

A COMPARATIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE DELINQUENCY
OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS, YOUTH FROM 1956-1962

by

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INTRODUCTION

For several decades the subject of juvenile delinquency has been discussed on all levels of authority, from congressional hearings to street corner debates. Is juvenile delinquency that important a problem? Volumes have been written discussing the causes of delinquency. Yet, is there a cause of delinquency? Further, is there a need to study delinquency and are there any benefits to be realized from such investigations?

Is Manhattan, Kansas, faced with a delinquency problem and is it meeting this problem? These are questions which are in the thoughts of many individuals. These are questions to which the author desires to provide some answers through this report.

Purpose of the Study

It was the purpose of this study (1) to survey the current literature in the field of juvenile delinquency and to determine national trends; (2) to determine the extent and growth of delinquency among Manhattan, Kansas, youth from 1956-1962; (3) to compare the results of this investigation with the reported results of a study conducted in Manhattan for the period 1946-1954; and (4) to compare the results with the trends for the nation.

Limitations of the Study

The greatest and foremost limitation was that of time. Whereas some investigators have spent a decade upon such work this study, limited though it is, was confined to several months investigation.

Due to the confidential nature of a great amount of the information required for this study, the author was forced to rely upon statements of opinion in several cases. Also of those records which were available to the author the terms used were usually vague and carried a different connotation to every reader.

As far as the complete study is concerned, the survey of literature was limited to recent publications of extensive studies which have been upheld by further investigations. The study of Manhattan, Kansas, was limited to only the youth residing within the city limits.

The final limitations are those directly concerned with the problems of defining the juvenile delinquent which are discussed later in the report.

Procedure of the Study

The information for this study was obtained through a variety of sources. Of greatest importance in the survey of literature were the works of Drs. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. Also providing valuable assistance were the Children's Bureau pamphlets on juvenile delinquency. The

Sterling College Library and the Kansas State University Library were valuable sources of aid in obtaining these materials.

In the survey of Manhattan an attempt was made to contact those agencies dealing directly with youth whether specifically concerned with delinquents or not. Police Chief Osbourn of the Manhattan Police Department and Judge Pruetze of the Manhattan Probate Court were interviewed in order to obtain the viewpoint of the law enforcement agencies of the community and to determine the purpose, functions, and requirements of their respective agencies.

Because the role of the school as a socializing agency for our youth is undisputed, the importance of obtaining the viewpoints of the officials in charge was readily realized. Mr. Herbert Bishop, Principal of Manhattan Senior High School, Mr. Bryce Todd, Counselor for Manhattan Senior High School, Mr. Robert Chalender, Principal of Manhattan Junior High School, and Mrs. Daisy Hills, Counselor for Manhattan Junior High School, were interviewed as representatives of the schools.

The Reverend Mr. Fred Malott, Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, cooperated in providing the outlook of a community religious leader on the question of juvenile delinquency.

Providing one of the most complete sources of information was a panel presentation on adolescence sponsored by

the Riley County Association for Mental Health. Representing the various agencies in the community which have contact with the adolescent were Dr. Robert Sinnett of the Kansas State University Counseling Department, Dr. Herbert Crane, Manhattan Pediatrician, Mr. Donn Everett, Riley County Attorney, Mr. Jack Larson, Assistant Principal of Manhattan Junior High School, Mrs. Marjory Morse, Manhattan housewife and mother, and the Reverend Mr. Charles P. Ford, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Through the Manhattan Police Department records were obtained which provided the necessary information to be tabulated and which determined the statistical figures reported in this report. Figures concerning the number of delinquencies and the age, sex, and offense of the delinquent obtained from this source were the basis for comparison with the earlier reported study and with the figures reported for the nation.

SURVEY OF LITERATURE

Any discussion of juvenile delinquency is initially limited by the definition of what determines the juvenile delinquent. Thus, the first subject to be presented for this survey is a working definition which will fit a majority of the studies to be reported and which will provide a basis for the statistical data to be presented.

Delinquency Defined

In studying the different juvenile codes of the fifty states it has been found that although there are wide differences between the codes there does exist a definite pattern. There are essentially two parts to every definition which establishes (1) the age limits and (2) the kinds of offenses for which a youth may be adjudged delinquent.

William Kvaraceus states that among the various juvenile codes the age limit of jurisdiction ranges from an upper limit of twenty-one years in Arkansas for both sexes and in Wyoming for girls, to the lowest upper limit of thirteen years found in Mississippi. However, the majority of the states set either seventeen or eighteen years as this upper age limit. The age under which children are not held accountable for their deeds also varies from the most frequent age of seven, to eight in Wyoming, ten in Texas, and twelve in Hawaii.¹

¹William Kvaraceus, The Community and the Delinquent, pp. 65-74.

In studying the state juvenile codes to determine the offenses for which a juvenile may be apprehended it has been found that there are thirty-four different acts of conduct stated in varying degrees of frequency which are prohibited.² When these acts of conduct were grouped according to a general offense, it was found that there were three major divisions. These were: (1) violations of state laws and municipal ordinances; (2) conduct interfering with the rights of others; and (3) conduct impairing or endangering the morals or health of the juvenile or others.

When combined to form a definition of a juvenile delinquent these two parts yield the following definition:

A juvenile delinquent shall be any youth between the ages of seven and seventeen years who violates any state law or municipal ordinance, whose conduct is such that it interferes with the rights of others, or whose conduct is impairing or endangering the morals or health of the juvenile himself or others.

