

reported to be living together in 1957 but homes broken by separated parents, divorce or death was the background of 19.9 p.c. of the delinquent boys and girls. The mothers of 13.0 p.c. of the juvenile delinquents were employed other than in the home and the mothers of another 2.2 p.c. were dead. The fathers of 6.3 p.c. of the cases were deceased. Of every five juveniles who appeared in court, four were urban residents; 91.5 p.c. were living in their own homes at the time they got into difficulties; 4.3 p.c. of them were in foster homes, either with a relative or some other person; and institutions were the homes of 1.3 p.c. of them.

Sources of Complaint.—The police were the complainants in the majority of juvenile cases, 83.9 p.c. of the boys having been charged by them. Probation officers and parents were responsible for 6.0 p.c. and 2.5 p.c., respectively, of those charged. School authorities referred 1.6 p.c. of the boys to the courts and social agencies another 0.6 p.c.

The proportion (59.9 p.c.) of girls charged by the police was considerably less than the proportion of boys so charged. Parents made more use of the courts for girls than for boys (17.2 p.c.). School authorities laid complaints in 5.8 p.c., probation officers in 8.9 p.c. and social agencies in 4.0 p.c. of the girls' cases.

Disposition of Cases.—In 1957 not quite one-half of the children's cases (44.3 p.c.) were heard within four days of the charge and (64.2 p.c.) within nine days. However 10.7 p.c. of them had to wait at least two weeks and 11.2 p.c. waited a month or more before the first hearing. These waiting periods may be explained in various ways.

Some county courts sit only twice or even once a month. Hearings may be deferred because of sickness in the family, school examinations, stormy weather or long distances. The chief cause for delay, however, is the time it takes to investigate the facts properly. The probation officer, and frequently there is only one to a court, has to find out what occurred at the time of the delinquency; he must get in touch with the parents and the school, learn something of the home situation, perhaps arrange medical or psychiatric examinations and explore community resources. The disadvantage of a long waiting period is outweighed by the assistance the court receives in deciding the form of treatment best suited to the child's needs and the type of care that will be the most economical for the community. For these intervening days or weeks most children are left in their own homes while a minority are placed in detention homes and, in the long run, whether the effect of the waiting period is good or bad is determined by the care given the youngster during that time.

Juvenile court judges heard 94.0 p.c. and magistrates 5.6 p.c. of the juvenile cases before the courts. The balance were heard by justices of the peace. The proportion of those declared delinquent (95.2 p.c.) in the magistrates' courts was greater than in the juvenile courts (80.3 p.c.). In the former courts 2.1 p.c. of the cases were dismissed while in the juvenile courts only 2.8 p.c. were dismissed but 16.9 p.c. were adjourned *sine die*.

Some courts consider children whose hearings are adjourned *sine die* as delinquent while others do not but, for the sake of uniformity, the latter point of view is maintained by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In assessing the total problem of juvenile delinquency, however, cases adjourned *sine die* have to be taken into account for, when the proportion of cases dealt with in this way increases, the proportion of those declared delinquent declines.

30.—Juveniles before the Courts, Dismissed and Delinquent, 1953-57

Item	1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Before the Courts.....	7,829	100.0	7,751	100.0	8,187	100.0	10,315	100.0	11,928	100.0
Dismissed.....	216	2.8	237	3.1	207	2.5	221	2.1	331	2.8
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	1,236	15.8	1,182	15.2	955	11.7	1,109	10.8	1,918	16.1
Delinquent.....	6,377	81.4	6,332	81.7	7,025	85.8	8,985	87.1	9,679	81.1