

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
A COMPARISON OF CERTAIN SELECTED SOCIAL PROBLEMS
OF FAMILIES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN
TWO AREAS OF THE CITY OF
WINNIPEG

Being a Thesis Submitted in Partial
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Social Work

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

No one doubts that the family is the most important primary group with which an individual comes in contact. Recently, however, there has been growing public concern about the family. With every passing decade our society has become more urban. This gradual transformation has not been occurring, however, without its attendant problems. These accompanying difficulties have been more than those with which many families could cope. Taking into consideration the family's importance in personality formation, and as an important focus of social interaction, juvenile delinquency appears as a by-product of the difficulties facing the family in this stage of transition. However, very little has been written about the families of juvenile delinquents. It has been frequently noted that the parents of delinquents have strong resistance to becoming involved in social agency contact, and that they often carry a heavy emotional burden because of their own inner conflicts, their sense of failure, and the overwhelming economic and social problems with which many are confronted.¹ This is a problem which is not limited to any one area, community or city.

¹Beatrice Simcox Reiner and Irving Kaufman, Character Disorders in Parents of Delinquents, New York: Family Service Association of America, 1959, p.3.

This study is concerned with the problems of families of juvenile delinquents. The nature of the study suggested an immediate question: How extensive was the study to be? The original intention had been to investigate the following topics: the family interaction; reciprocal relations between the family and the community; the emphasis placed by the family on money and material goods, and the family's economic security; cultural and religious affiliation; and psychological problems such as mental illness. A study of such proportions, however, would entail more time, personnel and finances than were available. It therefore became necessary to consider the study within a more concise framework. For this reason the study was limited to certain selected socio-economic problems of the families of juvenile delinquents. In general these were the problems studied: earnings; family size; marital stability; families' attitudes toward religion and education; the concern, or lack of it, for the delinquent; the living accommodations, and the contacts the families had with social agencies. To provide greater depth for the present study it seemed worthwhile to set it up as a comparison between two economic areas within the same city, in this instance, the City of Winnipeg. In other words, the present study is a comparison of certain selected socio-economic problems of the families of juvenile delinquents in two areas of the City of Winnipeg. This in turn, raises the question: Do families of juvenile delinquents have different social problems depending on socio-economic status and place of residence?

Due to the extent and size of the problem facing families and their delinquent children, knowledge about its various aspects is

necessary in order to cope with the situation. In social work many such aspects of family problems are encountered and by different types of agencies. These agencies are constantly trying to improve the services they offer to the community. At this point in time the Winnipeg Juvenile and Family Court was interested in conducting studies on juvenile delinquency as it was concerned with many aspects of this. At the same time Logan Neighbourhood House, a social agency which provides group programs and referral services, was interested in the problems of families of delinquents and how it could improve the services offered to families in its community which is considered a relatively poor economic area. Thus it was, that the particular subject with which this project was concerned emerged from the interest expressed by the Winnipeg Juvenile and Family Court and by Logan Neighbourhood House in the problems of families of juvenile delinquents. For purposes of comparison, families of delinquents living in a presumably higher economic area were studied, as well as the families in the Logan Neighbourhood House area.

Accordingly the emphasis of this study was placed on the families rather than on the delinquents themselves. It was also decided that the study was to be concerned only with the socio-economic problems experienced by these families of juvenile delinquents in the two areas of the City of Winnipeg. The study included only those families in the Logan Neighbourhood House and South Winnipeg areas whose delinquent child was known to the Winnipeg Juvenile and Family Court during the period from January 1, 1958 to December 31, 1958. Hereafter in this report Logan Neighbourhood House and South Winnipeg areas will be referred to as Area A and Area B, respectively.