This definition is essentially the same as the following definition proposed by the Children's Bureau in 1957 in an attempt to standardize the juvenile codes across the nation.

Juvenile delinquent cases are those referred to courts for acts defined in the statutes of the State as the violation of law or municipal ordinance by children or youth of juvenile court age, or for

²Frederick B. Sussman, Law of Juvenile Delinquency, Legal Almanac Series, No. 22, p. 21.

conduct so seriously antisocial as to interfere with the rights of others or to menace the welfare of the delinquent himself or of the community.³

These definitions were essentially the ones used in the following survey of the statistics concerning juvenile delinquency.

Statistics of Delinquency

There are essentially only two national sources of information concerning juvenile delinquency and they are the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

An important factor in determining the definition of a juvenile delinquent was the age limits for which a youth was regarded as a juvenile. Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution at each age of boys and girls who have been adjudged delinquent.

The age period of greatest incidence of delinquency is the period of fourteen through sixteen years of age which accounts for approximately 62.5 per cent of all adjudged delinquents. However, Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, in a study of carefully chosen samples of institutionalized delinquents, found that almost half of them first showed

³Children's Bureau, Juvenile Court Statistics, 1957, Statistical Series No. 52, p. 4, quoted in Ruth Shonle Cavan, Juvenile Delinquency: Development Treatment Control, p. 15.

signs of antisocial behavior before the age of eight. In 88 per cent of the cases the delinquent pattern was well established before the age of puberty.⁴ Among the 500 delinquent boys used by the Gluecks in their study the average age at first court appearance was 12.39 years and

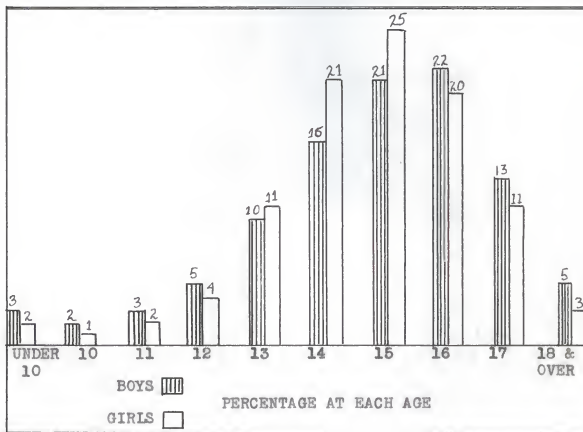


FIGURE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY BY AGE^a

^aChildren's Bureau, Juvenile Court Statistics, 1957, Statistical Series No. 52, p. 6, quoted in Ruth Shonle Cavan, Juvenile Delinquency; Development Treatment Control, p. 27.

⁴Florence L. Goodenough and Leona E. Tyler, Developmental Psychology, p. 502.

the average age at first conviction was 12.52 years.⁵

A misleading characteristic of Figure 1 is that although there is a greater percentage of offenses committed in relation to their total when girls are thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen, it is not true that there are more offenses committed by girls. As a general rule the rate of delinquency of boys to girls is four to one or even greater.⁶

The second factor in determining the definition of delinquency was the establishment of the acts for which juveniles could be adjudged delinquent. In Figure 2 is the percentage of distribution of boys and girls according to general categories of the types of offense.

Of the offenses most frequently committed by girls 69 per cent were conduct offenses involving malicious mischief, ungovernability, and sex offenses. The boys in comparison committed only 34 per cent conduct offenses and this was their second largest category.

The most frequently committed offenses for the boys were property offenses. These included theft, auto theft, and burglary-robbery and were committed in 48 per cent of the court cases. Girls on the other hand committed only

⁵Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p. 293.

⁶Negley King Teeters and John Otto Reinemann, The Challenge of Delinquency, p. 14.

15 per cent property offenses.

Of the group of delinquent boys which the Gluecks studied the reason for their first court appearance was larceny, including auto, in 33.8 per cent of the cases and burglary in another 30.8 per cent of the cases.⁷

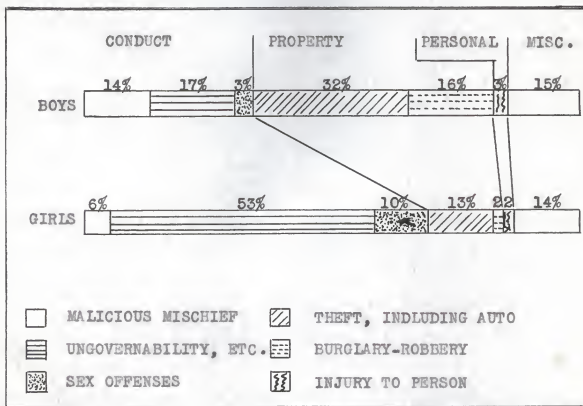


FIGURE 2

TYPES OF OFFENSES OF BOYS AND GIRLS
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION^a

^aChildren's Bureau, Juvenile Court Statistics, 1957, Statistical Series No. 52, p. 6, quoted in Ruth Shonle Cavan, Juvenile Delinquency: Development Treatment Control, p. 28.

⁷Glueck, loc. cit.

A chief aim of statistical reporting of delinquency is to determine the increase or decrease of delinquent acts. In Figure 3 the number of juvenile court delinquency cases was plotted for the years 1940-1957. On the same graph the child population growth for those same years was plotted.

