

A STUDY OF THE POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OFFERED
BY INDUSTRIAL ARTS ACTIVITIES IN THE
PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

A THESIS

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The writer wishes to express his appreciation to
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of this thesis.

Respectfully
and with kindest regards to the family of the late
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the Kansas City, Mo. Dr. H. L. Gault, Dr. H. L. Gault, Dr. H. L. Gault,
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

Juvenile delinquency is a major problem in our country today. During the past several years it has spread among our nation's youth, partially due to the lack of proper knowledge for control. Many preventive measures have been tried but none have proved completely infallible when subjected to test. Nationally, a 58 per cent increase in the number of delinquents appearing before courts was reported between the years 1948 and 1954.¹ More generally, the percentage increase in the number of delinquency cases, during this period, was more than four times as great as the percentage increase in the child population from 10 to 17 years of age. The Bureau of the Census predicts by 1965 there will be 50 per cent more children in this 10-to 17-year age group than there were in 1950. Thus, the future may bring even further increases in juvenile delinquency.

The Problem

The problem of the study is to determine the possible contributions industrial arts and related activities may offer, through the schools and social agencies, toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

¹U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Childrens Bureau, Some Facts about Juvenile Delinquency, Publication 340, Washington, D.C. p. 2.

Analysis of the Problem

General questions which furnished the basis for this study were:

1. How many children from areas of high delinquency rates have work shops available as compared to those in the areas of low delinquency rates? How many use them?
2. What are the hobbies of delinquent children? How many could be considered related to industrial arts?
3. What are the hobbies and spare time activities of children residing in areas of high, average and low delinquency rates? How many could be considered related to industrial arts?
4. What types of industrial arts subjects are being offered in the schools located in the areas of high, average and low delinquency rates? Which ones are the most preferred?
5. What types of industrial arts or related activities are being offered in community recreation programs? Which are the most popular?

Delimitation of the Study

The study includes a survey and analysis of the following:

1. Case records of 200 recorded official male delinquents filed in the Juvenile Court of Jackson County, Missouri during the year 1956.

2. Results of 39½ questionnaires received from three selected high schools in Kansas City, Missouri.
3. Results of 19 questionnaires from social agencies in Kansas City, Missouri.
4. Pertinent information from other material related to the study.

Method of Procedure

Court cases of 200 official male delinquents were selected from the files of the Jackson County Juvenile Court in Kansas City, Missouri, for the year 1956.¹ Information was collected from the case records on check sheets, a copy of which appears in Appendix A. The significant information from the check sheets was tallied on master charts for the tables which will be found in the study. From the information obtained in these cases, junior and senior high schools were ranked according to the number of delinquents in each recorded school. Schools with the highest and lowest delinquent count were chosen to be surveyed, along with one school listed in the approximate middle. These schools were Manual High and Vocational School, Southwest High School, and Westport High School, respectively.

In these three schools the survey was limited to eighth grade boys, the reasons being: (1) A far greater number

¹This was the latest year for which complete records were available at the time the survey was made.

of boys are consistently known to the court than girls; (2) The study is primarily concerned with industrial arts activities, and, generally, only boys in the schools participate in this type of activity; (3) From the case survey it was found that the largest increase of male delinquency began at the age of 13 and 14, which is the age of the majority of eighth grade students.¹ Questionnaires were distributed by the counselors to eighth grade male students within the three schools. Of these, 394 questionnaires were completed and returned. A copy of the questionnaire appears in Appendix B.

In order to obtain a better perspective of the activities and facilities which might be available to the children of Kansas City, the writer obtained a list of names and addresses of the social agencies in Kansas City, Missouri. A form letter and questionnaire, included in Appendix C, were mailed to 24 of these agencies, of which 19, or 79.1 per cent, were returned.

Definitions of Terms Used

Industrial Arts. For the purpose of this study, the term industrial arts will refer to such school activities as woodwork, metalwork, drafting, crafts, printing, electricity, mechanics, carpentry, and ceramics. Other areas broadly

¹The enrollment records of the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools for September, 1958, showed that the majority of the eighth grade students were 13 or 14 years of age.

related to industrial arts will be classified as related activities.

CHAPTER II

Official Delinquent. This refers to a child under 17 years of age who has been adjudged guilty, by the Juvenile Court, of an offense as stated by law.

Social Agencies. This term is used to indicate those groups which are either privately or publicly supported for the welfare and recreation of the citizens in their community or neighborhood. In most cases, these agencies are either community centers, clubs, or Young Mens Christian Associations.

and such as the ...

... of ...

... of ...

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND STATISTICS CONCERNING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The Extent of Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency in Jackson County, Missouri, has continued to rise in recent years. Latest available statistics at the Juvenile Court, covering the years up to and including 1956, indicate an approximate increase of 19 per cent of the cases referred to the court within the last ten years.

Figure 1 shows the total number of cases referred to the court, in each year of the ten-year period, 1947-1956. In 1949, 1,751 total cases of all ages were known to the court. This was the lowest total number of cases referred to the court during the ten-year period, 1947-1956.

During 1956, 1,388 Kansas City, Missouri children between the ages of 10 and 16 were referred to the Jackson County Juvenile Court on delinquency charges. In 1950, the last decennial census, 32,648 children of this 10-to 16-year age group resided in Kansas City, Missouri. Based on the total number within this age group and the total number of delinquent children known to the Juvenile Court, the city delinquency rate for 1956 was 35 per 1,000 children, or 3.5 per cent.¹

¹Jackson County Juvenile Court, Kansas City, Missouri, Report for 1956, p. 12.

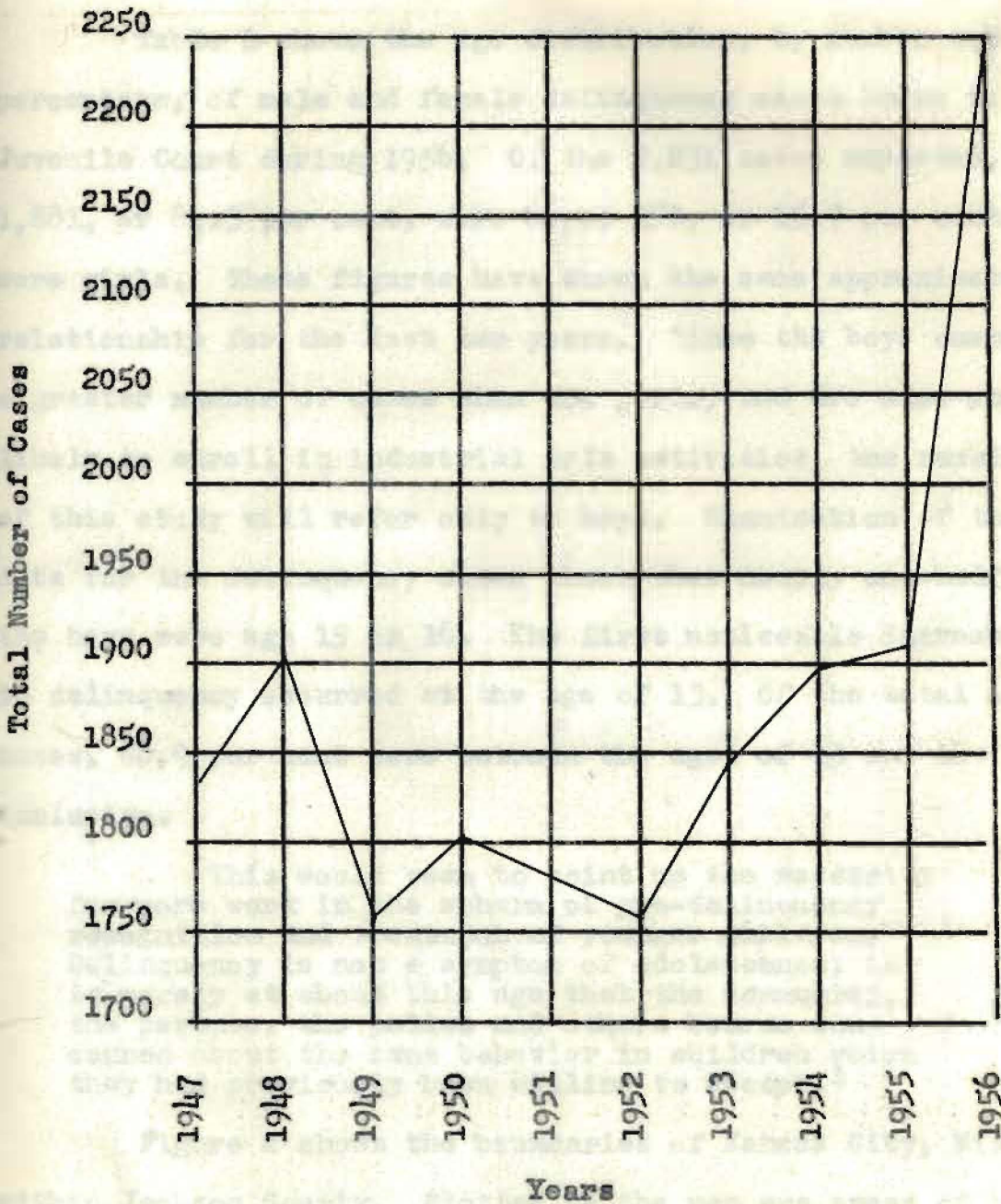


FIGURE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL DELINQUENCY CASES REFERRED TO THE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT FOR THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD, 1947-1956

Table 1 shows the age distribution, by number and percentage, of male and female delinquency cases known to the Juvenile Court during 1956. Of the 2,231 cases reported, 1,881, or 84.3 per cent, were boys; 350, or 15.7 per cent, were girls. These figures have shown the same approximate relationship for the last ten years. Since the boys comprise a greater number of cases than the girls, and are also more likely to enroll in industrial arts activities, the remainder of this study will refer only to boys. Examination of the data for the delinquency cases shows that nearly one-half of the boys were age 15 or 16. The first noticeable increase in delinquency occurred at the age of 13. Of the total male cases, 86.9 per cent were between the ages of 13 and 16 inclusive.

This would seem to point up the necessity for more work in the sphere of pre-delinquency recognition and treatment of younger children. Delinquency is not a symptom of adolescence; it is merely at about this age that the community, the parents, the police and others become concerned about the same behavior in children which they had previously been willing to accept.¹

Figure 2 shows the boundaries of Kansas City, Missouri within Jackson County. Plotted on the map are areas of highest delinquency rate as reported by the Juvenile Court. It may be observed that the areas of high delinquency rate, for the most part, are located in the northwest and north central sections of the city. Areas with the low delinquency rate

¹Jackson County Juvenile Court, Kansas City, Missouri, Report for 1954, p. 9.