Thus it was, that this study set out to prove the hypothesis that families of juvenile delinquents have certain social problems depending on socio-economic status and place of residence. It was the study's intention, insofar as it was possible within the time limits of a student thesis, to examine what problems were characteristic of the families of juvenile delinquents in each particular area. It was anticipated that this study would show that families in Area B would have a higher level of earnings than would the families in Area A. It was also felt that there would be marital instability in the families in both of these areas. Furthermore, it was assumed that the parents in families of Area B would show more concern for their delinquent children than would the parents in the families of Area A. The attitudes of the families toward religion and education, it was expected, would be different in the two areas. It was suspected, too, that there would be a larger number of families known to social agencies during the period of January 1, 1954 to December 31, 1959 in Area A than in Area B. The size of households was also assumed to be larger in Area A than the size of households in Area B. Lastly, the study anticipated that most families in Area B would own their own homes, whereas most families in Area A would be renting their living accomodation.

In reviewing the literature it was found that it could not provide a guide in terms of precedent for a limited study such as this, with the major focus on the "family". It did seem valuable, however, to draw from the literature in the related fields of probation, treatment of delinquency, and studies on the delinquent himself in order to further clarify the thinking and point up the focus of the study. Chapter II is

devoted to a more detailed review of this literature.

Chapter III describes the methods used in this study. It sets forth the scope and limitations of the project and defines terms which might otherwise be misinterpreted. The study was based on the raw data pertaining to the social and economic aspects of the families of the juvenile delinquents from the two areas under consideration. These aspects concerned certain broad but basic facts which, hopefully, would give an enlightening picture of the families themselves. Data on the family constellation, marital status, living accommodation and earnings was obtained. An attempt was made to determine whether the parents showed concern for their delinquent children. Material was also collected on the families' relationship to the community in terms of their contacts with social agencies, and activity in religious or religious-sponsored groups.

The sources of the material were the records of the Winnipeg Juvenile and Family Court and the 1959 Taxation Statistics from the Federal Department of Labour. The latter was used to obtain figures on the average earnings of the various occupational groups in which the families were found. The Research Department of the Winnipeg School Board was also used to provide information on the child's standing in school wherever this was not found in the records.

The schedule method was used to extract the desired information from 180 files of the Juvenile and Family Court in Winnipeg. This number represented the total number of families of juveniles who committed offences under the Juvenile Delinquent's Act during the period under

study, and hence constituted the entire universe of the study undertaken, rather than a sample of cases. The schedule consisted of fifteen questions to which simple answers were sought, with provision to answer as "unknown" if no answer could be found.

There were certain limitations in the method used to gather the material. Since agency records were used, it was not possible to obtain a deep estimation of personal attitudes of the parents of the juvenile delinquents, as would be determined in the use of personal interviews, for example. Furthermore, the records were often scanty and, as a result, some of the questions had to be answered as "unknown". This naturally has had an effect on the final results.

In Chapter IV the data for the two areas are compiled and analyzed. These comparisons were demonstrated either graphically or in tabular form. Comparisons are made on the basis of percentage of total number of cases studied in each area.

In the final chapter, the findings are summarized in relation to the assumptions made and the results evaluated in relation to our hypothesis.

CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND LITERATURE

In recent years much has been written on the subject of juvenile delinquency. Various authorities in the fields of religion, sociology, psychology, probation and parole, have expounded their views on the general problem, its possible cause and treatment. While studies are going on, not only in America but also in Britain and Europe, it seems worthwhile to review selectively some of the current thinking on this growing problem. More specifically, for the purpose of this particular study, some of the views expressed pertaining to the role of the family in our present day society merit inclusion in this report. While such opinion is often couched in broad terms, some relationship has been suggested between the modern technological impact on the psychological, economic and sociological aspects of family living and an ever-increasing incidence of delinquency.

As our society has become more urban the complexity of all living has increased. The resulting confusion is characterized by rootlessness and anonymity, intensified by the need to succeed and by the over-emphasis on popularity and sociability. This is well expressed by Wm. C. Kvaraceus, as follows: "Researchers in the delinquency field have pointed out the indulging nature of the delinquent's personality which lives out the infantile pleasure role. This style of living finds strong

reinforcement in the adult way of life in most homes".¹

The purpose of the family is to set ideals and standards of behaviour. In recent times, however, it is felt that the primary unit of society, namely, the family, is not fulfilling this role to the extent that it has in the past. This study hopes to show one aspect of the family's acceptance of certain ideals and mores through their attitudes towards religion and education. In this regard it is interesting to note that Donald R. Taft claims that "the children are out of the home much more than formerly and the parents, especially the mother, spends far less time in the home than in the past. The home may still train the child to inhibit his emotions, but it is also a growing source of emotional tension".²