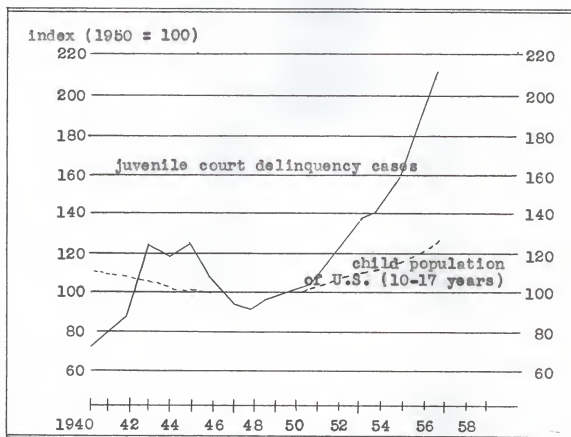


FIGURE 3

JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY CASES, 1940-1957^a

^a1. Richard Perlman, "Delinquency Prevention: The Size of the Problem," Juvenile Delinquency Facts and Facets, p. 3.

Between the years 1950 and 1957 the child population increased 28 per cent while at the same time the juvenile court delinquency cases increased 115 per cent. This yields the fact that delinquency cases are increasing at a rate of four times the rate of growth in population. However, statistics have further shown that probably only about 2.3 per cent of all youth between the ages of ten and seventeen ever appear before the juvenile courts.⁸

Causal Factors

The delinquent act committed by a juvenile is the manifest effect of some latent causal factor. The effect element of this cause-and-effect relationship has been effectively discussed in the presentations of the preceding section. The causal element of this relationship, although highly hypothesized, is however essentially unknown. John Stuart Mill's insistence that causative factors in social situations are usually multiple is readily exemplified in the causal studies of juvenile delinquency. Thus, desiring to traverse all possible causal factors, the family, the peer group, the school, the church, and the community will be discussed in this section.

The Family. The Forerunner and model of most of the recent studies in determining the influence of the family

⁸Children's Bureau, op. cit., p. 6, quoted in Cavan, p. 27.

as a causative factor in juvenile delinquency was the Shaw-McKay study conducted in Chicago in 1929. After statistically matching all ten to seventeen year old delinquent boys with non-delinquent boys in Chicago according to age and ethnic origin, the marital status of the parents of these boys was studied and in the case of the delinquents it was found that 42.5 per cent came from broken homes. For the non-delinquents it was found that 36.1 per cent came from broken homes. Their conclusion based upon this study was that there was insufficient evidence to support the belief that the broken home contributed to delinquency.⁹

Based upon the procedure which Shaw and McKay initiated and upon the refinements which later investigators made, Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck conducted a study in the Boston area. This is probably the most extensive study of juvenile delinquency to date.

The subjects of the study were 500 proven delinquents and 500 non-delinquents between the ages of ten and seventeen years. They were statistically matched boy for boy by age, ethnic derivation, general intelligence, and residence in underprivileged urban neighborhoods.¹⁰ In the area of this

⁹Clifford R. Shaw and Henry McKay, "Report on the Causes of Crime," Social Factors in Juvenile Delinquency, pp. 261-284, quoted in Marvin E. Wolfgang, Leonard Savitz, and Norman Johnston, The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency, p. 223.

¹⁰Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor Glueck, Delinquents in the Making: Paths to Prevention, p. 13.

study dealing with the family, the Gluecks investigated the broken home, the mothers role, the fathers role, and the family cohesiveness.

On the question of the frequency of broken homes the Gluecks found that 60.4 per cent of the delinquents came from broken homes whereas only 34.2 per cent of the non-delinquents came from broken homes.¹¹ Based upon this information one author concluded that, "the children from intact families have shown a clear and presistent advantage over those from broken homes."¹²

The role of the mother was found by the Gluecks to consist essentially of the effect of the working mother and closely allied to this, the supervision of the child by the mother. The following analysis of the situation was made by the Gluecks from the data they obtained from the 500 delinquent and 500 non-delinquent boys.

First, ... a significantly greater proportion of the mothers of the non-delinquents who worked, whether regularly or occasionally, than of those who were housewives neglected to give or provide suitable supervision to their children. Thus entirely apart from the problem of delinquency there is a strong hint that working mothers, at least of low-income groups, are not as conscientious about arranging for the supervision of their children as are those who remain at home. Secondly, ... supervision of those children who actually became delinquents was far less suitable on the part of the working

¹¹Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, op. cit., p. 122.

¹²Marvin E. Wolfgang, Leonard Savitz, and Norman Johnston, The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency, p. 324.

mothers than on the part of those who were housewives. Thirdly, ... a boy who is carelessly supervised and who has a mother who is of the kind who works occasionally is far more likely to become a delinquent than is the poorly supervised son of a mother who does not go out to work.¹³

Because it is the responsibility of the father to provide for the family, the role of the father was first studied through his work habits and his ability as a provider. The Gluecks found that 71.1 per cent of the fathers of the non-delinquents rated as having good work habits while just over half as many fathers of the delinquents had good work habits.¹⁴

Further data upholds this difference in that 36.2 per cent of the families of delinquents were usually dependent upon financial assistance from public and voluntary relief agencies whereas only 14.6 per cent of the families of the non-delinquents were usually dependent.¹⁵

To determine more directly the effect of the father upon the boy the Gluecks studied the actual emotional ties between the boy and his father. The emotional ties were rated as attached, indifferent, hostile, or noncommittal.