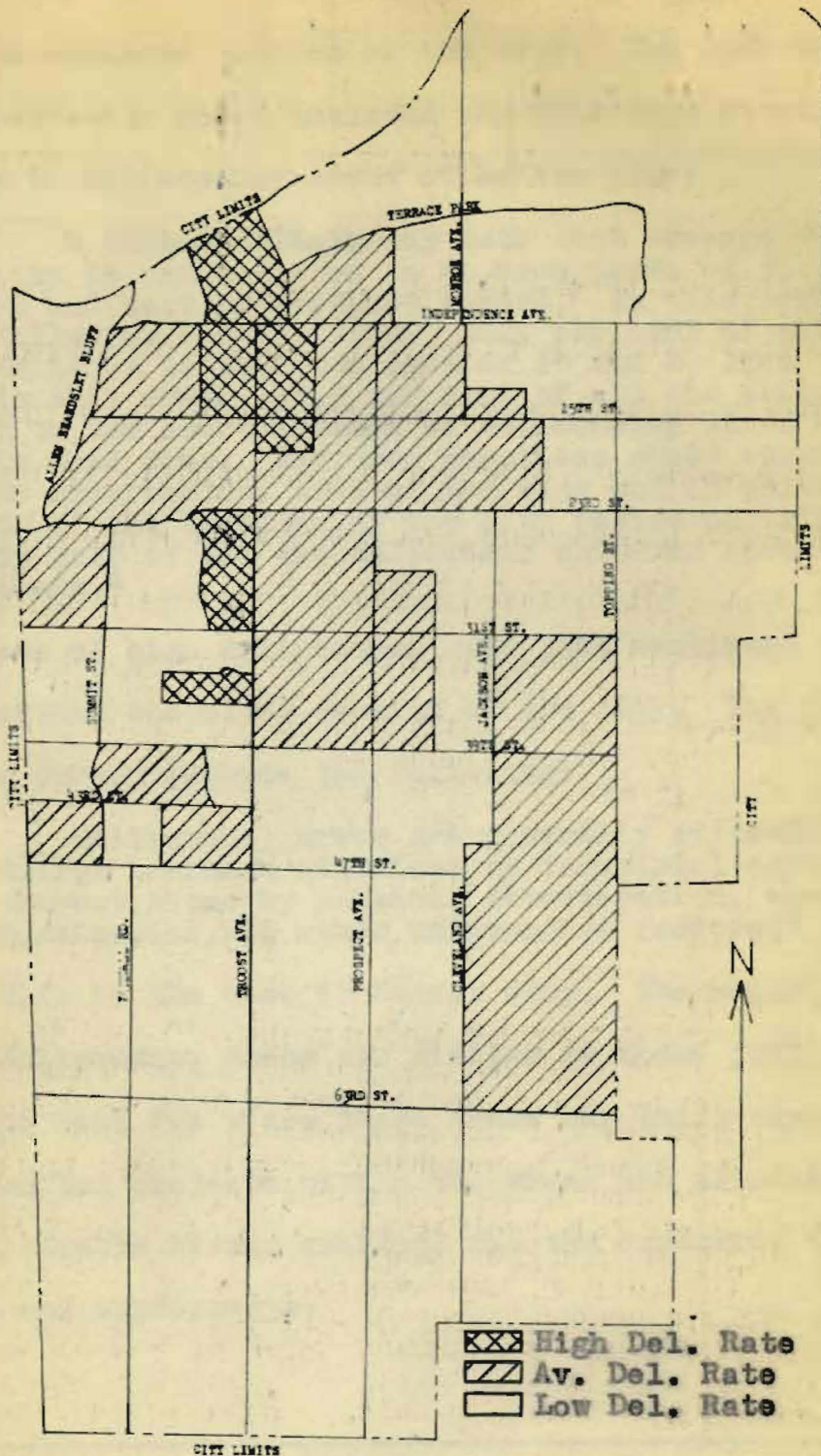
TABLE 1
 AGE AND SEX OF DELINQUENCY CASES KNOWN TO THE
 JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT
 DURING 1956

Age	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
7	6	0.3	2	0.6	8	0.4
7-8	8	0.4	0	...	8	0.4
8-9	13	0.7	1	0.3	14	0.6
9-10	30	1.6	2	0.6	32	1.4
10-11	37	2.0	3	0.8	40	1.8
11-12	52	2.8	10	2.8	62	2.8
12-13	91	4.8	16	4.6	107	4.8
13-14	216	11.5	55	15.7	271	12.1
14-15	319	17.0	80	22.8	399	17.9
15-16	450	23.9	100	28.6	550	24.7
16-17	649	34.5	79	22.6	728	32.6
17 & Over	10	0.5	2	0.6	12	0.5
Total	1,881	...	350	...	2,231	...

^a Jackson County Juvenile Court, op cit., 1956, p. 27.

Outline Map of Kansas City, Missouri

FIGURE 2



DELINQUENCY RATE AREAS WITHIN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
AS REPORTED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI,
JUVENILE COURT IN 1956

are in the southern section of the city. The 1956 annual report from the Juvenile Court included the following statement in reference to delinquency areas of Kansas City:

A higher delinquency rate than average for the city is concentrated in an area north of 31st Street and west of Prospect Avenue. In this area, the following was observed. 26.5 per cent of all the children between the ages of 10 and 16 live within this area. 48.9 per cent of all the children known to the court because of delinquency lived within this area. The area comprises about one-fourth of the geographical area of the city and in which one-fourth of the children of the city reside contributed nearly half of all the delinquent children known to the court.¹

These areas of high delinquency rate just mentioned are all located within the older section of the city. The U. S. Childrens Bureau reports the following:

Delinquency areas are generally adjacent to central business districts or industrial centers, are characterized by physical deterioration, social disorganization and other unfavorable factors.²

This is the case in Kansas City. The majority of highest delinquency areas are similar to those just described. Within the next few years these areas may shift somewhat due to reclamation projects within the areas and elimination of many undesirable living quarters for the expansion of business, industry and expressways.

¹Ibid., p. 12.

²U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Social Security Administration, Understanding Juvenile Delinquency, Publication 300, 1949, p. 15.

Race of Referred Delinquents

Table 2 shows the number of delinquents, by race, referred to the Jackson County Juvenile Court for the five-year period, 1952-1956. For each year of the five-year period, the percentage of white boys to the total boys' cases was 74.0 per cent, 71.9 per cent, 73.6 per cent, 68.0 per cent, and 71.1 per cent, respectively, for an average of 71.7 per cent. The percentage of Negro boys' cases for these same five years was 23.6 per cent, 26.4 per cent, 24.9 per cent, 31.5 per cent and 28.7 per cent, respectively; the average was 27 per cent. The remainder of the boys' cases were categorized into "Mexican and Others", which amounted to an average of 1.3 per cent for the five-year period.¹ The preceding figures indicate that the year of 1956 was average for the five-year period.

Previously Known to Court

Table 3 shows the number of first and previous offenses known to the Juvenile Court during 1956. A total of 938 boys came to the attention of the court for the first time, and 943 boys, reported as delinquents during 1956, had been known to the court on previous occasions. Thus, nearly one-half of the boys processed by the court during 1956 had previous records. In the 1954 annual report of the Jackson County

¹The U.S. Census Bureau reports for 1950, (the latest decennial census), a total population for Jackson County, Missouri, of 541,035. Of this, 484,224, or 89.5 per cent, were white and 56,811, or 10.5 per cent, were non-whites.

TABLE 2

MALE DELINQUENCY CASES, BY RACIAL ORIGIN, KNOWN TO THE
 JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT DURING
 THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD, 1952-1956

	White		Negro		Mexican & Others	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
1952	999	74.0	319	23.6	32	2.4
1953	1,078	71.9	395	26.4	26	1.7
1954	1,122	73.6	379	24.9	23	1.5
1955	1,055	68.0	489	31.5	8	0.5
1956	1,337	71.1	540	28.7	4	0.2
Average	1,118	71.7	424	27.0	19	1.3

Juvenile Court, the following was stated in reference to children previously known to the court: "Over a number of years, roughly one of each two children coming to us have been known before, either in that year or a previous one."¹

TABLE 3

MALE DELINQUENCY CASES RECORDED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT DURING 1956, SHOWING NUMBER OF FIRST AND PREVIOUS OFFENSES^a

Classification	Number of Boys	Per Cent
Previously known	938	49.9
Not previously known	943	50.1
Total	1,881	....

^aJackson County Juvenile Court, op cit., 1956, p. 29.

Method of Disposition

Children who became known to the Juvenile Court were classified by court officials as either official or unofficial delinquents, depending on the action necessary for the case. During 1956, approximately equal numbers of the total cases known to the court were classified as official and unofficial, as shown in Table 4. During this year, the number of cases brought before the court for official action increased 7.2 per cent.

¹Jackson County Juvenile Court, op cit., 1954, p. 10.

TABLE 4
DISPOSITION OF MALE DELINQUENCY CASES KNOWN TO THE
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT
DURING 1956^a

Method of Disposition	Number of Boys	Per Cent
Official	912	48.5
Unofficial	969	51.5
Total	1,881	....

^aJackson County Juvenile Court, op cit., 1956, p. 30.

Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency

There is no one cause of delinquency. There are many contributing causes and, for each child, they vary in significance. The economic and social environment in which the child develops forms a basis for factors contributing to delinquency. The Jackson County Juvenile Court uses the term anomie factor in its 1955 annual report when referring to a given area and the volume of delinquency.

The word anomie refers to social disorganization and breakdown in individual norms. Physical and economic factors may not be considered alone as explanations for anti-social conduct but must be thought of in relationship to the standards and customs of persons residing in a given locality.

In that report, the nine census tracts having the highest delinquency rate were compared with the nine lowest, insofar as certain criteria which the public commonly associates with delinquency causation, were concerned...Essentially, there were found to be very notable differences, many of which might be indicative of factors of social disorganization. For example, twice as many families had unrelated indivi-

duals living with them in the high delinquency areas, as in the low; in the low delinquency areas, the median school years completed was almost four more than in the high; median income in the low tracts was more than three times greater than the high tracts; percent of dwelling renter occupied was more than three times greater in the high delinquency areas than in the low.¹

It can be noted in these cases that high delinquency is usually found in families where poor environment exists. The family is extremely important when considering contributing factors of juvenile delinquency. In a study of 300 delinquent court cases, Merrill found that "half the delinquents came from homes broken by death of one or both parents, divorce or separation."²

During 1953, the Jackson County Juvenile Court made a one-year study to determine the breakdown in family structure and the extent of its influence on juvenile delinquents. Of the 1,802 children included in the study, 55.2 per cent were not living with both natural parents. A conclusion was drawn that less than one-half of the youngsters were living in basically sound family situations.

Many writers agree that income and juvenile delinquency are negatively correlated, i.e., juvenile delinquency increases among low income families. Shaw and others³ contend that high

¹Ibid., p. 13.

²Maud A. Merrill, Problems of Child Delinquency, (New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1947), p. 68.

³Clifford R. Shaw and others, Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1942) pp. 147-158.

rates of delinquency are concentrated in slum areas of the American city, and that the rates become smaller in the better residential districts. The Juvenile Court¹ of Jackson County, Missouri, found that the median income of families in low delinquency areas was more than three times as great as the median income of families in high delinquency areas. Although delinquency does occur within high income families, the children from these families have considerably better opportunities for proper social adjustment than do the children of lower income families.

Even though parents understand their children and are capable of bringing them up wisely, if they are constantly struggling without success to make ends meet or are out of work, it is extremely difficult for them to give their children a feeling of security that they themselves lack. No family can be secure unless it has sufficient income to provide its children with at least the necessities of life.²

The conditions presented are only a few of the possible factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. However, the home is undoubtedly the most stabilizing factor in the child's development. The destructive effects of family discord, poor housing and poverty, will undoubtedly appear as anti-social behavior later in the child's life.

¹Jackson County Juvenile Court, loc cit.

²U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, op cit., p. 21.