In the sub-hypotheses of this study certain assumptions were made regarding various socio-economic pressures facing the families in the two areas. These related to the income of families, home ownership, and contact with community agencies. Pertinent to the direct effect of such pressures on family life are Taft's views on this subject:

The family atmosphere has become increasingly competitive rather than cooperative because of an increased strain to keep up with the Joneses. Greatly increased mobility has brought the traditional family into contact with many different norms of behaviour. The family has also become more independent of the larger kinship group which tended to pass on a common tradition.³

¹W. C. Kvaraceus, "Some Cultural Aspects of Delinquency", Federal Probation, March 1959, pp. 8-12.

²Donald R. Taft, Criminology, 3rd ed., New York: The Macmillan Company, 1956, p. 186.

³Ibid., p. 187.

The data on marital instability in this study has been helpful in assessing the broken home in relation to juvenile delinquency. In a recent Settlement House study Ruth S. Tefferteller⁴ indicates that there is a higher preponderance of inadequate parental guidance or broken homes, combined with other social and economic pressures where parents were unable to deal successfully with their children. Many parents do not take the control that is necessary and do not set limits which all children need and want. If parents are weak and ineffective, then children suffer from a lack of identification and emulation in the home and so need to go elsewhere to find standards of behaviour. An extreme situation of faulty parental attitudes is described by Bossard and Bell,⁵ as they speak of parents who themselves have a criminal ethical code. These are parents who encourage the wrong kind of independence in their children and advocate gang life as a way of living.

There are many aspects to parent-child relationships. To derive some information, albeit in only small part, of parent-child relationships in the cases used for this study data was gathered relating to concern of parents for their children. In the literature on this subject a large number of writers have dealt with the unconscious psychological implications inherent in parent-child relationships. For example, Joseph A. Shelley⁶ describes the inconsistent or too-permissive parent who finds vicarious gratification of his own forbidden impulses in the delinquencies

⁴Ruth S. Tefferteller, Delinquency Prevention Through Revitalizing Parent-Child Relationships, Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science, March, 1959, p. 69.

⁵J. Bossard and E. Boll, Rituals in Family Living, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1956.

⁶Joseph A. Shelley, "Dynamics and Treatment Needs of the Adolescent", National Probation and Parole Association, 1956, pp. 106-115.

of his child. This theory indicates strong unconscious motivations on the part of parents who, if they were aware of such feelings, would probably be aghast at their own impulses. He also points out that delinquency is more likely to occur in those situations in which over-protectiveness is based on a deep, unconscious rejection of the delinquent child by the parent.

John M. Gandy suggests a broader approach to assessing familial problems as he says, "Many families of juvenile delinquents function poorly and generate a great deal of tension due to financial problems, or emotional conflicts, or both".⁷ Translating this view to the present study, it was found that, using the factors of financial stress and emotional strain, in combination, the data collected lent themselves to more significant interpretation.

The foregoing points up the double threat to the family's functioning - from without, in terms of the greater intensity of competitiveness in material achievement, and from within, in terms of parent-child relationships. That the outer influences have a bearing on the inner forces of family structure is well known. In more immediate terms, insofar as the delinquent is concerned, the authorities quoted show agreement that the family construction of parent-child relationships has insidious effects on family life, and interferes with the family's functioning as it attempts to fulfill its role as the primary social group.

⁷John M. Gandy, "Preventive Work with Street Corner Gangs", Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science, March, 1959, p. 107.

CHAPTER III

METHOD

This chapter is devoted to a detailed description of the method used in gathering material for this study - whence it was derived, how it was collected and processed, and the method set up for analysis. Attention is given to the limitations imposed on the study by the very nature of the material collected; conversely, expectations from the findings, even beyond the scope of this study, will be touched upon. Inasmuch as certain terminology in this study is used within the framework of specific meaning, a list of definitions-in-use is included. Similarly, units of classification are set out, indicating the manner in which the data is classified for purposes of analysis.