¹³Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor Glueck, "Working Mothers and Delinquency", Mental Hygiene, July, 1957, 41:329-333, quote in Marvin E. Wolfgang, Leonard Savitz, and Norman Johnston, The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency, p. 339.

¹⁴Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, op. cit., p. 106.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 104.

Their data shows that 32.5 per cent of the delinquents had close ties to their fathers whereas 65.1 per cent of the non-delinquents exhibited such ties to their fathers.¹⁶ The Gluecks concluded their work on the role of the father with the following statement. "There is no doubt that a warm tie between father and son is of great significance in helping a boy to develop a wholesome set of ideals through the process of emotional 'identification' with the father."¹⁷

Again from the study by the Gluecks there is evidence of marked cohesion in 61.8 per cent of the families of the non-delinquents but only 16.0 per cent in the families of the delinquents. The Gluecks further found that the lack of cohesion in the family was evidenced by the greater failure of the parents of delinquents to provide recreational outlets for the family as a whole or individually than the parents of the non-delinquents.¹⁸

In summary of the analysis of the family setting in relation to delinquency the Gluecks state that:

The delinquents as a group are distinguishable from the non-delinquents in having been reared to a far greater extent than the control group in homes of little understanding, affection, stability, or moral fibre by parents usually unfit to be effective guides

¹⁶Ibid., p. 126.

¹⁷Glueck, Delinquency in the Making: Paths to Prevention, op. cit., p. 62.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 52.

and protectors,¹⁹

The Peer Group. The natural tendency for youth to seek the companionship of their own age-mates as they expand their world beyond the confines of the family and home has generally taken the form of neighborhood groups. This normal association of a juvenile with others of his own age, background, and desires has led many investigators to study this "gang" as the possible breeding place of delinquency.

In a study conducted in Chicago it was found that approximately 81 per cent of all offenses were committed by gangs of two or more boys. Gangs of two to three boys were responsible for 59 per cent of all these offenses while only 18 per cent and 6 per cent were committed by gangs of four to five and gangs of six or more boys respectively.²⁰

The Gluecks in their studies of the 500 delinquents and 500 matched non-delinquents found that 56 per cent of the delinquents associated with a gang whereas only 0.6 per cent of the non-delinquents associated with a gang. In further studying the gangs to which the delinquents belonged it was found that the membership in these gangs was 98.4 per cent delinquents.²¹

¹⁹Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, op. cit., p. 282.

²⁰Clifford R. Shaw and Henry D. McKay, op. cit., pp. 194-195, quoted in Cavan, p. 8.

²¹Glueck, op. cit., p. 163.

Although the Gluecks concluded that the non-adult supervised juvenile gang is definitely worth consideration they believe that it should not be from the point of view of the gang as a cause of delinquency. This has led them as well as numerous other authors to make the following statement.

... we have eliminated from consideration the factor, membership in gangs, as an influence in originating delinquency because we found that, in the vast majority of instances among our delinquents, gang membership occurred after the onset of delinquency and it could not therefore have been causal in the above sense.²²

This juvenile gang membership then may multiply the antisocial activities of a delinquent but it will rarely originate a persistent delinquent.

The School. The fact that school attendance is required up to a certain age or through a specific grade level has resulted in its being thoroughly examined for possible causative factors of juvenile delinquency. Samuel Miller Brownell, former commissioner for the United States Office of Education, has written that the very existence of juvenile delinquency proves in a broad sense that education has not been fully successful in achieving its stated goals.²³

²²Sheldon Glueck, ed., " 'Association' and 'Causation' ", The Problem of Delinquency, p. 41.

²³Samuel Miller Brownell, "Delinquency--An Important Problem in Education", School Life, January, 1954, p. 52, quoted in Bernice M. Moore, Juvenile Delinquency: Research, Theory, and Comment, p. 50.

In a study conducted in Passaic, New Jersey, William Kvaraceus found that 44 per cent of the delinquents had repeated one or more subjects as compared to 17 per cent of the non-delinquents in the community.²⁴ The Gluecks found similar information in that of 935 cases of delinquent boys only 145 or 15.5 per cent were not retarded in school.²⁵

Brownell has further stated that schools are actually producers of delinquents

through offering frustrating experiences, by not maintaining interest, by not releasing tensions built up in other relationships, and not developing a feeling of satisfaction among youngsters which will keep them from, or move them out of delinquent behavior.²⁶

Sophia M. Robinson also states the causative factors of lax discipline (or perhaps inconsistent discipline), failure to teach children to read adequately, and willful truancy which are the fault of the schools.²⁷ Schools, Robinson further adds, may become "sissy stuff" for boys due to the predominance of female teachers particularly in

²⁴William C. Kvaraceus, "Delinquency--a By-Product of the Schools?", School and Society, 59:350-351, May 13, 1944, quoted in Percival W. Hutson, The Guidance Function in Education, p. 104.

²⁵Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor Glueck, One Thousand Delinquents in the Making, p. 87.

²⁶Brownell, loc. cit.

²⁷Sophia M. Robinson, Juvenile Delinquency: Its Nature and Control, p. 146.

the elementary schools, which some psychologists and educators regard as a serious hindrance to the boys drive toward male identification.²⁸

The total result of these varied experiences which educators feel contribute to delinquency is the failure of the student to be promoted from grade to grade and consequently the rejection and condemnation of the youth by not only his peers but also adults. The ultimate consequence of this is an openly rebellious attitude towards school and eventually truancy. In this way the school has directly contributed to a child's antisocial behavior and his juvenile delinquency characteristics.