Social Agencies and Juvenile Delinquency

The programs of prevention by various social agencies can be broadly defined as:

1. Those trying to serve all of the children within a neighborhood, community, or locality. The prevention of delinquency through these programs is usually a by-product derived from such broadly based objectives as those of housing reform, school betterment, increased recreational facilities, and the reduction of prejudice and discrimination.

2. Those with potential delinquents in mind. Here the emphasis is on direct service to a selected group of children and (sometimes) their parents.

3. Those which deal entirely with known delinquent children. In these programs, only a limited number of children are served, and, generally, only rehabilitative measures are employed as a means of prevention of reoccurrence.

It can be seen that preventive programs that deal directly or indirectly with delinquency may differ considerably. To this writer's knowledge, no comprehensive evaluation has been conducted in recent years to determine the effectiveness of social agency programs within the Kansas City area.

It is generally agreed that all of the burden of the reduction of juvenile delinquency cannot be placed upon the schools. Only a portion of the child's day is spent in school, while the remainder is spent either in the home or in activities outside the home and school. However, some children find that

their homes do not provide the proper outlet for their leisure time activities and they must turn elsewhere to find the desired activities. By providing adequate and suitable facilities, the social agencies can play an important role in meeting the needs of these children.

Social agencies can be given much credit for the work they are doing for the children of their community. In most cases, varied programs are offered in which all of the members of the family may participate. Many social agencies offer related industrial arts activities in their programs. Of these, handcrafts is an activity available in the majority of the agencies. Robert C. Sutor states:

...handcrafts are highly worthwhile development of creative abilities which permits the child to broaden his knowledge of the thing he is interested in an outcome of experiences acquired through handcrafts.¹

Although handcrafts cannot be considered to be the sole answer to leisure time activities, they can be used to broaden both the child's knowledge and interests with a worthwhile activity.

Schools and Juvenile Delinquency

During recent years the school's relationship to juvenile delinquency has aroused much public interest. The school is usually regarded as second in importance to the home in the influence it has on the lives of children. Our children spend

¹Robert C. Sutor, "Industrial Arts in the Recreational Program," Industrial Arts and Vocational Education, (February, 1938), p. 44.

a substantial amount of their time in school, which gives teachers and administrators an opportunity to observe any pre-delinquency tendencies the children may possess. Recognition of these symptoms and the solution of them are two separate problems. With properly trained personnel and adequate facilities, the schools should be able to do their part in solving these problems. However, it should be remembered that our schools cannot take the whole burden of responsibility for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The following statement concerning this point is brought out in a National Education Association Research Bulletin:

Public-schools systems cannot accept direct responsibility for youth who have already left school, although they may offer a special program of study, recreation or shop work. The primary work of the schools must come while the youth is still in school.¹

Programs of study that the schools offer must be adapted to the needs of all youth, with adequate attention being given to the potential delinquents. In some cases, it may be necessary for the schools to re-evaluate their programs of study in order to provide activities appealing to potential delinquents. The improvement of the school's program for delinquent or potentially delinquent children will promote better services for all children.

¹National Education Association, Schools Help Prevent Delinquency, (Washington, D.C.: National Education Association, 1953), p. 125.

Industrial Arts and Juvenile Delinquency

Industrial arts endeavors to bring students into contact with material things to help them discover interests and abilities and to give them a better understanding of the industrial world, as well as to guide them toward a life occupation in which they will prove capable.

Industrial Arts is basically a shop or laboratory subject area; it emphasizes the use of tangible media...; it provides for extensive expressional opportunities; it provides experiences in which the learning takes place through the sense of feeling or touch in conjunction with the avenues of seeing and hearing....¹

Two of the objectives stated by Gordon O. Wilber in relation to the aims of industrial arts are:

1. To explore industry and American industrial civilization in terms of its organization, raw materials, processes, and operations, products and occupations.
2. To develop recreational and avocational activities in the areas of constructive work.²

Thus, it can be seen that students not only gain occupational and vocational training, but the habits, skills and experiences they acquire will carry over into other related activities or avocations.

Industrial arts is not new in the field of preventives for juvenile delinquency. A predecessor to industrial arts, the "Swedish Sloyd," was introduced into the schools of Sweden

¹American Vocational Association, A Guide to Improving Instruction in Industrial Arts, (Washington, D.C., 1953) p. 13.

²Gordon O. Wilber, Industrial Arts in General Education, (Scranton, Pa.: International Textbook Co., 1954), p. 2.

in 1846. The purpose of this program was to offset the rise in immorality among the youth, which was thought to be the result of idleness, caused by the factory system of production.

Many studies which have been concerned with juvenile delinquency bring out the fact that dislike of school often is a direct or indirect cause of a child's delinquent behavior. In some cases, boys have been placed in subjects beyond their abilities, often causing a rebellious attitude toward everything within the school. Truancy is often the result of such a situation, and this commonly leads to more serious acts of juvenile delinquency. Glueck and Glueck¹ made a study of 500 institutionalized delinquents compared with 500 non-delinquents from the Boston public schools. It was found that 95 per cent of the delinquents were truants, as compared with 11 per cent of the non-delinquents. Although truancy does not constitute a felony or misdemeanor, it is an indication of social maladjustment which must be treated before more serious offenses occur.

Industrial arts can be an effective means of offsetting a child's dislike for more formal school work, because of the freedom of the shop atmosphere and the fact that he has an opportunity to work successfully in media with which he can express ideas. In an article dealing with the education of

¹Eleanor Glueck, Sheldon and Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, (New York: Commonwealth Fund, 1950) pp. 148-149.

delinquents, Norman W. Bedwell states that:

Any program that is efficient in the training of maladjusted boys must take into consideration the opportunities offered in industrial arts. Its very nature makes it an effective program; there's no limit to its flexibility. Everyone in an industrial arts class has an opportunity to work within the range of his ability.¹

Baker² recently completed a study in Pittsburg, Kansas to determine whether industrial arts and related activities were a preventive factor in juvenile delinquency. The purpose of his study was to determine if a suitable program of industrial arts and related activities could be worked out for the youth of Pittsburg. City managers from thirty-five selected Midwestern towns similar to Pittsburg were queried as to what they had done to lessen juvenile delinquency in their town. Private interviews were also held with a number of people concerned with the welfare of the children. From this study, one of the conclusions drawn by Baker was that industrial arts and related activities can prevent juvenile delinquency among a certain type of youth, especially that type to whom no other activity would appeal.

Other writers, along with the ones quoted, agree that the industrial arts offer many contributions toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

¹Norman W. Bedwell, "Industrial Arts in the Education of Delinquents," Industrial Arts and Vocational Education, (May, 1957), pp.148-149.

²Lewis D. Baker, "Preventive Aspects of Industrial Arts Relative to Problem Children," (Unpublished Master's thesis, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Kansas, 1950).

CHAPTER III

METHODS OF RESEARCH EMPLOYED

Selection of Recorded Juvenile Delinquency Cases

The preliminary phase of this study included a survey of known delinquency cases to ascertain the interest areas and activities of delinquents to determine whether industrial arts and related activities were of interest to known juvenile delinquents. Data for this phase of the study were obtained from the files of the Jackson County Juvenile Court in Kansas City, Missouri. The writer was given access to the files through the permission of Judge S. L. Allegir. Initial assistance in locating and interpreting the files was given by Mrs. M. Vivian Castor, Records Room Secretary.

Necessary data for this study was obtained by surveying selected case histories of delinquent children known to the Jackson County Juvenile Court. In this case survey, data concerning the delinquent child's court record, school, interests and activities were recorded.

The survey was limited to official delinquent cases, since they constituted the more serious offenses known to the court. Of the official delinquents, male cases were selected to be surveyed because a far greater number of boys were consistently known to the court than girls, and boys generally participated to a greater extent in industrial arts activities

than did girls. This reduced the case survey to official male delinquents. The cases were selected from the latest year of complete statistics compiled by the Jackson County Juvenile Court, which, at the time of the survey, was 1956. During 1956, a total of 912 males were classified by the Juvenile Court as being official delinquents. It was the writer's opinion that a survey of approximately one-fourth of the official male delinquency cases would give a reasonable indication of the interests and activities of the delinquents known to the court. To facilitate computation of the data by percentages, 200 cases, or 22 per cent of the total 912 official cases, were chosen for survey. Since additional data were to be gathered from other sources, i.e., three selected high schools and nineteen social agencies, the writer deemed, further, that 200 cases were sufficient for this particular phase of the study.

Cases processed by the Juvenile Court were initially recorded on day sheets in the Records Room. These day sheets contained only identifying information concerning the child, and the record of the court's action on each offense. Three items of information acquired by the writer from the day sheets were the name, sex, and method of disposition of each case. This information was necessary to select the proper cases from the Records Room files. In order that the selection might be representative of the total official male delinquency cases for 1956, approximately one-twelfth of the desired total of

200 male delinquency cases were selected from the day sheets for each month. This required obtaining 17 cases from each consecutive month for 11 months and 13 cases from the remaining month to bring the total number of cases to the desired 200. Fifteen numbered cases were listed on each day sheet, in the order in which they were received by the court. Beginning with January, 17 even-numbered official male delinquency cases were selected in the order in which they appeared on the day sheets for that month. Alternating each month's selection between the even and odd-numbered cases, the same number of cases were selected for the remaining months with the exception of December, in which only 13 were selected. In some instances, the same name appeared more than once, and, if so, the name was omitted and the following even or odd-numbered case, depending on the month, was selected.

The writer realizes that the method employed for the selection of the cases was not, statistically, a true random sampling but it can be noted that many of the findings in the case survey parallel the statistics compiled by the Juvenile Court on corresponding data. The data obtained in the case survey which corresponds to the Juvenile Court statistics will be compared in the following classifications: Age, Race, Reasons for Referral, Previous Referrals, and Residence Locations. Through the comparison of the preceding data, it will be found that the method which was used for the selection of the 200 survey cases provided a representative sampling of

the total male delinquency cases known to the Jackson County, Missouri, Juvenile Court for the year of 1956.

Supporting Data

Table 5 shows the ages, by percentage, of the total boys referred to the Jackson County, Missouri, Juvenile Court and the ages of the boys in the 200 surveyed cases. The ages of the total males referred to the Juvenile Court for 1956 ranged from under 7 to 17 years, with the average age being 14 years.¹ For the case survey of official male delinquents, the age range was 11 to 17 years, with the average being 14.7 years. The difference in the average ages was only seven-tenths of a year. In both the Juvenile Court's statistics and the case survey, few referrals were recorded for the boys under 13 years of age, with the largest number of referrals occurring in the 13-to 16-year age group. The Juvenile Court statistics and the case survey statistics both indicate that more than one-half of the male cases were within the 15- and 16-year old age group. The difference in ages ranges from a minimum of three-tenths of a per cent at the age of 11 to a maximum of 5 per cent at the age of 14. More than one-half of the ages in both the Juvenile Court statistics and the case survey were recorded as being 15 and 16.

Table 6 gives the racial origin of the total boys known to the Juvenile Court in 1956 and of the boys of the 200 surveyed cases. It can be noted that 71.1 per cent of the

¹Jackson County Juvenile Court, op cit., 1956, p. 27.