The major source of the data collected was from the court record of the offender. The official court form describing the offence provided the name, age, sex, school grade, and address of the offender, the marital status of the parents, the number, sex and age of the siblings, the date of the offence, occupation of the parents, and family participation in church or church-sponsored groups. A supplementary sheet detailing the disposition of the case also indicated whether or not the parents of the delinquent appeared in court at the time of the hearing of the case.

The names of other agencies to which the family is known, and date of such agency contact, were included in the file. Additional sources of data were (a) the Directory of the City of Winnipeg, 1958; (b) the Winnipeg School Board; and (c) the Taxation Statistics, 1959, of the Taxation Division, Department of National Revenue, Ottawa. From (a), the type of dwelling occupied by the delinquent and his family, and ownership of home by the parents were ascertained; from (b), school achievement for those offenders whose school grade was not shown on the court record was learned; and from (c), the annual average earnings by occupation was determined. The occupations referred to on the Schedule (Appendix A), were classified in accordance with the listing of occupations in the Taxation Statistics, 1959, of the Dominion Taxation Division. This provided the basis for computing earnings of the families in the two areas.

The Schedule used for collection of the necessary data is included in the Appendix, marked Appendix A.

Definitions:

Specific meaning has been given to certain terms used in this study. Listed below are the definitions-in-use of such terminology:

- Geographic areas - The two areas known as Logan Neighborhood and South Winnipeg, investigated in this study, were selected on the basis of economic difference.
- Area A - Designation given to Logan Neighbourhood, bounded as follows: from Higgins Avenue and Arlington

Street east towards the Red River, south along the river course to Notre Dame Avenue East, west along Notre Dame Avenue to Arlington Street, thence north along Arlington Street to Higgins Avenue and point of origin.

Area B

- Designation given to South Winnipeg, bounded as follows: from number 1335 Wellington Crescent, east to 700 Wellington Crescent, south along Stafford Street to Corydon Avenue, west on Corydon Avenue to Cambridge Street, south on Cambridge Street to Mathers Avenue, west on Mathers Avenue to Lindsay Street, thence north to Wellington Crescent and point of origin.

Family

- A family consists of the parent(s) or guardian(s) and sibling(s) with whom the delinquent was living at the time of his offence.

Household

- A household is composed of those persons, related or not related to the delinquent, who are living in the same dwelling as the delinquent.

Common-law union

- A common-law union is regarded as a marital union in which the partners are not legally married to each other.

Apartment

- An apartment is a living unit in an apartment block or a house.

Concern

- In this study concern refers to parental "concern" as recorded by the police and/or

the appearance of parent(s) or guardian(s) at the court at the time of apprehension or the court hearing.

- Employed - Refers to any regular activity for which the person receives monetary payment.
- Occupation - Refers to a job as classified under the job classifications as found in 1959 Taxation Statistics, page 9.
- Religious group - Refers to a group in which formal presentation of religious teaching takes place, such as found in churches, synagogues and their Sunday schools.
- Religious sponsored groups - Refers to groups who meet in churches or synagogues but do not necessarily have religious content in program activities.
- Marital instability - In this study marital instability refers to the marital status of the parents of the delinquent who may be separated, divorced or living in a common-law union.
- Behind in grade achievement - Means the child is two grades behind the grade he should be in accordance to his age, based on school entrance in grade one at age six.
- Average in grade achievement - Means the child is in the grade he should be in according to his age, based on school entrance in grade one at age six.

Ahead in grade achievement - Means the child is one or more grades ahead of the grade he should be in for his age, based on school entrance in grade one at age six.