The Church. The church has not been as thoroughly examined for causal factors of juvenile delinquency as have the schools, peer groups, and families. Thus a formulation of the role of the church is difficult.

The Gluecks discussed only the relationship of church attendance to juvenile delinquency in their study of the 500 delinquent and 500 non-delinquent boys. They found that the delinquent boys were less attentive to their religious duties, 39.3 per cent attending church regularly (once a week), as compared with 67.1 per cent of the non-delinquents. However, only a small proportion of either group neglected their church duties completely.²⁹

²⁸Ibid., p. 154.

²⁹Sheldon Glueck and Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, op. cit., p. 167.

Whereas the causal factors within the schools and families might be considered to be of a direct nature, a majority of the authors were in agreement that the churches' causal influences were more through indirect means. One author stresses the following as elements within the religious atmosphere which constitute the causal factors in the church.

(1) The lack of agreement upon the legitimate aims and methods of organized religion itself, stemming from sectarian controversy; (2) the confusion concerning the proper scope of religious activities in relation to the work of other institutions, involving seemingly artificial distinctions between the "sacred" and "secular"; and (3) the traditional view that the historic mission of the Protestant churches is to teach religious principles almost exclusively, depending upon their beneficial effects upon individuals for the solution of social problems.³⁰

Based upon evidence such as that found by the Gluecks and the preceding discussion, Clyde Vedder concluded, that "there has not been devised part-time, religiously-oriented, character-building programs for young people that will adequately substitute for the day-to-day relationships of parents and children." ³¹

The Community. The element of the community as a causal factor of delinquency has been variously interpreted. The community is many things and many people. The families, the peer groups, the schools, and the churches are all

³⁰Philip M. Smith, "Role of the Church in Delinquency Prevention", Sociology and Social Research, 35, January, 1951, quoted in Clyde Bennett Vedder, The Juvenile Offender, p. 85.

³¹Clyde Bennett Vedder, The Juvenile Offender, p. 86.

actors on the stage of the community and have already been discussed in their specific context.

Thus the interaction of these above elements, which determine the community, has led the Gluecks to conclude:

It cannot be said, therefore, that the major causes of delinquency spring from the sub-culture of the under-privileged urban area. This provides merely the locale and opportunity for enactment of the drama of aggressive or furtive misconduct.³²

The causes of juvenile delinquency are multiple. They may develop through any socializing agency with which the youth may have contact. Studies have indicated that the burden of greatest guilt rests upon the family.

However, each study, each investigator, each factor is subject to change through time, place, and people. The truest study is that conducted for a specific place, time, and group. This study only, is most accurate for those involved.

³²Sheldon Glueck, ed., op. cit., p. 164.

SURVEY OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS

This survey of the juvenile delinquency of Manhattan, Kansas, youth was initially limited, as was the survey of literature, by the definition employed. The definition of a delinquent, as determined by the General Statutes of Kansas and the Manhattan ordinances, thus determined the statistical figures reported and the specific causal factors which the author discussed with the various individuals.

During the seven year period of 1956 through 1962 the city of Manhattan has grown rapidly and seemingly the delinquency problem would consequently have increased also. The opinions of the authorities were obtained regarding this question too.

Delinquency Defined

The legal definition of the juvenile delinquent in Kansas was recently revised after the previous, confusing definition had been in use for more than fifty years. This revised law defines the delinquent child as follows:

(b) 'Delinquent Child' means a boy less than sixteen (16) years of age, or a girl less than eighteen (18) years of age;

(1) Who does an act, other than one defined in subsection (c) of this section, which, if done by a male person sixteen (16) years of age or over, or by a female person eighteen (18) years of age or over, would make him or her liable to be arrested and prosecuted for the commission of a felony as defined by section 62-104 of the General Statutes of 1949, or acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto; or

(2) who has been adjudged a miscreant child under

this act three or more times.

(c) 'Miscreant Child' means a boy less than sixteen (16) years of age, or a girl less than eighteen (18) years of age:

(1) Who does an act, other than one defined in subsection (e) of this section, which, if done by a male person sixteen (16) years of age or over, or by a female person eighteen (18) years of age or over, would make him or her liable to be arrested and prosecuted for the commission of a misdemeanor as defined by section 62-105 of the General Statutes of 1949, or acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto;

(2) who does an act, other than one defined in subsection (e) of this section, which, if done by a male person sixteen (16) years of age or over, or by a female person eighteen (18) years of age or over, would make him or her liable to be arrested and prosecuted for the violation of any ordinance, police regulation, order, rule or regulation adopted by any authority, city, county, township or other political subdivision of this state; or

(3) who has been adjudged a wayward child under this act three or more times.

(d) 'Wayward Child' means a boy less than sixteen (16) years of age, or a girl less than eighteen (18) years of age:

(1) Whose behavior is injurious to his or her welfare;

(2) who has deserted his or her home without good or sufficient cause; or

(3) who is habitually disobedient to the responsible and lawful commands of his parent, guardian, or other lawful custodian.

(e) 'Traffic Offender' means a child under sixteen (16) years of age who does an act which, if done by a person sixteen (16) years of age or over, would make him liable to be arrested and prosecuted for the violation of:

(1) Any statute relating to the regulation of traffic on the roads, highways or streets, or the operation of self-propelled or nonself-propelled vehicles of any kind; or

(2) any ordinance, police regulation, order, rule or regulation adopted by any authority, city, county, township or any other political subdivision of this state which relates to the regulation of traffic on the roads, highways or streets, or the operation of self-propelled or nonself-propelled vehicles of any kind.