TABLE 5

AGES, BY PERCENTAGE, OF THE TOTAL MALE DELINQUENTS
 KNOWN TO THE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI,
 JUVENILE COURT DURING 1956 AND OF 200
 OFFICIAL MALE DELINQUENCY CASES

Ages	Per Cent of Total Male Delinquency Cases known to the Juvenile Court	Per Cent of Total Male Delinquency Cases Surveyed
Under 7	0.3	...
7	0.4	...
8	0.7	...
9	1.6	...
10	2.0	...
11	2.8	2.5
12	4.8	3.5
13	11.5	10.0
14	17.0	22.0
15	23.9	27.0
16	34.5	34.0
17 & Over	0.5	1.0

total boys referred to the Juvenile Court were white, while 68 per cent of the boys of the 200 surveyed cases were white. Negroes accounted for 28.7 per cent of the total boys referred to the Juvenile Court, while 32 per cent of the boys of the case survey were Negroes. Mexican and others accounted for only two-tenths of a per cent of the total boys referred to the Juvenile Court, while no boys of the case survey were recorded as being of Mexican or other races.

TABLE 6

RACIAL ORIGIN, BY PERCENTAGE, OF THE TOTAL MALE
DELINQUENTS KNOWN TO THE JACKSON COUNTY,
MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT DURING 1956
AND OF 200 OFFICIAL MALE
DELINQUENCY CASES

Race	Per Cent Recorded by Juvenile Court	Per Cent Recorded in Case Survey
White	71.1	68
Negro	28.7	32
Mexican and Others	0.2	...

A comparison of the referrals known to the Juvenile Court and the referrals recorded in the case survey is shown in Table 7, listed in the order of their reported frequency, beginning with the largest number of referrals and descending to the smallest number of referrals. It can be noted that larceny and auto theft are recorded most frequently in both

TABLE 7

REASONS FOR REFERRAL, BY FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE,
OF ALL MALE DELINQUENCY CASES KNOWN TO THE
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT
DURING 1956 AND OF 200 SURVEYED
OFFICIAL MALE DELINQUENCY CASES

Reason for Referral to the Juvenile Court in order of their frequency	Per Cent of Total Male Referrals known to the Juvenile Court ^a	Per Cent of Total Surveyed Official Male Delinquency Cases
1. Larceny	18.2	27.0
2. Auto Theft	16.6	26.5
3. Traffic Violation	13.7	2.0
4. Running Away	13.7	none
5. Vandalism	12.3	9.0
6. Burglary	10.0	15.0
7. Beyond Control	3.7	2.5
8. Truancy	3.4	3.5
9. Robbery	2.8	6.5
10. Others	2.8	2.0
11. Sex Offense	1.6	3.5
12. Injury to Person	1.2	2.5

^a Ibid., p. 28.

the Juvenile Court statistics and in the case survey, and that minor offenses, such as traffic violations, running away and others, are recorded the least frequently in the case survey. This can be explained by the fact that only official male delinquent cases were surveyed and the Juvenile Court's statistics include the total males known to the court, of which approximately one-half were recorded as official delinquents. This would account for the more serious referrals being recorded most frequently in the case survey, since the more serious referrals are likely to receive official court action. It would be reasonable to assume that the majority of the referrals known to the Juvenile Court for larceny and auto theft would be official delinquents, while the remaining official delinquents found in the referrals would vary, depending on the seriousness of the offense. Table 8 shows the percentage of the total boys who were previously known to the Jackson County, Missouri, Juvenile Court, and the percentage of the 200 surveyed cases previously known to the Juvenile Court. It can be noted that variations of more than 10 per cent, but less than 15 per cent, are shown in two referrals, traffic violation and running away. Generally, these referrals are not serious enough in nature to require official action by the court. Of the total boys referred to the Juvenile Court in 1956, 49.9 per cent were previously known and 50.1 per cent were not previously known to the court.¹ It was found in the case survey

¹Ibid., p. 29.

that 52 per cent of the total boys were previously known and 48 per cent were not previously known to the court. This difference between the two findings might be explained by the fact that unofficial delinquents appearing before the court for the second time would be more likely to receive official court action.

TABLE 8

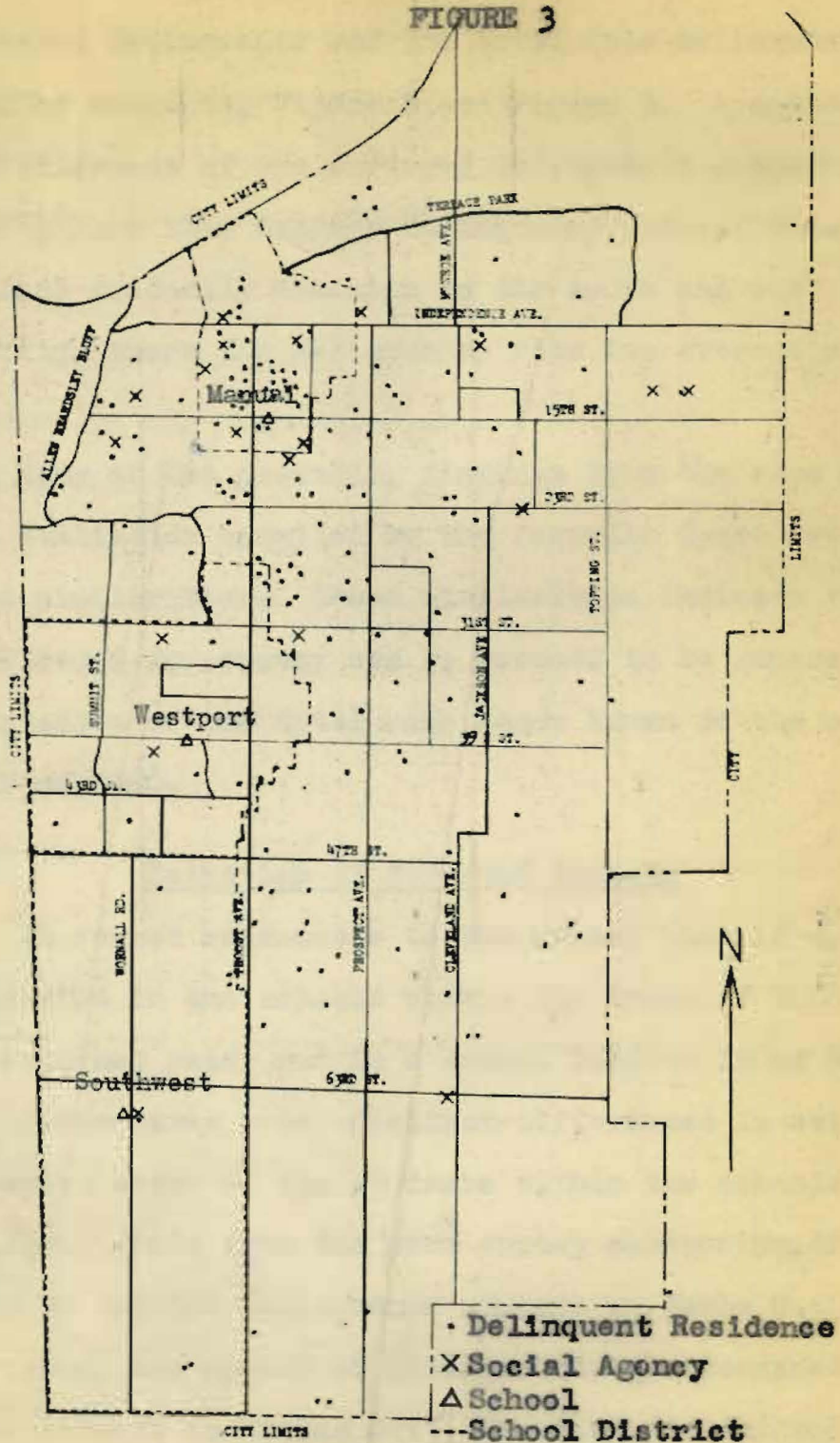
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN MALE DELINQUENCY CASES, BY
PERCENTAGE, AS RECORDED BY THE JACKSON
COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE COURT
DURING 1956 AND 200 OFFICIAL
MALE DELINQUENCY CASES

Classification	Per Cent of Total Male Delinquency Cases known to the Juvenile Court	Per Cent of Total Male Delinquency Cases Surveyed
Previously known	49.9	52.0
Not previously known	50.1	48.0

Figure 2, Page 10 of Chapter II, shows the delinquency rates in Kansas City, Missouri, as recorded by the Juvenile Court. Higher than average delinquency rates were concentrated in the north and northwest sections of the city, while the rate appeared to decline toward the south and east sections of the city. Figure 3 gives the residence locations of the surveyed delinquents within Kansas City, Missouri. Similarities between delinquency rates and the residences of

Outline Map of Kansas City, Missouri

FIGURE 3



LOCATION OF DELINQUENT RESIDENCES, NINETEEN SURVEYED SOCIAL AGENCIES, THREE SURVEYED HIGH SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS LOCATED WITHIN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

the surveyed delinquents and the total male delinquents can be noted by comparing Figure 2 and Figure 3. A concentration of the residences of the surveyed delinquents appears in the areas of higher than average delinquency rates. These concentrations gradually diminish in the south and east sections of the city, where the delinquency rate was average or below average.

Many of the preceding findings from the case survey and the statistics compiled by the Juvenile Court reveal distinct similarities. These similarities indicate that the cases selected for survey can be assumed to be generally representative of the total male cases known to the court for the year of 1956.

Selection of Surveyed Schools

It seemed reasonable to the writer that if a survey was conducted in the schools within the areas of high and low delinquency rate, and in a school located in an area of average delinquency rate, distinct differences in activities and interest areas of the students within the schools, would be revealed. Data from the case survey concerning the schools attended by the 200 delinquents appears in Table 9. As shown in the table, the number of delinquents in attendance in the recorded schools in Kansas City, Missouri, is not uniform. It was found that several of the schools had many delinquents in attendance while others had relatively few.

TABLE 9

SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY 200 OFFICIAL MALE DELINQUENTS AS
RECORDED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI,
JUVENILE COURT DURING 1956

School	Number	Per Cent
Manual High and Vocational School	29	10.0
Central Junior High School	14	7.0
Northeast High School	13	6.5
West Junior High School	10	5.0
Paseo High School	9	4.5
East High School	8	4.0
Northeast Senior High School	7	3.5
Van Horn High School	7	3.5
Westport High School	7	3.5
Lincoln Junior High School	6	3.0
Lincoln Senior High School	5	2.5
Raytown Senior High School	5	2.5
Central Senior High School	4	2.0
Rockhurst High School	4	2.0
Southeast High School	4	2.0
De LaSalle Military Academy	3	1.5
Southwest High School	2	1.0
Elementary Schools	38	19.0
Not Reported	34	17.0
Total	200	....

The schools with the highest and lowest number of delinquents in attendance, along with one school listed in the approximate middle, were chosen to be surveyed. These schools were Manual High and Vocational School, Southwest High School and Westport High School, respectively. Students from these three schools were selected on the following basis: (1) males had been surveyed in the study previously presented and should be likewise surveyed in the schools; (2) the study was concerned with industrial arts activities and males are more likely to participate in this type of activity; and (3) the ages of 13 and 14 were found in the case survey to be the first ages of frequent referrals and it was deemed by the writer that these ages might be best suited for survey to consider possible preventive measures.