Units of Classification:

For the sake of greater clarity and facility in the interpretation and analysis of the material gathered, units of classification were assigned to particular areas of information within this study. Marital instability was inferred from the following classifications of marital status: separated, divorced, and common-law union. Concern was determined on the basis of whether parents showed concern, or parents did not show concern. Whether a family was shown to be active or not active in religious or religious-sponsored groups indicated awareness of religion. Educational achievement of the delinquent was assessed under three classifications, as follows: behind in grade; average in grade; and ahead in grade. The number of agencies, other than the court, to which the family was known was arrived at on the basis of the following breakdown: one agency; two agencies; three agencies; and four or more agencies. The size of households was based on the number of persons living in the same dwelling as the delinquent, broken down into the following units: 2 persons; 3 persons; 4 persons; 5 persons; six persons; 7 persons; and 8 or more persons. The living accommodation was classified as house or apartment, and further described as rented or owned. The income of families, based on annual average earnings by occupation as

listed in the Taxation Statistics, 1959, and distributed within a range from \$2,100 to \$13,500, was classified in units of \$500. The occupations were classified as follows: Professional - farmer, fisherman, salesman, lawyer, accountant, investor, nurse, and unclassified professional; Business proprietor - wholesale trade, manufacturer, retail trade, construction, and unclassified business; Employees - institutional employee, municipal employee, federal employee, business enterprises employee, business enterprises service employee, teacher, and unclassified employee.

The scope of the study included the following: the size of the household of the juvenile delinquent; the marital status of the parents; living accommodation of the family; concern shown by the family for the juvenile delinquent; the economic status of the family; other agency contact with the family, and the attitude of the family toward religion and education.

The limitations of the study are described below:

1. The time period extends from January 1, 1958 to December 31, 1959, inclusive.
2. The families studied were those of juvenile delinquents who had come into contact with the Winnipeg Juvenile and Family Court during the time period stated.
3. Family instability was inferred in terms of marital status.
4. Dependence of families on community help was assessed in terms of whether they were known to social agencies.
5. The attitude of families towards education and religion was inferred from the school achievement of the delinquent, and

the affiliation, or non-affiliation, of members of the family with a religious or religious-sponsored group.

6. The level of earnings was derived from the occupation of one or both parents; the figures of earnings were based on the annual average earnings by occupation, as contained in the Taxation Statistics, 1959, of the Taxation Division, Department of National Revenue, Ottawa.
7. The 1959 Taxation Statistics were based on 1957 figures.

The original intention of the study was to expand its scope to include emotional, psychological and sociological interaction both within and outside the family group. An initial schedule was drawn up to provide such data. It is contained in the Appendix and marked Appendix "B". The pilot run, based on this schedule, revealed that such an undertaking was quite beyond the facilities available. Inasmuch as the major source of data was to be the Court record of the delinquent, the contents of this record became, at once, the governor and controller of the study. To obtain the optimum data from the facilities available the schedule was redesigned, as shown in Appendix "A". As a result, however, limitations had to be imposed. The following areas of investigation were eliminated: evidence of family cohesion; racial origin; moral standards of parents; discipline of the child by the parents; supplementary source of income; community consciousness; attitude of the family to alcohol; illegitimacy; and leisure-time activity.

Such limitations, however, do not preclude the use of the findings beyond the confines of the material examined. Directly, family interaction could not be evaluated; indirectly, however, concern for the child could point up family strength and support. Directly, social and moral values of the family could not be assessed; indirectly, through school achievement and religious affiliation, the findings could provide clues to the family's encouragement of educational achievement. In this way the findings of the present report should reveal the underlying dynamics of family environment of the delinquent, both within the family and in relation to the community. The occasional social history, in conjunction with the statistical findings, was useful in throwing light on a subject requiring much careful exploration and study.

Statistical analysis of the data gathered, set out in tables and graphs, and interpretation of the findings, are given in Chapter IV. The initial step, after the raw material was collected, was to divide it geographically into the two areas of origin, namely, Area A and Area B.

The Court records were drawn from the complete universe of files for the calendar period January 1, 1958, to December 31, 1959. All cases of juvenile delinquents whose families lived either in Area A or Area B were included in this study. The total number of cases in the original collection was 193. Of this number 10 were discarded as they referred to siblings of delinquents whose files were already drawn. Duplication of family data would invalidate the findings. Two cases were withdrawn as the delinquents were only recent boarders in the

areas designated as their residence. One case was eliminated as the offence was committed prior to the period under study. This left a balance of 180 cases. Of this number 139 originated in Area A, and 41 in Area B. The difference in the number of cases in each area is taken into account in the statistical analysis presented in Chapter IV.