(f) 'Truant' means a child who, being by law required to attend school, habitually absents himself

or herself therefrom.³³

This is the definition which was used throughout the survey of Manhattan in order that personal prejudices and beliefs might not enter into the reporting. The city of Manhattan had made no additions through ordinances to the definition as stated in the General Statutes.

Statistics of Delinquency

The police department records were the sole source of data for the figures reported for the Manhattan area. During the years 1956 through 1962, there were 388 incidents of delinquent acts brought before the police department. Of these, 325 were committed by boys and 63 were committed by girls. Thus boys committed approximately five offenses for every one committed by the girls.

Table I shows the distribution of the juveniles apprehended according to age and sex. The police department records did not distinguish between ages for youth under fifteen and since boys are not considered juveniles above fifteen the data for the ages sixteen and seventeen were not tabulated.

Because there was no break-down on the ages below fifteen it was not possible to compare the number of delinquent cases at the various age levels and thus determine the period of greatest incidence of delinquency.

³³1961 Supplementary to General Statutes of Kansas 1949, Franklin Corrick, ed., section 38-801 (b)-(f), p. 556.

The offenses for which these 388 youth were apprehended were grouped into categories of malicious mischief-ungovernability, sex offenses, theft(including auto), burglary-robbery, injury to person, and miscellaneous. Table II shows the number of cases recorded for both sexes in the above categories.

TABLE I
DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY CASES
ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE	SEX	
	BOYS	GIRLS
UNDER 15	232	33
15	93	6
16	--	10
17	--	14
TOTAL	325	63

TABLE II
DISTRIBUTION OF CASES ACCORDING
TO OFFENSE AND SEX

OFFENSE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Malicious mischief-ungovernability	23	1	24
Sex Offenses	2	0	2
Theft(including auto)	146	30	176
Burglary-Robbery	43	6	49
Injury to person	8	0	8
Miscellaneous	103	26	129
Total	325	63	388

Disregarding the miscellaneous category, the offense of theft was greatest for both boys and girls with 146 and 30 cases recorded respectively. The category of burglary-robbery was likewise second for both sexes with forty-three and six cases recorded for boys and girls respectively.

The distribution of the number of delinquency cases over the seven year period is shown in Table III. Although the figures appeared to rise and fall without any regularity there was some indication that over-all there has been an increase in the actual number of cases. However, when compared with the total population increase of Manhattan, Police Chief Leo Osbourn concluded that the juvenile delinquency rate has not risen with the population.³⁴ This conclusion was also supported by a majority of the educators interviewed.

TABLE III
DISTRIBUTION OF CASES ACCORDING TO YEAR

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES
1956	44
1957	53
1958	50
1959	59
1960	34
1961	88
1962	60

³⁴Statement by Leo Osbourn, personal interview, April 2, 1963.

Causal Factors

The determination of the causal factors of juvenile delinquency among Manhattan, Kansas, youth was accomplished through personal interviews with local police, court, school, and church authorities. A questionnaire form was primarily used to insure coverage of the possible factors. The five socializing agencies of youth; the family, the peer group, the school, the church, and the community, were discussed with each person interviewed.

The Family. There was 100 per cent agreement among those interviewed that factors within the family were the primary causes of juvenile delinquency. Police Chief Leo Osbourn stressed the factors of the broken home, working parents, and one or both parents being alcoholics.³⁵

Judge Scott Pfuetze of the Probate Court added that poor mother-daughter relationships have been large contributing factors.³⁶ The various educators essentially agreed with the above stated factors but further stressed the failure of the parents to maintain effective discipline and wholesome family life.

Fred Malott, pastor of a Manhattan church, effectively summarized the family causal factors when he stated that the

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Statement by Scott Pfuetze, personal interview, April 5, 1963.

contributing influence of the family lies in the failure of parents to understand their role as parents while children are still young.³⁷

The Peer Group. Although such areas of influence as the establishment of dating practices and the setting of status symbols by the peer group had been discussed as contributing factors of juvenile delinquency, there was general agreement that the peer group had little or no influence upon a youth. One educator expressed the belief that if a youth has principles, the peer group will not sway him.

The School. The failure of the school to provide a more realistic program and thus offer classes of greater interest and usefulness for all youth was the causal factor expressed most frequently about the school. The desire was mentioned that a large variety of vocational subjects could be offered for those boys and girls to receive training for a future vocation who did not desire further schooling. Actual "on the job" experience was suggested as one possible source of training and at the same time receiving high school credit towards graduation.

Special classes for slow readers and those of low ability were suggested so that they would not be continually experiencing defeat. This would further allow regular classes to reach a higher level of work and thus maintain the inter-

³⁷Statement by Fred Malott, personal interview, April 5, 1963.

ests of some who were bored with the previous slower pace.

A further causal factor of the school was its failure to encourage the child to remain in school. The total influence of the school was accurately described in the following statements.

The school contributes to delinquency in that it must remain a certain kind of agency by its lawful purpose. It cannot go beyond a certain point in helping a young person. If the person does not fit the pattern or does not like it, he leaves school, and then has no other major help in life.³⁸

The Church. The fact that the church would be considered as containing causal factors of juvenile delinquency is seemingly impossible, but each person interviewed expressed some area of church life which he felt was a possible factor. These are areas where religion could help to combat juvenile delinquency, but fails to do so. The factors stated included:

1. Lack of deep-seated religion (Sunday-only Christians),
2. too few activities,
3. failure of the church to reach young people, and
4. the necessity of social graces and "good" clothes in order to attend church activities.