In order that the preceding criteria might be followed, it was decided to limit the survey to eighth grade boys.¹ Using the data collected in the case survey as a working basis, the writer compiled a questionnaire from which the activities and interest areas of the students could be determined. A copy of the questionnaire appears in Appendix B. Before these questionnaires were distributed in the schools selected for the survey, permission was obtained from Dr. Clyde J. Baer, Director of Research for the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools.

¹The records of enrollment of the Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools for September, 1958, showed that the majority of the eighth grade students were 13 or 14 years of age.

Permission was also obtained from each of the following principals of the selected schools: Mr. James Boyd, Manual High and Vocational School, 1215 Truman Road, Kansas City, Missouri; Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Southwest High School, 6512 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri and Dr. Richard A. Ball, Westport High School, 315 East 39th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. The questionnaires were distributed by the counselors to the teachers of eighth grade students, who, in turn, administered them to all the students present. From the three schools surveyed, 394 questionnaires, which had been completed by eighth grade boys, were returned to the writer.

Selection of Surveyed Social Agencies

The final phase of this study included a survey of social agencies in order to give a better perspective of the activities and facilities which might be available to the children of Kansas City, Missouri. In order to obtain an adequate selection of social agencies, the writer contacted the following persons concerned with the direction and supervision of social agencies in Jackson County, Missouri: Miss Verna Rensvold, Supervisor of Public Recreation for Kansas City, Missouri; Mr. Earl G. Grimsby, Health and Welfare Council of Kansas City, Missouri; and Mr. Phillip W. Breux, General Secretary, Young Mens Christian Association for Kansas City, Missouri.

From a list of names and addresses of social agencies in Jackson County, Missouri, furnished by these three sources,

it was found that 24 agencies were located within Kansas City, Missouri. These 24 social agencies were chosen to be surveyed. Questionnaires were mailed to the directors of these agencies along with a letter of explanation concerning the nature of the study and questionnaire. A copy of the letter and questionnaire appears in Appendix C. The directors who had not returned the questionnaire after a period of three weeks were sent a follow-up letter along with another questionnaire. A copy of the follow-up letter appears in Appendix C. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 19, or 79.1 per cent, of the directors of the 24 selected social agencies.

The locations of the 19 surveyed social agencies are plotted on Figure 3, Page 33, by means of an "x", which was placed as close as possible to the exact address of the social agency. It can be noted that the social agencies are located throughout the city and all are within the boundaries of Kansas City, Missouri.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF GATHERED DATA

It was not the writer's intention to explore all of the ramifications of the causes and prevention of juvenile delinquency, but rather to establish an adequate background for the possible contributions offered by industrial arts activities in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The data gathered from the case survey and the statistics compiled by the Juvenile Court showed a degree of similarity. Since many of these statistics corresponded, it was the assumption of the writer that the remaining data obtained from the case survey concerning the interests and activities of delinquents should be representative of the total male delinquency cases known to the Jackson County, Missouri, Juvenile Court during 1956. The findings obtained from the school survey will be presented to show the differences or similarities in the activities and interest areas of the boys from the three surveyed schools. The data obtained from the social agency survey will be presented to give a better perspective of the leisure time activities and interests of the children participating in the social agency programs of Kansas City, Missouri.

Spare Time Activities

What children prefer to do in their spare time may be a major factor in the consideration of delinquency prevention programs. Table 10 shows the spare time activities of the surveyed delinquent boys. It can be noted that 54, or 27 per cent, of the surveyed cases had no record concerning spare time activities. Of the cases reporting spare time activities, the most frequently reported activity was athletics, with 58, or 29 per cent, of the delinquent boys preferring this type of spare time activity. Second in frequency was television viewing, a spare time activity of 32, or 16 per cent, of the delinquent boys. Handwork activities was reported third in frequency with 16, or 8 per cent, of the delinquent boys preferring this type of activity. The same number and percentage was also reported for movies, which was recorded fourth in frequency. The remaining boys reported as spare time activities, art and music, general outdoor activities, swimming, and reading, each amounting to less than 5 per cent of the total 200 surveyed cases.

Table 11 gives the spare time activity of the boys surveyed from the three selected high schools. These activities are listed in the order in which they appear on the questionnaire. It is interesting to note that playing ball was the activity reported by the highest percentage of surveyed boys for all three schools. The activity reported by the second highest percentage of surveyed boys was watching television, by the boys from Westport High School and Southwest

High School and swimming, by the boys from Manual High and Vocational School. Of the remaining spare time activities, two, making things, and some hobbies, might be considered industrial arts activities. Of the boys surveyed from the three schools, hobbies were a spare time activity of 25.4 per cent of the boys from Manual High and Vocational School, 30 per cent of the boys from Westport High School and 48.5 per cent of the boys from Southwest High School. Making things was a preferred spare time activity of 9.8 per cent of the boys from Manual High and Vocational School, 21.6 per cent of the boys from Westport High School and 25.2 per cent of the boys from Southwest High School.

TABLE 10

SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES OF 200 OFFICIAL MALE
DELINQUENCY CASES AS RECORDED BY THE
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, JUVENILE
COURT DURING 1956

Activities	Number	Per Cent
Athletics	58	29
Watching Television	32	16
Handwork	16	8
Movies	16	8
Art and Music	8	4
General Outdoor Activities	6	3
Swimming	6	3
Reading	4	2
Not Reported	54	27
Total	200	...

TABLE 11
PERCENTAGE OF EIGHTH GRADE BOYS FROM THREE SELECTED HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI REPORTING VARIOUS SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES

Activity	School		
	Manual High and Vocational School	Westport High School	Southwest High School
	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent
Hobby ^a	25.4	30.0	48.5
Make Things	9.8	21.6	25.2
Watch Television	32.0	50.7	48.0
Listen to Radio	15.7	23.7	16.2
Go to Movies	23.5	22.4	20.4
Play Ball	56.8	57.5	62.2
Boxing	13.7	6.5	7.3
Swimming	39.1	36.7	45.1
Listen to Music	9.8	12.9	13.3
Play Musical Instrument	21.5	10.7	10.4
Dance	6.0	15.1	12.9
Draw	8.0	10.7	11.5
Read	6.0	18.1	26.1
Do Nothing	3.9	1.3	4.0

^a Note: Hobbies include such activities as recorded on Table 12. The remaining activities listed on the above table are probably not considered hobbies by the boys.

The preceding findings indicate that the surveyed delinquent boys and the boys surveyed from each of the three selected schools preferred athletics for their spare time activity. The spare time activity which was generally given second preference by the delinquent boys and by the boys surveyed from the three schools was watching television. It is interesting to note that the spare time activities, hobbies and making things, which can be considered industrial arts related activities, were reported by 8 per cent of the delinquent boys and 9.5 per cent of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of the high delinquency rate. The same type of activity, making things, was reported by approximately one-fourth of the boys surveyed from Westport High School and Southwest High School, the schools in the areas of average to less than average delinquency rate.

Hobbies

The hobbies of the surveyed delinquent boys are shown in Table 12. No record concerning hobbies was available for 47, or 23.5 per cent, of the surveyed cases. From the cases which recorded information concerning hobbies, it was found that 34, or 17 per cent, of the delinquent boys had hobbies of some type, while 119, or 59.5 per cent, had no hobbies of any kind. The most frequently reported hobby was model building, which was reported by 15, or 7.5 per cent, of the delinquent boys. This hobby, which is industrial arts related, includes such activities as building model boats, airplanes, cars and

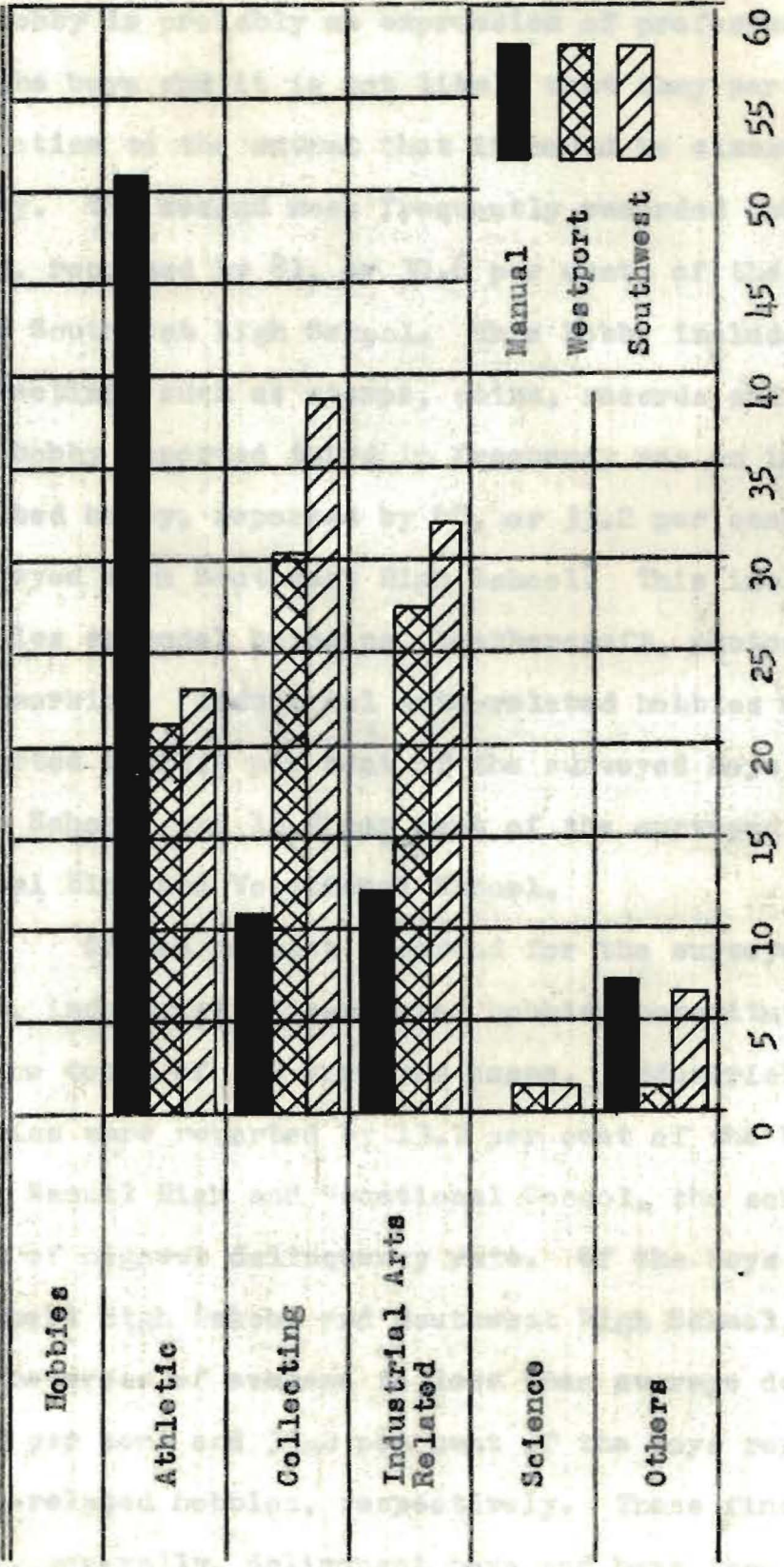
trains. Of the remaining recorded hobbies, repairing cars constituted 6, or 3 per cent, of the hobbies for the surveyed delinquent boys; woodworking, 3, or 1.5 per cent; coin and stamp collecting, 3, or 1.5 per cent; and others, 7, or 3.5 per cent, of the hobbies for the surveyed delinquent boys. The previous hobbies, which can be considered industrial arts related, i.e., model building, repairing cars, and woodworking, all constitute 12 per cent of the total 17 per cent of the surveyed delinquent boys who have hobbies of any type.