Analysis of the data is carried out as follows:

In a comparative table of the two areas, the school achievement is shown by indicating the number (and percent) of each category who were "Behind in school", "Average in school", "Ahead in school", and for whom such data was "Unknown".

Using a graph, the size of households in both areas is indicated in separate intervals of one to seven, and a further interval of eight or more. The number of families falling into each interval is expressed in percent.

Marital union of the parents of the delinquents is shown in a comparative table under the following headings, with the number and percentage from both areas falling under each classification: "Yes", meaning previous marital union; "No", meaning no previous marital union; and "Unknown", where such information was not available.

The marital status of the parents of the delinquents is analyzed in a table under the headings of married, separated, divorced, father widowed, mother widowed, common-law, or unknown, where such information was not given.

The type of dwelling occupied by the family, and ownership of home, is shown in a table under the designations of "house", or "apartment". In those cases for which such information was not

available, these are shown as "unknown". Similarly, whether a dwelling was owned or rented is also tabulated. Where no such information was given, such cases are described as "unknown".

By the use of a graph, marked off in intervals of 1 to 4, the number of agencies to which the families were known are illustrated for both areas. Those cases for which this information was not obtainable are called "unknown".

The distribution of the earnings of one or both parents is analyzed using the annual average earnings by occupation based on the 1959 Taxation Statistics, at intervals of \$500. A bar graph is used for comparison of both areas. The scale of earnings ranged from \$2,100 to \$13,500.

The number of families in each area, and the percentage, showing or not showing concern, is indicated in a comparative table. "Unknown" referred to those cases for which such data was not available.

The participation of families in religious or religious-sponsored groups is shown, by number and percentage for each area, under the headings of "Active", "Not Active", and "Unknown"; where such data was not given, a comparative table is used.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

In this chapter the raw data gathered for investigation of the problems experienced by families of juvenile delinquents in Area A and in Area B are examined to point up the comparisons and/ or contrasts between the two areas. For the most part, the statistical results are tabulated, although in several instances these are presented graphically. While each problem has been analyzed separately, several problems have been compared with interesting results.