The factors expressed include those which would not only cause numerous non-attending youth to shun the church, but also to drive present church youth from the activities.

³⁸Ibid.

The Community. The opinions expressed concerning the community as containing causal factors were generally that Manhattan was above average in moral fibre and that the community as a whole was helpful rather than detrimental. However, some felt that racial prejudices and the rejection of the underprivileged were causing some of those who were discriminated against to enter a life of delinquency.

The causal factors of juvenile delinquency among Manhattan, Kansas, youth are, as everywhere, multiple rather than singular. Each socializing agency was felt to have contributed in some manner to youth becoming juvenile delinquents.

COMPARISON OF RESULTS

Of the problems encountered in making a comparative investigation, perhaps the greatest difficulty was that the several investigators involved held different factors constant or allowed greater freedom in the variables. In the following comparisons of this present study with an earlier study conducted in 1955 and with the national trends in juvenile delinquency, complications were encountered due to basic differences and changes in definitions and the size and composition of the urban areas under study.

With the 1946-1954 Period in Manhattan, Kansas

In 1955 Mrs. Margret J. Revels conducted a study of juvenile delinquency among Manhattan, Kansas, youth, for the period 1946-1954, which resulted in a master's report at Kansas State University. It was this study with which the results of this present study were compared.

During the year following Mrs. Revels' study, the legal definition of juvenile delinquency was vastly revised with the result that these two studies were based upon two different definitions. However, the author has attempted to make some general comparisons which will show how the picture of delinquency has changed over these two periods of time.

During the five years of 1950 through 1954, seventy-two cases of delinquency were recorded by the Manhattan

Police Department.³⁹ In comparison, during any consecutive five year period covered by this study, the least number of cases recorded was 240 in 1956 through 1960. This represents an increase of more than three times over the earlier period. The greatest number of cases reported for a consecutive five year period was 284 for the years 1958-1962. At least some of this increase is due to the expanded definition of juvenile delinquency.

It was reported earlier that more than five boys were apprehended for every girl apprehended. Specifically, 83.7 per cent of all youth apprehended were boys. Although this is slightly higher than the 79.2 per cent reported in the 1955 study, the difference is not significantly great to base any conclusion of trends upon.⁴⁰

Due to the alteration of the legal definition of a juvenile delinquent it is impossible to compare the results to determine which age level appeared to cause the greatest delinquency problem. Under the present law the age limits which determine a juvenile have been increased from the former law.

A comparison of the offenses for which the delinquents were apprehended was also rendered difficult by the changes

³⁹Margret J. Revels, "A Study of Delinquency of Manhattan, Kansas, Youth From 1946-1954", (Unpublished Master's Report, Kansas State University), p. 12.

⁴⁰Ibid., p. 17.

in the definition. Whereas traffic offenders, which were considered in the earlier report to have committed an offense of delinquency, were rated the largest offense, such acts are no longer defined as delinquent acts.

Running away, which was stated to be the second largest offense by Margret Revels, was included under the general category of ungovernability in this study.⁴¹ Here it was found to be the third largest offense.

The most frequently committed offense found in this study was theft, including auto. In 1955 however, this was stated to be third in frequency under the category of petty larceny and burglary. Burglary-robbery was combined as a separate category in this study and alone ranked second largest. Thus the category of petty larceny and burglary which formerly ranked third as a combined offense, now ranks first and second as the divided offenses respectively of theft and burglary-robbery.⁴²

With the National Trends

This comparison of the present study with the national trends in juvenile delinquency was also complicated because of the differences in the definitions of a delinquent and because of the general nature of the national survey.

⁴¹Ibid., p. 14.

⁴²Ibid., p. 14.

National statistics were also reported over unstated periods of time and thus the factor of time could not be held constant as would be desirable.

The figures obtained from the Manhattan Police Department did not distinguish among the ages of youth under fifteen years. Thus a comparison of the ages of greatest incidence of delinquency was not possible. However, the determination of the rate of delinquency of boys to girls as five to one respectively, compares well with the published findings of Negley Teeters and John Reinemann of four to one or greater.⁴³

Nationally it was found that the greatest area of offenses for boys were property offenses, which includes theft, auto theft, and burglary-robbery. In Manhattan the two largest offenses for boys were theft, including auto, and burglary-robbery. Thus both were essentially the same.

For girls however, it was found that nationally conduct offenses, including ungovernability, malicious mischief, and sex offenses, were the largest category. In contrast, the local figures indicated that property offenses were greatest and conduct offenses ranked a low second.

From the above few general comparisons it was found that the offenses for which youth were apprehended have changed somewhat since the earlier reported study but are

⁴³Teeters, loc. cit.

now in general agreement with the national trends. Although age comparisons were not possible, it was found that the ratios of boys to girls were in close agreement in the three studies compared.

CONCLUSION

This study of juvenile delinquency has indicated numerous changes which have occurred during the past years. Statistics have a limited significance because of the absence of a common base among the various studies and because of the great number of delinquencies committed but never reported.

It was found that nationally juvenile delinquency was seemingly on a rapid increase. Although this is partially due to changes in legal codes which define greater areas of delinquencies and to vastly improved methods of detection and apprehension of delinquents, it does not fully account for the indicated increases. The fact is that juvenile delinquency is increasing.

