

Birthplaces of Juvenile Delinquents and their Parents.—Canada was the country of birth of 89.7 p.c. of the juvenile delinquents in 1959 (the place of birth was not recorded in 3.4 p.c. of the cases); 6.8 p.c. were born in the British Isles, Europe, the United States, and Asia. Ontario was the province of residence of 46.9 p.c. of those born outside Canada.

Both parents of 75.0 p.c. of the delinquent children in 1959 were born in Canada and another 10.9 p.c. had one parent born in this country. To evaluate these figures, comparison should be made of the population ratio of children from 7 to 15 years of age whose parents were Canadian-born with those whose parents were born elsewhere.

Home Circumstances.—The type of home in which he lives and the amount and quality of supervision he receives are important factors in a child's behaviour. The statistics of the marital status of the parents and the place and type of residence of the child reflect home conditions and are worth recording as possible reasons for social or emotional maladjustment. The parents of 76.7 p.c. of the delinquent children were reported to be living together in 1959 but a home broken by separated parents, divorce or death was the background of 18.9 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 2.1 p.c. were dead. The fathers in 6.1 p.c. of the cases were deceased. Of every five juveniles who appeared in court, four were urban residents; 90.3 p.c. were living in their own homes at the time they got into difficulties; 3.6 p.c. of them were in foster homes, with either a relative or some other person; and institutions were the homes of 1.8 p.c. of them.

Sources of Complaint.—The police were the complainants in the majority of juvenile cases, 84.3 p.c. of the boys having been charged by them. Probation officers and parents were responsible for 4.6 p.c. and 2.0 p.c., respectively, of those charged. School authorities referred 1.7 p.c. of the boys to the courts and social agencies another 0.5 p.c.

The proportion (61.4 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 (17.5 p.c.). School authorities laid complaints in 3.6 p.c., probation officers in 8.0 p.c. and social agencies in 3.6 p.c. of the girls' cases.

Disposition of Cases.—In 1959, 45.1 p.c. of the children's cases were heard within four days of the charge and 61.4 p.c. within nine days. However, 9 p.c. of them had to wait at least two weeks and 9.6 p.c. waited one 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 95.9 p.c. and magistrates 4.0 p.c. of the juvenile cases before the courts. The remainder were heard by justices of the peace. The proportion of those declared delinquent (97.6 p.c.) in the magistrates' courts was greater than in the