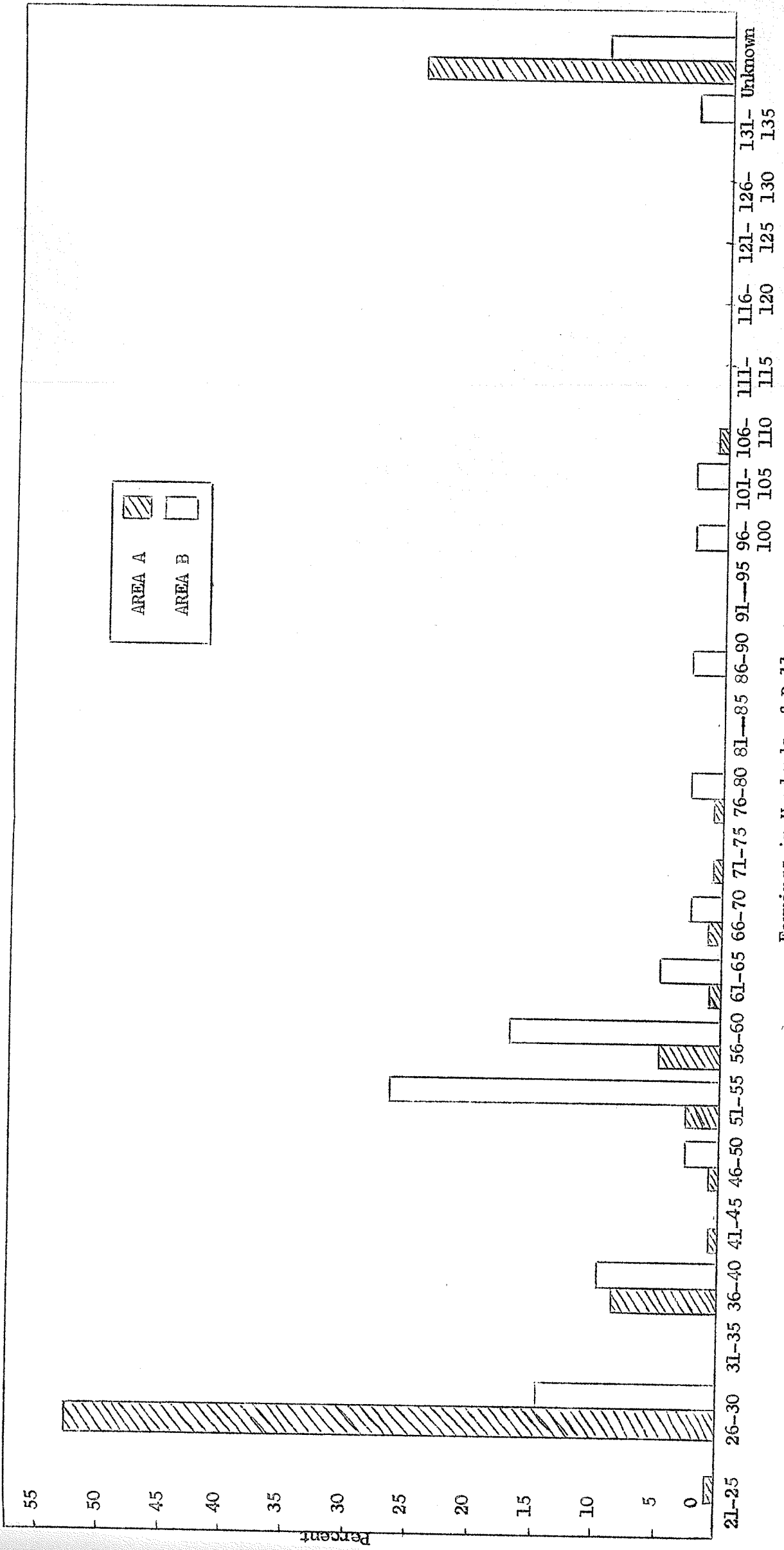
1. Level of Earnings

At the outset of this study it was assumed that the data would show that families in Area B have a higher level of earnings than families in Area A. To test the validity of this assumption, the initial step was to assess the annual average earnings by occupation. The source of this information was the 1959 Taxation Statistics. It should be noted that where applicable, earnings of both parents or guardians were recorded. This amounted to 19 families in Area A, or 14.7 percent, and 4 families in Area B, or 9.7 percent. Thus, as far as the information available was concerned, the total earnings of the families was recorded.

The following graph clearly illustrates the range of earnings for the families in the two areas. Of the families in Area A, 52.7

FIGURE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF EARNINGS IN HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS OF FAMILIES
IN AREA A AND AREA B



therefore are not apparent in terms of marital stability.

percent fall within the income interval of \$2,600 to \$3,000, whereas only 14.7 percent of the families in Area B fall within this interval. It is significant that 19.2 percent of the families in Area B fall within or above the \$6,100 to \$6,500 interval, while only 4.2 percent from Area A fall within or above this interval.

From this information, as was expected, it was found that generally families in Area A have lower earnings than do families in Area B. It is important to note that these findings show that the levels of earnings in Area B are more widely spread across the income range than those in Area A.

2. Marital Status

In the following table, indicating the marital status of the parents of juvenile delinquents, it is of significance to note the high proportion of parents who were married and living together in both areas, particularly in Area B. Conversely, by totalling the other categories which represent homes where both parents are not present, we see that the figure is 22.0 percent for Area A, and only 4.9 percent for Area B.

It is only in Area A that there is incidence of marital instability through separation (17.9 percent), common-law union (8.6 percent), and divorce (2.9 percent). The problems in Area B, therefore, are not apparent in terms of marital stability.

