

2. The majority (82 percent) of the 276 public institutions serving delinquent children are statewide in coverage and receive commitments from courts throughout the State;¹ a minority (18 percent) are locally operated institutions, and receive commitments from courts of only a single county or municipality. Private institutions more frequently serve wards received from a region rather than statewide.

3. The home addresses of children or adolescents accepted for care in the other child welfare institutions would generally reflect the general distribution of population nationally.

4. On this basis, it is estimated that about 70 percent² of the children come from urban and suburban areas; 30 percent from predominantly rural areas. More children in these welfare institutions come from low income sections of urban and rural communities.

(c) *Standards of Performance*

1. No quantitative standards of performance for detention homes appear to exist. However, it is known that in 1964, 686,000 juvenile delinquency cases, exclusive of traffic cases, were disposed of by juvenile courts in the United States.³ These involved about 2 percent of the U.S. child population, ages 10 to 17. The exact number of children who were detained is not known, but it is estimated that possibly as many as 300,000 children from 7 to 17 inclusive are held in jails and jail-like places of detention each year.⁴ They also state that many of these children did not need to be detained in a secure facility.

2. No quantitative standards of performance for institutions serving delinquent children have been established. However, these institutions in 1964 served an average of 172 per 100,000 child population (10 to 17 years of age) in the United States. Regionally, the rate ranged from 95 per 100,000 in the Middle Atlantic region to 296 per 100,000 in the Pacific region.⁵

3. There are no recognized standards for amount of child welfare residential facilities needed per given unit of child population. However in 1965 the rate for children being cared for in institutions for dependent and neglected children was 10 children per 10,000 child population under 21 years of age.⁶

(d) *Qualitative Standards of Performance*

1. Qualitative standards for detention homes recommended by juvenile delinquency specialists include: (1) Rate of detaining—it is recommended that no more than 10 percent of the total number of apprehended juveniles in any community need to be detained in a place of secure custody; (2) Detention homes should be made entirely secure; (3) All sleeping rooms should be individual rooms, approximately 8 feet by 10 feet in size when equipped with toilet and wash-basins; (4) The capacity of a detention home should be not less than 20 nor more than 60 for greatest efficiency and program effectiveness; (5) The child-staff ratio should be 3:4 or 4:4; (6) The temporary stay

¹ In this report, data referring to the two federally operated juvenile institutions in the United States will be included with the State data.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 1960, U.S. Summary General Social and Economic Characteristics*, PC (1), 1 C, table 65.

³ *Juvenile Court Statistics, 1964*, Children's Bureau Statistical Series No. 83, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1965.

⁴ Estimated by detention consultants, Children's Bureau.

⁵ *Statistics on Public Institutions for Delinquent Children, 1964*, Children's Bureau Statistical Series No. 81, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1965.

⁶ Annual reports of State departments of public welfare to the Children's Bureau, 1965 and estimated population under 21 years of age, July 1, 1965, Bureau of the Census.