

27.—Juvenile Delinquents classified by Offence, 1953-57

Offence	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Manslaughter and murder.....	—	—	2	1	1
Murder, attempt.....	1	—	—	—	1
Rape and attempt, sexual intercourse and incest.....	5	—	3	4	5
Indecent assault (male and female).....	28	32	39	26	63
Assault, causing bodily harm and danger.....	16	24	12	49	38
Common assault.....	89	76	71	115	115
Interfering with transportation facilities.....	11	10	3	12	1
Other offences against the person.....	19	42	51	43	30
Breaking and entering a place.....	1,391	1,421	1,522	1,849	1,970
Robbery and extortion.....	25	23	26	39	35
Theft and having in possession.....	2,290	2,346	2,643	3,389	3,566
False pretences and fraud.....	15	20	26	14	24
Arson.....	34	26	15	33	83
Other interference with property.....	686	647	614	806	911
Forgery and offences relating to currency.....	19	32	29	39	28
Incorrigibility and vagrancy.....	529	441	533	586	633
Immorality.....	139	137	223	211	197
Various other offences.....	1,080	1,055	1,213	1,769	1,978
Totals.....	6,377	6,332	7,025	8,985	9,679

Sex and Age.—Juvenile delinquents are predominantly boys. The proportion for all offences in 1957 was approximately one girl to eight boys, a ratio that has remained much the same over a long period. Juveniles of 13 to 15 years of age comprised the majority of delinquents in 1957—75.8 p.c. of the boys and 88.0 p.c. of the girls. However, 346 boys and 12 girls (3.7 p.c. of the children) were under 10 years of age.

28.—Percentages of Delinquent Boys and Girls, by Age Group, 1956 and 1957

Age Group	1956			1957		
	Boys	Girls	Both Sexes	Boys	Girls	Both Sexes
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
7 - 12 years.....	24.8	9.9	23.1	24.0	12.0	22.6
13 - 15 years.....	74.0	89.1	75.7	75.8	88.0	77.3
Not given.....	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.2	—	0.1
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 the first grade, 47.7 p.c. of the boys and girls in 1957 were reported to be two or more years below the normal grade for their age and 3.4 p.c. of the boys and girls were a year or more above it.

Nearly two-thirds (62.5 p.c.) of the boys had attained grade 7 and 52.0 p.c. of the girls grade 8 at the time of delinquency. The majority of boys who had left school had reached grades 6 to 8 and the girls, grades 7 to 9. Some high school education had been achieved by 24.4 p.c. of the boys and girls.