	2	6
Part time	3	7
Inapplicable (pre-school)	4	

U-1. BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVING AT HOME _____

No. Older _____

No. Younger _____

V. SCHOOL ATTAINMENT & ADJUSTMENT:

a. Grade placement in relation to age: _____
1. Below Normal 2. Normal 3. Accelerated

b. Serious or persistent school misbehavior: _____
1. Yes 2. No

W. MARITAL STATUS OF NATURAL PARENTS: _____

1. Parents married and living together
2. Both dead 5. Divorced or legally separated
3. Father dead 6. Father deserted mother
4. Mother dead 7. Mother deserted father
8. Other (specify) _____

X. LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILD: _____

In own home:
1. With both parents 6. In home of relative
2. With mother and stepfather 7. In foster family home
3. With father and stepmother 8. In institution
4. With mother only 9. In independent living
5. With father only arrangements
10. Other (specify) _____

Y. FAMILY INCOME (ANNUAL) _____

1. Receiving public assistance at time of referral
2. Under \$3,000
3. \$3,000 to \$4,999 5. \$10,000 and over
4. \$5,000 to \$9,999 6. Unknown

Z. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION (Code) _____

1. Very active 3. Non-participating
2. Moderately active

AA. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (of child) IN COUNTY: _____

1. Not currently resident of County
2. Under one year
3. Under five years
4. Five years or more

BB. LOCATION OF RESIDENCE

1. Rural
2. Urban—(within city limits) _____

FOR COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION USE BACK

(Mail Reports To)
JUVENILE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLANNING
 1336 HELENA AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601

No
28991No
28991**ART A—(not for statistical analysis)**

NAME: _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle)
ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **PHONE:** _____

ART B—(Data for analysis)**JUDICIAL DIST. Number:** **COUNTY:** (Code) **DATE OF BIRTH:** (mo.) (day) (year)**AGE AT TIME OF REFERRAL:** **SEX:** 1. Male 2. Female **RACE:** 1. White 2. Indian 3. Negro 4. Spanish 5. Other **DATE OF REFERRAL:** (mo.) (day) (year)**REFERRED BY:**

1. Law Enforcement Agency 4. County Attorney
 2. School 5. Parents
 3. Social Agency 6. Other Court
 7. Other (Specify)

REASON REFERRED:1. Offense (Code) 2. (Number of additional charges and/or offenses presently involved with the one listed above) (Not code No.) **PRIOR DELINQUENCY: (excluding traffic)**1. Yes 2. No 3. Total number of prior delinquent offenses: (Not previously reported) **CARE PENDING DISPOSITIONS:**

1. No detention or shelter care (Over night or longer)
 2. Jail or Police Department Detention
 3. Detention Home
 4. Foster Home
 5. Other (specify)

NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED: **MANNER HANDLED:**1. Informal w/o petition 2. Formal w/petition **DISPOSITION: (Code)** **DATE OF DISPOSITION:** (mo.) (day) (year)**DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES:****S.** **T. EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOL STATUS:**

Not employed	Out of School	In School
Employed	1	5
Full time	2	6
Part time	3	7
Inapplicable (pre-school)	4	

T-1. BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVING AT HOMENo. Older No. Younger **U. SCHOOL ATTAINMENT & ADJUSTMENT:**

a. Grade placement in relation to age:
 1. Below Normal 2. Normal 3. Accelerated
 b. Serious or persistent school misbehavior:
 1. Yes 2. No

V. MARITAL STATUS OF NATURAL PARENTS:

1. Parents married and living together
 2. Both dead 5. Divorced or legally separated
 3. Father dead 6. Father deserted mother
 4. Mother dead 7. Mother deserted father
 8. Other (specify)

W. LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILD:

In own home:
 1. With both parents 6. In home of relative
 2. With mother and stepfather 7. In foster family home
 3. With father and stepmother 8. In institution
 4. With mother only 9. In independent living arrangements
 5. With father only
 10. Other (specify)

X. FAMILY INCOME (ANNUAL)

1. Receiving public assistance at time of referral
 2. Under \$3,000
 3. \$3,000 to \$4,999 5. \$10,000 and over
 4. \$5,000 to \$9,999 6. Unknown

Y. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION (Code)

1. Very active 3. Non-participating
 2. Moderately active

Z. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (of child) IN COUNTY:

1. Not currently resident of County
 2. Under one year
 3. Under five years
 4. Five years or more

CODE FOR COUNTY

01 Beaverhead	22 Jefferson	43 Roosevelt
02 Big Horn	23 Judith Basin	44 Rosebud
03 Blaine	24 Lake	45 Sanders
04 Broadwater	25 Lewis & Clark	46 Sheridan
05 Carbon	26 Liberty	47 Silver Bow
06 Carter	27 Lincoln	48 Stillwater
07 Cascade	28 Madison	49 Sweet Grass
08 Chouteau	29 McCone	50 Teton
09 Custer	30 Meagher	51 Toole
10 Daniels	31 Mineral	52 Treasure
11 Dawson	32 Missoula	53 Valley
12 Deer Lodge	33 Musselshell	54 Wheatland
13 Fallon	34 Park	55 Wibaux
14 Fergus	35 Petroleum	56 Yellowstone
15 Flathead	36 Phillips	57 Blackfeet Res.
16 Gallatin	37 Pondera	58 Crow Res.
17 Garfield	38 Powder River	59 Flathead Res.
18 Glacier	39 Powell	60 Fort Belknap Res.
19 Golden Valley	40 Prairie	61 Fort Peck Res.
20 Granite	41 Ravalli	62 Northern Cheyenne Re
21 Hill	42 Richland	63 Rocky Boy's Res.

CODE FOR RELIGIONS

00 Unknown	08 Church of God	18 Mennonite
01 None, Atheist or Agnostic	09 Congregational	19 Methodist
02 Uncommitted, religious beliefs but no parti- cular faith	10 Episcopal	20 Mission Covenant
03 Assembly of God	11 Evangelical	21 Nazarene
04 Baptist	12 Friend (Quaker)	22 Pentecostal
05 Catholic	13 Hebrew (Jewish)	23 Presbyterian
06 Christian	14 Hutterite	24 Protestant, Unspecified
07 Church of Christ- Scientist (Christian Science)	15 Jehovah Witness	25 Salvation Army
	16 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS, Mormon)	26 Seventh Day Adventist
	17 Lutheran	27 United Brethren
		28 Other (Specify)

CODE FOR DISPOSITION

- 00 Waived to criminal court
01 Complaint unsubstantiated
-- dismissed.

COMPLAINT SUBSTANTIATED

- 11 Warned, adjusted and
counselled
12 Held open, continued or
pending
13 Informal probation
14 Referred to other agency
or return runaway
15 Temporary custody (in-

TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY

- 21 Public institution for
delinquency or other
public institution
22 Public agency (including
court and formal proba-
tion)
23 Private agency or
individual
24 Deferred or suspended
commitment
25 Other -- Specify _____