TABLE 12

HOBBIES OF 200 OFFICIAL MALE DELINQUENCY CASES AS
RECORDED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI,
JUVENILE COURT DURING 1956

Hobbies	Number	Per Cent
Model Building	15	7.5
Repairing Cars	6	3.0
Woodworking	3	1.5
Coin and Stamp Collecting	3	1.5
Others	7	3.5
None	119	59.5
Not Reported	47	23.5
Total	200	....

Figure 4 shows the hobbies reported by the boys surveyed in each of the three selected schools. It can be noted that the most frequently reported hobby was athletics, with 27, or 52.7 per cent, of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School reporting this as a hobby. This type



Percentage of Total Boys surveyed from each School

FIGURE 4

COMPARISON OF HOBBIES REPORTED BY EIGHTH GRADE BOYS FROM THREE SELECTED HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

of hobby is probably an expression of preference on the part of the boys and it is not likely that they participate in athletics to the extent that it could be classified as a hobby. The second most frequently recorded hobby was collecting, reported by 81, or 39.6 per cent, of the boys surveyed from Southwest High School. This hobby included any type of collecting, such as stamps, coins, records and match covers. The hobby reported third in frequency was an industrial arts-related hobby, reported by 68, or 33.2 per cent, of the boys surveyed from Southwest High School. This included such hobbies as model building, leathercraft, photography, and woodworking. Industrial arts-related hobbies were also reported by 27.9 per cent of the surveyed boys from Westport High School, and 13.7 per cent of the surveyed boys from Manual High and Vocational School.

Of the hobbies recorded for the surveyed delinquent boys, industrial arts-related hobbies constituted 12 per cent of the total of 200 surveyed cases. Industrial arts-related hobbies were reported by 13.7 per cent of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of highest delinquency rate. Of the boys surveyed from Westport High School and Southwest High School, the schools in the areas of average to less than average delinquency rates, 27.9 per cent and 33.2 per cent of the boys reported industrial arts-related hobbies, respectively. These findings indicate that, generally, delinquent boys and boys from the areas of high

delinquency, do not pursue hobbies which might be considered related to industrial arts.

Work Shops

Many types of spare time activities and hobbies which are of interest to boys, require the facilities of a work shop. One of the questions included in the questionnaire was designed to determine the number of work shops in the homes of the boys surveyed from the three schools and the number of boys that use these work shops. It was found that only 3, or 6 per cent, of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, had work shops in their home while 48, or 34.9 per cent, of the boys surveyed from Westport High School, and 135, or 66.4 per cent, of the boys surveyed from Southwest High School had work shops in their home. Of the 48 boys surveyed from Westport High School that had work shops in their home, 37, or 77.1 per cent, of the 48 boys reported that they used their work shop. Of the 135 boys surveyed from Southwest High School that had work shops in the homes, 120, or 88.9 per cent, of the 135 boys reported they used the work shops. No number or percentage was computed for the Manual High and Vocational School boys using their work shops, since so few (3, or 6 per cent) had work shops in their home.

These findings indicate that the boys from Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of the high delinquency rate, have very few work shops in their home as compared to the boys from Westport and Southwest High Schools,

which are in the areas of average to below average delinquency rate. This is probably due to the fact that the boys of Manual High and Vocational School come from homes located in the poor residential districts of Kansas City, Missouri and are not financially able to have work shops, while it can be noted that a high percentage of boys from Southwest High School, the school which is located within the better residential district of Kansas City, Missouri, had work shops in their homes and had a higher percentage of boys using the work shops.

Industrial Arts Classes

Table 13 shows the percentage of boys enrolled or previously enrolled in industrial arts classes, in the order listed on the questionnaire. The order of the three most frequently reported industrial arts classes in which the surveyed boys from each of the three schools were enrolled or previously enrolled, were woodwork, drafting, and general shop for the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, general shop, woodwork and metalwork for the boys surveyed from Westport High School and woodwork, drafting, and metalwork, for the boys surveyed from Southwest High School. In the order of reported frequency, the last two industrial arts classes in which the boys from all three schools were enrolled or previously enrolled, were ceramics and crafts for Manual High and Vocational School, and crafts and ceramics for the boys surveyed from Westport High School and Southwest High School.

TABLE 13

PERCENTAGE OF EIGHTH GRADE BOYS ENROLLED OR PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN INDUSTRIAL ARTS CLASSES IN THREE SELECTED HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Classes	Schools		
	Manual High and Vocational School	Westport High School	Southwest High School
	Per Cent	Per Cent	Per Cent
Woodwork	86.2	64.4	98.5
Metalwork	6.0	33.2	97.6
Drafting	31.3	16.4	98.0
General Shop	1.9	86.6	31.4
Crafts-	1.9	16.4	19.5
Printing	....	....	0.5
Electricity	....	8.0	2.2
Mechanics	....	....	....
Carpentry	....	8.0	0.9
Ceramics	3.9	2.9	1.3
Others	....	....	....

The purpose of Table 14 is to show the preferred industrial arts classes as reported by the surveyed eighth grade boys from the three selected high schools. No report concerning the preference of industrial arts classes was given by 41.1 per cent of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School. Of those reporting preference of industrial arts classes, 49 per cent preferred woodwork. Of the boys surveyed from Westport High School, no report concerning the preference of industrial arts classes was given by 37.2 per cent of the boys. The most preferred industrial arts class by the boys from Westport High School reporting a preference, was general shop, given by 28.9 per cent of the boys. No report concerning the preference of industrial arts classes was given by 9 per cent of the boys surveyed from Southwest High School. Of those reporting, the most preferred industrial arts class was metalwork, reported by 39.1 per cent of the boys.

Community Centers

Community centers are located in the districts of Manual High and Vocational School and Southwest High School, while Westport High School had no community center located within its district. This is indicated by the findings of the questionnaire administered to the eighth grade boys. Only 9.9 per cent of the boys surveyed from Westport High School reported a community center in their neighborhood. It is possible that this small percentage of boys resided outside of the school district

TABLE 14

PREFERRED INDUSTRIAL ARTS CLASSES, BY PERCENTAGE,
AS REPORTED BY EIGHTH GRADE BOYS FROM
THREE SELECTED HIGH SCHOOLS IN
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Classes	Schools		
	Manual High and Vocational School	Westport High School	Southwest High School
	Per Cent Preferring Class	Per Cent Preferring Class	Per Cent Preferring Class
Woodwork	49.0	18.1	32.7
Metalwork	8.0	8.6	39.1
Drafting	1.9	5.6	15.6
General Shop	....	28.9	2.4
Crafts	....	0.8	0.4
Electricity	....	....	0.4
Carpentry	....	....	0.4
Ceramics	....	0.8	....
Not Reported	41.1	37.2	9.0

of Westport High School. Of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, 74.6 per cent of the boys reported community centers in their neighborhood, while 71.3 per cent of the boys surveyed from Southwest High School reported community centers in their neighborhood. From the latter two findings, it can be seen that approximately three-fourths of the boys surveyed from the schools in the areas of high and low delinquency rate reported community centers in their neighborhoods.

Manual High and Vocational School had the largest percentage of boys attending a community center, with 53 per cent of the total surveyed boys reporting attendance at a community center. Southwest High School had 30.7 per cent of the total surveyed boys reporting attendance in a community center while 10.7 per cent of the boys from Westport High School reported attendance at a community center. It can be noted from these findings that of the three schools surveyed, Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of the high delinquency rate, had a higher percentage of boys reporting that there were community centers in their neighborhood, and had a higher percentage of boys attending those community centers.

Activities in the Social Agencies

Questionnaires were sent to social agencies for the purpose of obtaining information concerning the activities available to the children of Kansas City, Missouri. Figure 3

shows the locations of these surveyed social agencies. It can be noted that while the agencies are located throughout the city, they appear to be concentrated in the northwest and central sections of the city, which contain the areas of higher than average delinquency rate. It is interesting to note that 6, or 31.6 per cent, of the surveyed social agencies are located within the district of Manual High and Vocational School, the school found in the case survey to have a higher number of surveyed delinquents than any other recorded school in Kansas City, Missouri.

The directors of the social agencies were asked to list the age limits for membership in their organizations. These are shown in Table 15. Referring to the table, it can be noted that 3, or 15.8 per cent, of the directors stated that children of all ages were eligible and 8, or 42.1 per cent stated that there was no maximum age for eligible membership. It is interesting to note that 7, or 36.8 per cent, of the social agencies restricted admittance to children under 18 years of age. Eighteen, or 94.8 per cent, have admittance ages which would include practically all ages of children. No report concerning eligible ages for admittance was given by 1, or 5.2 per cent, of the agencies.

Figure 5 shows the comparison of activities offered by the surveyed social agencies. The activities are identified as to their relation to industrial arts. The three most frequently reported activities offered in the social agencies were

TABLE 15

AGE LIMITS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NINETEEN SOCIAL AGENCIES IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Ages	Social Agencies Reporting	
	Number	Per Cent
3-Up	2	10.5
5-Up	6	31.6
2-17	1	5.2
8-17	2	10.5
9-16	1	5.2
Under 18	3	15.8
All Ages	3	15.8
Not Reported	1	5.2
Total	19	....