Boys were found to commit four or more times as many delinquent acts as girls, and approximately 50 per cent of these acts were property offenses. Girls, on the other hand, were apprehended 69 per cent of the time for conduct offenses.

Although the ages of greatest incidence of delinquency were fourteen through sixteen years it was further found that a majority of the delinquents had showed antisocial behavior before the age of eight.

Juvenile delinquency among Manhattan, Kansas, youth from 1956-1962 was stated by the authorities to be on the decrease. The growth in the actual number of delinquent acts has been attributed to the revision of the legal

definition, improved police facilities, and the population growth over the past decade.

It was found that 58 per cent of the delinquencies were property offenses and that boys were apprehended for 83.7 per cent of all delinquent acts. The category of conduct offenses was found to be second in frequency of commission.

In comparing the two Manhattan studies, conduct offenses were stated to be the largest category between 1946-1954, but now property offenses were found to be the most frequently committed delinquencies. It was also found that the ratio of boys to girls apprehended had remained relatively constant over the two periods.

According to the comparison of the national survey with the Manhattan survey, Manhattan delinquents are typical delinquents. In both surveys the ratio of boys to girls was similar. For boys the most frequently committed delinquent acts were property offenses in both surveys. Only with the largest category of offenses for the girls was there a major difference. Nationally girls committed predominately conduct offenses whereas locally they were apprehended most frequently for property offenses.

The factor of great importance was that delinquency was increasing nationally. Although locally it was felt to be decreasing or perhaps be remaining about constant, our world is no longer large enough that we can isolate ourselves

from possible influences from our neighbors, or other areas of the country. Juvenile delinquency is our problem, it is their problem. Juvenile delinquency is a problem of national concern.

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APPENDIX

BASIC QUESTIONS FOR THE QUESTIONAIRES

The following were the basic questions which were combined in various ways for each individual interviewed. Below are listed the combinations of questions which were placed on the different questionnaires.

1. Causal Factors. Would you consider the following to have contributed to the delinquency of Manhattan, Kansas, youth? If so, how? What direct evidence is there of these contributions?

The Family--

The Peer Group--

The School--

The Church--

The Community--

Other contributing factors not already mentioned.

2. Trends in Delinquency. Is delinquency in Manhattan on the increase or decrease?

3. What in your opinion is your agencies responsibility in reducing current delinquencies and in preventing future delinquents?

4. Police Department. What is the structure of the police department for handling alleged juvenile delinquents? Are officers trained for the duty? If detention is necessary are there special facilities?

5. Probate Court. What is the structure of the Court?

What is the procedure for handling juvenile cases?

The following are the questions specifically asked of each individual.

Police Chief Leo Osbourn: questions; 1, 2, 3, & 4.

Judge Scott Pfuetze: questions; 1, 2, 3, & 5.

Educators and religious leaders: questions; 1, 2, & 3.

A COMPARATIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE DELINQUENCY
OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS, YOUTH FROM 1956-1962

by

THOMAS ORVILLE MCKOWN

B. A., STERLING COLLEGE, 1962

AN ABSTRACT FOR
A MASTER'S REPORT

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This was a comparative investigation of juvenile delinquency in Manhattan, Kansas, for 1956 through 1962. Reported figures deal only with legally defined juvenile delinquents.

The purpose of this study was to survey the current literature in the field of juvenile delinquency and to determine national trends; to determine the extent and growth of delinquency among Manhattan, Kansas, youth from 1956 through 1962; to compare the results of this investigation with the results of a study conducted in Manhattan for 1946-1954; and to compare the results with the trends for the nation.

Literature was surveyed on the legal definitions, statistics, and causal factors of juvenile delinquency in the United States. A study of Kansas law books, tabulation of data from police records, and interviews with various officials and educators of Manhattan, yielded information equivalent to that surveyed in the literature.

Nationally juvenile delinquency seemed to be on a rapid increase. This is partially due to changes in legal codes which define greater areas of delinquencies and to vastly improved methods of detection and apprehension of delinquents.

Boys were found to commit four or more times as many delinquent acts as girls, and approximately 50 per cent of these acts were property offenses. Girls were apprehended

69 per cent of the time for conduct offenses.

Although the ages of greatest incidence of delinquency were fourteen through sixteen years it was further found that a majority of the delinquents had showed antisocial behavior before the age of eight.

In Manhattan it was found that 58 per cent of the delinquencies were property offenses and that boys were apprehended for 83.7 per cent of all delinquent acts. The category of conduct offenses was found to be second in frequency of commission.

In comparing the two Manhattan studies, conduct offenses were stated to be the largest category between 1946 and 1954, but now property offenses were found to be the most frequently committed delinquencies.

The comparison of the nation with Manhattan indicated that in both surveys the most frequently committed delinquent acts by boys were property offenses. Only with the largest category of offenses for the girls was there a major difference. Nationally girls committed predominately conduct offenses whereas locally they were apprehended most frequently for property offenses.

Nationally and locally the causal vectors were found to center in the home. The broken home; the working mother and poor supervising mother; the poor working habits of the father and poor emotional ties between boy and father; and lack of cohesion within the family, received special mention.

The influence of the peer group was not felt to cause delinquency. The schools were found to contain causal factors through failing to adjust to the child and requiring that the child adjust to their level. The churches were felt to cause delinquency through failure to agree upon principles and failure to perform certain acts which might otherwise alleviate delinquencies.

It was felt that juvenile delinquency was multiple in effect as well as causation. Thus, any approach through study or prevention must be multiple.