

CHAPTER 37

Residential Group Care Facilities for Children*

This chapter deals with three types of facilities—detention homes, institutions for juvenile delinquents, and other child welfare facilities. Included in the last type are the following:

- (i) Institutions for care of dependent and neglected children;
- (ii) Residential treatment centers for emotionally disturbed children which are not part of a psychiatric hospital;
- (iii) Maternity homes for provision of social and health services for unmarried mothers; and
- (iv) Group homes owned or operated by a social agency for about 4 to 12 children, with house parents who are full-time employees of the agency.

A. NATURE AND COMPOSITION OF PUBLIC WORK OR FACILITY

1. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

(a) *General Physical Characteristics*

1. Detention for the juvenile court is the temporary care of children in physically restricted facilities pending court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction or agency. Facilities used by the court for the detention of children generally are referred to as detention homes. Since they must offer a full program for meeting children's needs within secure custody, detention requires special planning in construction. They tend to be found in the more heavily populated areas of the United States, but they vary considerably in size (see table 1).

2. Institutions for delinquent children are defined in this report to include those specialized facilities which are designed primarily for the care and treatment of delinquent children committed to them by the courts. These institutions have the legal responsibility to provide food, clothing, shelter, education, ordinary medical care; and the duty to protect, to train, and to discipline the child. Typically, these institutions must include physical facilities such as cottages or dorms for housing, school buildings, chapels, dining and recreation halls, administrative buildings, etc. There is great variation in the number and size of the physical facility needs for these institutions. Two important factors related to these variations in need include the number of children to be served and the type of institutional treatment which is to be provided. Tables 2 and 3 show the ranges in size and type among these institutions.

3. The other facilities included under child welfare institutions serve populations from about 12 up to 900 children. The smallest institu-

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