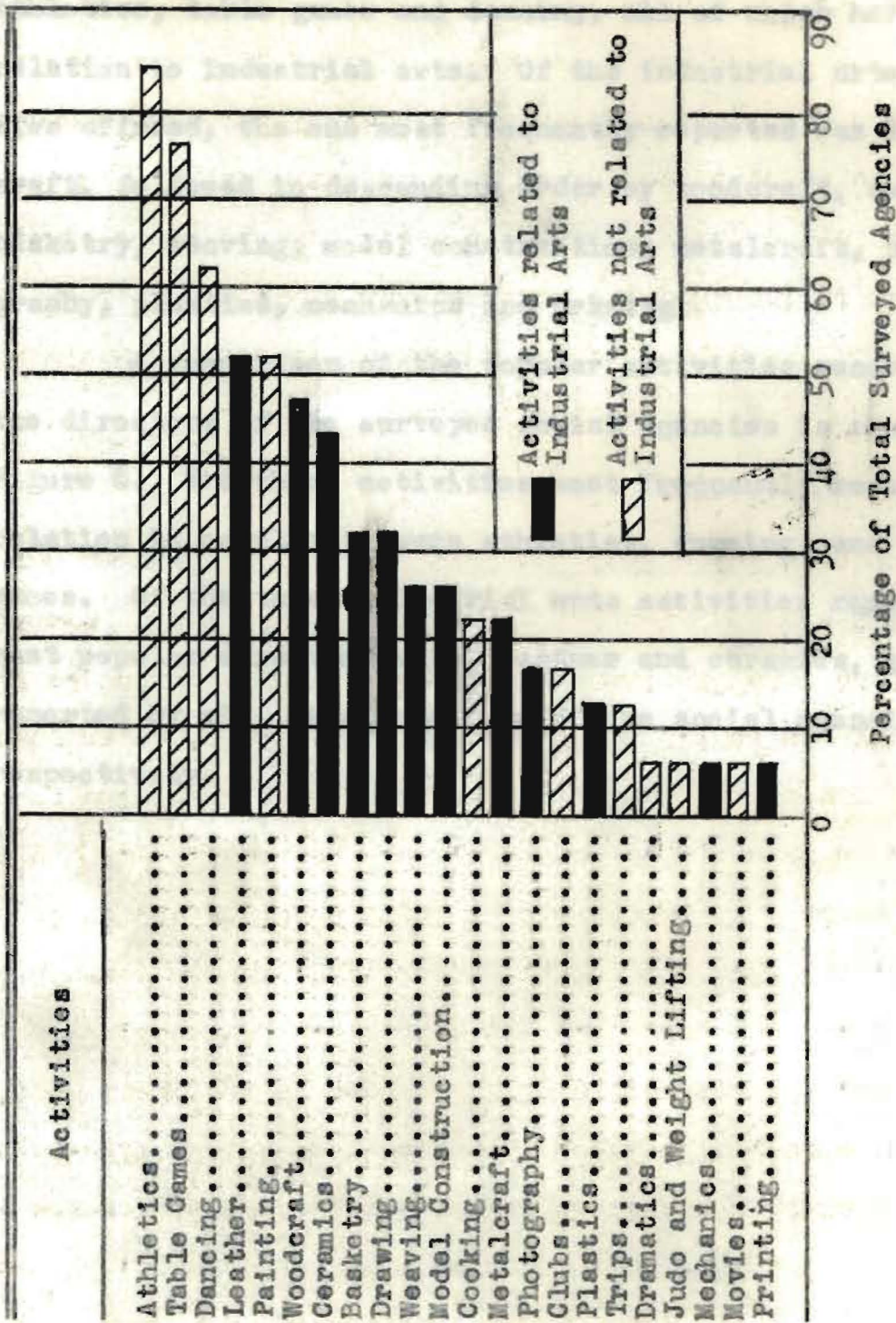


FIGURE 5

PERCENTAGE, COMPARISON AND CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES
 IN RELATION TO INDUSTRIAL ARTS AS OFFERED BY
 NINETEEN SOCIAL AGENCIES IN
 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

athletics, table games and dancing, all of which have no relation to industrial arts. Of the industrial arts activities offered, the one most frequently reported was leathercraft, followed in descending order by woodcraft, ceramics, basketry, weaving, model construction, metalcraft, photography, plastics, mechanics and printing.

A comparison of the popular activities recorded by the directors of the surveyed social agencies is shown in Figure 6. The three activities most frequently reported in relation to popularity were athletics, dancing, and table games. Of the three industrial arts activities reported, the most popular were woodcraft, leather and ceramics, which were reported by six, five, and four of the social agencies, respectively.

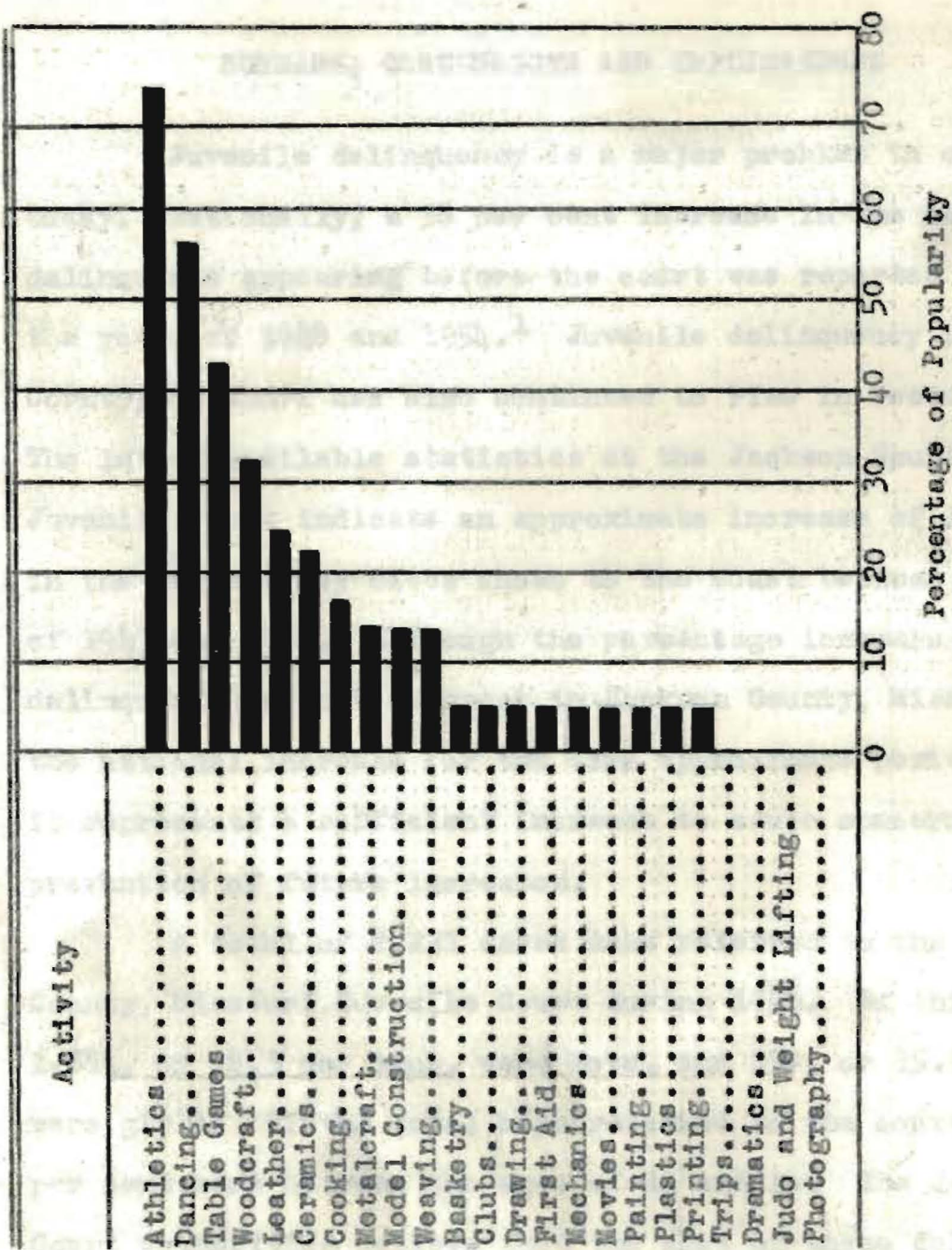


FIGURE 6
 COMPARISON OF POPULAR ACTIVITIES REPORTED BY THE DIRECTORS OF
 NINETEEN SOCIAL AGENCIES IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Juvenile delinquency is a major problem in our country today. Nationally, a 58 per cent increase in the number of delinquents appearing before the court was reported between the years of 1948 and 1954.¹ Juvenile delinquency in Jackson County, Missouri has also continued to rise in recent years. The latest available statistics at the Jackson County, Missouri Juvenile Court indicate an approximate increase of 19 per cent in the delinquency cases known to the court between the years of 1947 and 1956. Although the percentage increase in known delinquents was not as great in Jackson County, Missouri, as the national increase for the same approximate period of time, it represents a sufficient increase to cause concern for the prevention of future increases.

A total of 2,231 cases were referred to the Jackson County, Missouri, Juvenile Court during 1956. Of this number, 1,881, or 84.3 per cent, were boys, and 350, or 15.7 per cent, were girls. Of the total boys referred to the court, 86.9 per cent were between the ages of 13 and 16. The Juvenile Court authorities believe that the ages of these delinquent

¹U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,
op cit., p. 2.

children point up the necessity for more work in the sphere of pre-delinquency recognition and treatment of younger children.

The areas of high delinquency rate in Kansas City, Missouri were, for the most part, located in sections of the city which are characterized by physical deterioration and social disorganization. These areas of high delinquency rate were found by the Juvenile Court to be concentrated in an area north of 31st Street and west of Prospect Avenue, or more generally, in the northwest or north central sections of Kansas City, Missouri.

Social agencies can be given much credit for providing programs which meet the needs of leisure time activities of the children. Many of the agencies are also offering programs which are designed to provide activities for both children and adults. One of the activities available in many social agencies is handcrafts, which has been found to be a highly worthwhile development of creative abilities.

Many studies concerning juvenile delinquency have brought out the fact that a child's dislike for school can be a direct or indirect cause of delinquent behavior. This delinquent behavior often is expressed in truancy or other acts of delinquency. Industrial arts can be an effective means of correcting a child's dislike for school through the opportunities the child has for working in a media with which he can express ideas.

A program that is to be effective in the training of maladjusted boys should take into consideration the opportunities offered through industrial arts. The nature and flexibility of industrial arts activities enables students to work within the range of their ability and endeavors to bring them into contact with material things to help them discover interests and abilities. Among other things, it gives them a better understanding of the industrial world, as well as providing guidance towards a life occupation in which they can prove capable.

The objective of this study has been to determine the possible contributions industrial arts and related activities may offer through the schools and social agencies toward the prevention of juvenile delinquency. General questions which furnished the basis for this study were:

1. How many children from areas of high delinquency rates have work shops available as compared to those in the areas of low delinquency rates? How many use them?
2. What are the hobbies of delinquent children? How many could be considered related to industrial arts?
3. What are the hobbies and spare time activities of children residing in the areas of high, average and low delinquency rates? How many could be considered related to industrial arts?
4. What types of industrial arts subjects are being offered in the schools located in the areas of high, average

and low delinquency rates? Which ones are the most preferred?

5. What types of industrial arts or related activities are being offered in community recreation programs? Which are the most popular?

Data for the preliminary phase of this study was obtained by surveying 200 selected¹ official male delinquency cases recorded by the Jackson County, Missouri, Juvenile Court for the year of 1956. In order to insure that the 200 cases selected for survey were a representative sample of the total cases referred to the Juvenile Court for the year of 1956, certain Juvenile Court statistics were compared with the findings in the case survey. The data used for comparison was as follows: Age, Race, Reason for Referral, Previous Referrals and Residence Locations. Many of the findings from the case survey, when compared to the statistics compiled by the Juvenile Court, revealed distinct similarities. These similarities indicated that the cases selected for survey were reasonably representative of the total male cases known to the court for the year of 1956.

The data for the second phase of the study was obtained by surveying eighth grade male students in three high schools in Kansas City, Missouri.² These schools, selected according to the number of recorded delinquents in attendance, were Manual

¹Details of the method employed for the selection of the 200 cases were presented in Chapter III.

²Details of the method of selection of eighth grade male students for survey were presented in Chapter III.

High and Vocational School, Westport High School, and Southwest High School. Questionnaires were administered to the boys to determine their interest areas and activities. Of these questionnaires, 394 were completed and returned.

The final phase of this study included a survey of social agencies in order to give a better perspective of the activities and facilities available to the children of Kansas City, Missouri. From a list of social agencies procured from three persons affiliated with the direction and supervision of social agencies in Kansas City, Missouri, 24 were selected for survey and were sent questionnaires: 19, or 79.1 per cent, returned completed questionnaires.

The significant data gathered from the preceding sources may be summarized as follows:

1. Manual High and Vocational School was found to have the highest number of surveyed delinquents in attendance, of all the listed schools, while Southwest High School had the fewest surveyed male delinquents in attendance.

