

27.—Juvenile Delinquents classified by Offence 1951-55

Offence	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Manslaughter and murder.....	—	—	—	—	2
Rape and attempt, carnal knowledge and incest.....	3	3	5	—	3
Indecent assault.....	31	19	28	32	39
Aggravated assault and wounding.....	31	27	16	24	12
Common assault.....	89	65	89	76	71
Endangering life on railway.....	9	25	11	10	3
Other offences against the person.....	25	33	20	42	51
Burglary, breaking and entering.....	1,520	1,411	1,391	1,421	1,522
Robbery.....	22	45	25	23	26
Theft and receiving stolen goods.....	2,553	2,379	2,290 ^r	2,346	2,643
Embezzlement, false pretences and fraud.....	10	16	15	26	26
Arson.....	28	36	34	26	15
Wilful damage to property.....	646	597	736	647	614
Forgery and offences against currency.....	20	25	19	32	29
Incorrigibility and vagrancy.....	484	403	529	441	533
Immorality.....	111	110	139	137	223
Various other offences.....	1,062	874	1,030 ^r	1,055	1,213
Totals.....	6,644	6,068	6,377	6,332	7,025

Sex and Age.—Juvenile delinquents are predominantly boys. The proportion for all offences in 1955 was approximately one girl to eight boys, a ratio which has remained much the same over a long period. Juveniles of 13 to 15 years of age comprised the majority of delinquents in 1955, 73.8 p.c. in the case of boys and 87.7 p.c. in the case of girls. However, 242 boys and 12 girls (3.6 p.c. of the children) were under 10 years of age.

28.—Percentages of Delinquent Boys and Girls by Age Group 1954 and 1955

Age Group	1954			1955		
	Boys	Girls	Both Sexes	Boys	Girls	Both Sexes
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
7 - 12 years.....	26.9	11.2	25.3	25.5	11.5	23.8
13 - 15 years.....	72.4	88.3	74.0	73.8	87.7	75.4
Not given.....	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Totals.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Education and Employment.—Many causes contribute to backwardness in school work. The retarding influence may be illness, over-crowding in the home, disturbed family situations or dull mentality. Presuming that six years is the usual age for entering Grade I, 46.8 p.c. of the boys and girls in 1955 were reported to be two or more years below the normal grade for their age and 4.0 p.c. of the boys and girls were a year or more above it.

Well over half of the boys had attained Grade VII and 44.2 p.c. of the girls Grade VIII at the time of delinquency. The majority of boys who had left school had reached Grades VI to VIII and the girls, Grades VII to IX. Some high school education had been achieved by 20.5 p.c. of the boys and girls.