2. Industrial arts and related activities were reported as a spare time activity of 8 per cent of the 200 surveyed delinquent boys. For the boys surveyed from the three selected schools, 9.8 per cent of the boys from Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of high delinquency rate, 21.6 per cent of the boys from Westport High School and 25.2 per cent of the boys from Southwest High

School, reported industrial arts activities as a spare time activity.

3. Only 34, or 17 per cent, of the surveyed delinquent boys reported hobbies of any type while 24, or 12 per cent, of these boys recorded hobbies which were industrial arts-related.

4. Of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, 13.7 per cent reported industrial arts-related hobbies, while 33.2 per cent of the boys from Southwest High School, the school in the area of low delinquency rate, reported industrial arts-related hobbies.

5. It was found that 66.4 per cent of the boys from Southwest High School had work shops in their homes while 6 per cent of the boys from Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of high delinquency rate, had work shops in their home.

6. The largest percentage of boys surveyed from each of the three selected schools were currently or previously enrolled in woodworking classes while a small percentage of boys from each school reported being enrolled or previously enrolled in ceramics and crafts.

7. Woodwork was the most preferred industrial arts class by 49 per cent of the boys from Manual High and Vocational School. General shop was the most preferred industrial arts class by 28.9 per cent of the boys surveyed from Westport High School while metalwork was the most preferred industrial

arts class by 39.1 per cent of the boys from Southwest High School. It can be concluded from the data gathered and re-

8. The boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, the school in the area of high delinquency rate, were less likely to be members of any organization, either in or outside of school, while the boys surveyed from the two schools in the average to less than average delinquency rates, Westport High School and Southwest High School, were more likely to be members of organizations, either in or outside of school.

9. Approximately three-fourths of the boys from Manual High and Vocational School and one-tenth of the boys from Westport High School reported community centers in their neighborhoods.

10. More than one-half (53 per cent) of the boys surveyed from Manual High and Vocational School, reported attending community centers. Of the boys surveyed from Westport High School and Southwest High School, 10.7 per cent and 30.7 per cent, respectively, reported attendance in community centers.

11. The industrial arts activity offered most frequently by the social agencies was leathercraft, followed in descending order by woodcraft, ceramics, basketry, weaving, model construction, metalcraft, photography, plastics, mechanics and printing.

12. The three most popular industrial arts activities reported by the social agencies were woodcraft, leathercraft, and ceramics. The three most popular of all activities offered by the nineteen social agencies were athletics, dancing, and table games.

Conclusions and Implications

It can be concluded from the data gathered and presented in this study, that less than one-fifth of the surveyed delinquent boys were found to attend social agencies in Kansas City, Missouri, even though social agencies were conveniently located throughout Kansas City, Missouri, and were more frequently located in the areas of high delinquency rate. The lack of attendance at the social agencies by the delinquents might be attributed to the fact that the activities and facilities do not interest the boys.

Through the survey of the three selected schools, Manual High and Vocational School, Westport High School, and Southwest High School, it was found that the boys from the area of high delinquency rate had the smallest number of work shops in their home. This could be due to a lack of facilities and financial means of the home and family. In this situation, if the boys have constructive types of interests, it would be necessary for them to pursue these interests outside the home.

It has been generally agreed that no one program can prevent juvenile delinquency. It takes the combined efforts of a number and variety of programs to meet the many interests of children. The schools have opportunities of offering worthwhile activities during after-school hours to stimulate the interests of children, while the social agencies also have these opportunities in the programs they are offering. The

effectiveness of these programs offered to the children of Kansas City, Missouri, needs to be evaluated to determine the specific accomplishments they are making in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The evaluation should also be conducted to determine whether the programs offered by the schools and social agencies are of interest and benefit to delinquent and potentially delinquent children, and further, to determine whether these benefits are sufficient to reduce the delinquency rate of the communities.

The findings of this study revealed that most boys have acquired experiences in industrial arts through the schools and that this type of activity is pursued by many boys in hobbies and leisure time activities. Although the actual effectiveness of this type of activity in delinquency prevention is not known, there is a sufficient number of children interested in industrial arts activities to warrant their inclusion in the programs offered by the schools and social agencies.

KANSAS STATE POLICE

Name _____ Sex _____ Address _____

Charge(s) 1. Nature of Offense _____
 2. Nature of Offense _____
 3. Nature of Offense _____
 4. Nature of Offense _____

Married - Marital troubles - Yes () No ()
 Mother living - Yes () No ()
 Born in Kansas City, Mo. Yes () No ()
 Education _____ years
 Employed - Yes () No ()
 Health - Good () Fair () Poor ()
 Religion - Attendance - regularly ()
 occasionally () never ()
 Affiliation _____

Wife living - Yes () No ()
 Born in Kansas City, Mo. Yes () No ()
 Education _____ years
 Employed - Yes () No ()
 Health - Good () Fair () Poor ()
 Religion - Attendance - regularly ()
 occasionally () never ()
 Affiliation _____

APPENDIX A

Other children - Number _____ boys _____ girls _____
 Number living at home at time of first offense _____
 Home - Size _____ Furnishings - good () fair () poor ()

Parents' attitude toward birth - wanted () unwanted ()
 Self Control - good () poor ()
 Health - Illnesses (serious) Yes () No ()
 Religion - Attendance - regularly ()
 occasionally () never ()
 Affiliation _____
 Schools (s) attended _____

Truancy Yes () No ()
 Attitude toward school _____

SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

7. Do you have a hobby? Yes _____ No _____
 DIRECTIONS: DO NOT place your name on this paper. Please
 answer the questions the best you can by filling in the
 blanks or checking the correct answer.

Check One:

Grade _____ Age _____
 Sex: Boy _____ Girl _____
 Race: White _____ Colored _____

1. How many other children in your family are living at home?
 Brothers _____ Sisters _____
2. How many years have you lived in Kansas City? _____
3. How many times have you moved while living in Kansas City? _____

4. _____

- | | In this column
check the
Practical Arts
classes you
have taken or
are now tak-
ing in school | In this column
check the class
you like best
of the ones
you have taken
(check only
one) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Woodwork | _____ | _____ |
| Metalwork | _____ | _____ |
| Drafting (Drawing) | _____ | _____ |
| General Shop | _____ | _____ |
| Crafts (Plastics, Leather etc) | _____ | _____ |
| Printing | _____ | _____ |
| Electricity | _____ | _____ |
| Mechanics | _____ | _____ |
| Carpentry | _____ | _____ |
| Ceramics | _____ | _____ |
| Foods | _____ | _____ |
| Clothing | _____ | _____ |
| Homemaking | _____ | _____ |
| Other Practical Arts classes: | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. Are you a member of any club or organization in school?
 Yes _____ No _____

6. Are you a member of any club or organization outside of
 school such as Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A.? Yes _____ NO _____

7. Do you have a hobby? Yes _____ No _____
8. What is your hobby or hobbies at the present time? _____
-
9. Which of the following activities do you like to do the best in your spare time?

- _____ Your hobby
 _____ Make things
 _____ Watch TV
 _____ Listen to the radio
 _____ Go to the movies
 _____ Play ball (football, basketball, baseball etc)
 _____ Boxing
 _____ Swimming
 _____ Listen to music
 _____ Play musical instrument
 _____ Dance
 _____ Draw
 _____ Read
 _____ Do nothing
 _____ Others:

10. Do you have a community center in your neighborhood?
 Yes _____ No _____
11. Do you attend any community center regularly? Yes _____
 No _____
12. When do you attend the center the most? After school _____
 Weekends _____ Summers _____
13. Do you like most of the activities offered in the center?
 Yes _____ No _____
14. Are the activities in the center well supervised? Yes _____
 No _____

The next two questions are for boys to answer:

15. Can you make things in the center like you can in your school shop? Yes _____ No _____
16. Do you have a work shop at home? Yes _____ No _____ Do you use it? Yes _____ No _____

25 West 14th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
March 2, 1937

I am making a study in Jackson County to determine whether industrial arts or related activities might help in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. I am especially interested in the areas you and all organizations officers which might be considered industrial arts or related activities and the way these activities are accepted by your members.

APPENDIX C

You will help me considerably by completing the enclosed questionnaire. I realize the data you provide will be of general nature but it will still be of great value.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Harold W. Hill,
Assistant
Director High School

SEE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

315 East 39th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
March 2, 1959

I am making a study in Jackson County to determine whether industrial arts or related activities might help in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. I am specifically interested in the areas your club or organization offers which might be considered industrial arts or related activities and the way these activities are accepted by your members.

You will help me considerably by completing the enclosed questionnaire. I realize the data you provide will be of general nature but it will still be of great value.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David E. Hill,
Instructor
Westport High School

(Letter accompanying questionnaire)

SOCIAL SERVICE QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS ANONYMOUS. PLEASE FILL IN THE SPACES AND CHECK THE APPROPRIATE SPACES.

315 East 39th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
March 24, 1959

- 1. Total membership of your organization _____
If no membership, average number of members of your organization _____
- 2. Approximate number of boys _____ girls _____
- 3. Are your members mostly white _____ Negro _____ Mexican _____
- 4. Age of children eligible for admittance _____
- 5. Attendance by members considered to be excellent _____
Doubtful _____ unable to state _____

Recently you were sent a letter and questionnaire concerning a study I am conducting to determine whether industrial arts or related activities might help in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

To date, I have not received your completed questionnaire. I realize that your duties keep you very busy and the questionnaire could easily have been misplaced. Therefore, I am enclosing an additional questionnaire which I am hoping you will find time to complete and return to me.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

David E. Hill,
Instructor
Westport High School

(Follow-up letter)

Activity	Check Activities Offered	Check Number Activities
Model Construction	_____	_____
Welding	_____	_____
Blacksmith	_____	_____
Painting	_____	_____
Printing	_____	_____
Drawing	_____	_____
Carpentry	_____	_____
Public Speech (Oratory)	_____	_____

SOCIAL AGENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS ANONYMOUS. PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS AND CHECK THE APPROPRIATE SPACES.

1. Total membership of your organization _____
If no membership, average number frequenting your organization _____
2. Approximate number of boys _____ girls _____
3. Are your members mostly white _____ Negro _____ Mexican _____
4. Ages of children eligible for admittance _____
5. Attendance by members considered to be consistent _____
irregular _____ unable to state _____
6. Do you consider the neighborhood of most of your members to be average _____ below average _____ above average _____
unable to state _____
7. Are community resources, such as schools, churches, parks, etc. considered adequate? Yes _____ No _____ Unable to state _____.
8. How many members considered to have delinquent tendencies? 0 _____ 25% _____ 50% _____ 75% _____ No delinquent tendencies? 0 _____ 25% _____ 50% _____ 75% _____
9. How many members have been referred by other agencies? _____
- 10.

Check
Activities
Offered:

Check
Popular
Activities:

Model Construction _____

Metalcraft _____

Woodcraft _____

Plastics _____

Leather _____

Basketry _____

Weaving _____

Photography _____

Mechanics _____

Painting _____

Printing _____

Drawing _____

Ceramics _____

Table Games (Cards, checkers,
etc.) _____

SOCIAL AGENCY QUESTIONNAIRE - continued

Athletics	_____	_____
Dancing	_____	_____
Others: (Specify)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

11. Which of the following do you consider adequate?
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Activities offered _____ | Equipment available _____ |
| Building facilities _____ | Number of children served _____ |

PLEASE MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU BELIEVE HELPFUL TO THIS STUDY ON BACK OF THIS PAPER.

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