Although it was not anticipated, the high percentages in both areas where the parents are married and in the household, indicate that most of the delinquents do not come from broken homes.

FIGURE 2

MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS IN FAMILIES OF
JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Classification	AREA A		AREA B	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	139	100	41	100
Married	90	64.8	38	92.7
Separated	25	17.9	-	-
Divorced	4	2.9	-	-
Father widowed	2	1.4	-	-
Mother widowed	1	0.7	2	4.9
Common-law	12	8.6	-	-
Unknown	5	3.7	1	2.4

3. Previous Marital Unions

The statistical information obtained on Previous Marital Unions shows such a great percentage of unknowns in both areas that it is not possible to draw any valid conclusions from them.

The percentages for Area A were as follows: Unknown, (60.6 percent), no previous marital union, (7.9 percent), some previous marital union, (31.5 percent). In Area B, Unknowns were (90.2 percent), no previous marital union (4.9 percent), some previous marital union, (4.9 percent).

However, in examining the data pertaining to marital status, it can be seen that the incidence of marital instability corresponds with the statistics pointing up previous marital unions.

FIGURE 3
PREVIOUS MARITAL UNIONS

	AREA A		AREA B	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	139	100%	41	100%
Yes	21	31.5	-	4.9
No	11	7.9	2	4.9
Unknown	107	60.6	39	90.2

4. Concern Shown by Parents for their Delinquent Children

Figure IV presents the data gathered on parents who show or do not show concern for their delinquent children. While it had been anticipated that the parents in the higher economic area would be more interested in their delinquent children as shown by their appearance at the court at the time of apprehension or the court hearing, than parents in the lower economic area, this figure does not bear this out. It is interesting to note that only in Area A does the study show that families show no concern for their delinquents to the extent of 10.8%.

These statistics show that within our definition of concern, parents in both areas were about equally concerned with their delinquent children.

FIGURE 4

PARENTS SHOWING CONCERN FOR THEIR DELINQUENT CHILDREN

	AREA A		AREA B	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	139	100%	41	100%
Show Concern	108	77.8	33	80.5
Show No Concern	15	10.8	-	-
Unknown	16	11.4	8	19.5

5. Participation of Families in Religious or Religious-Sponsored Groups

This figure indicated the extent of religious participation in the families of Area A and of Area B. It is significant that activity in religious groups or religious-sponsored groups occurred in only 20 percent of the families in Area A, as compared to 40 percent in the families in Area B.

It is interesting to note that 20.4 percent of the families in Area A were not active in religious activity, while a much smaller percentage, 7.3 percent were not active in Area B.

Because of the lack of information available in the source material, the unknown factors were high in both areas - 59.2 percent in Area A, and 53.7 percent in Area B. As a result, it is difficult to draw any valid conclusions in either area with regard to participation in religious or religious-sponsored groups.

FIGURE 5

PARTICIPATION OF FAMILIES IN RELIGIOUS OR RELIGIOUS-
SPONSORED GROUPS

	AREA A		AREA B	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	139	100%	41	100%
Active	28	20.4	16	39.0
Not Active	28	20.4	3	7.3
Unknown	83	59.2	22	53.7

6. School Achievement

To assess the educational achievement in both areas, the following comparative tabulation was devised, using the classifications of "Behind in School", "Average in School", and "Ahead in School".

It is noted that in Area A, by far the largest percentage (43.0 percent) were behind in school, whereas the largest percentage (51.3 percent) in Area B were average in school.

It can be concluded that Area B, because of the larger percentage found to be in the "Average" or "Ahead" classifications, shows that the parents in Area B have a more favourable attitude towards education.

FIGURE 6

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT OF DELINQUENT CHILDREN

Classification	AREA A		AREA B	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	139	100%	41	100%
Behind in school	60	43.0	13	31.7
Average in school	41	29.5	21	51.3
Ahead in school	1	0.7	4	9.7
Unknown	37	26.8	3	7.3

7. Families in each Area having Contact with Social Agencies

This figure shows the number of contacts families in both areas have had with social agencies for a four-year period prior to 1960.

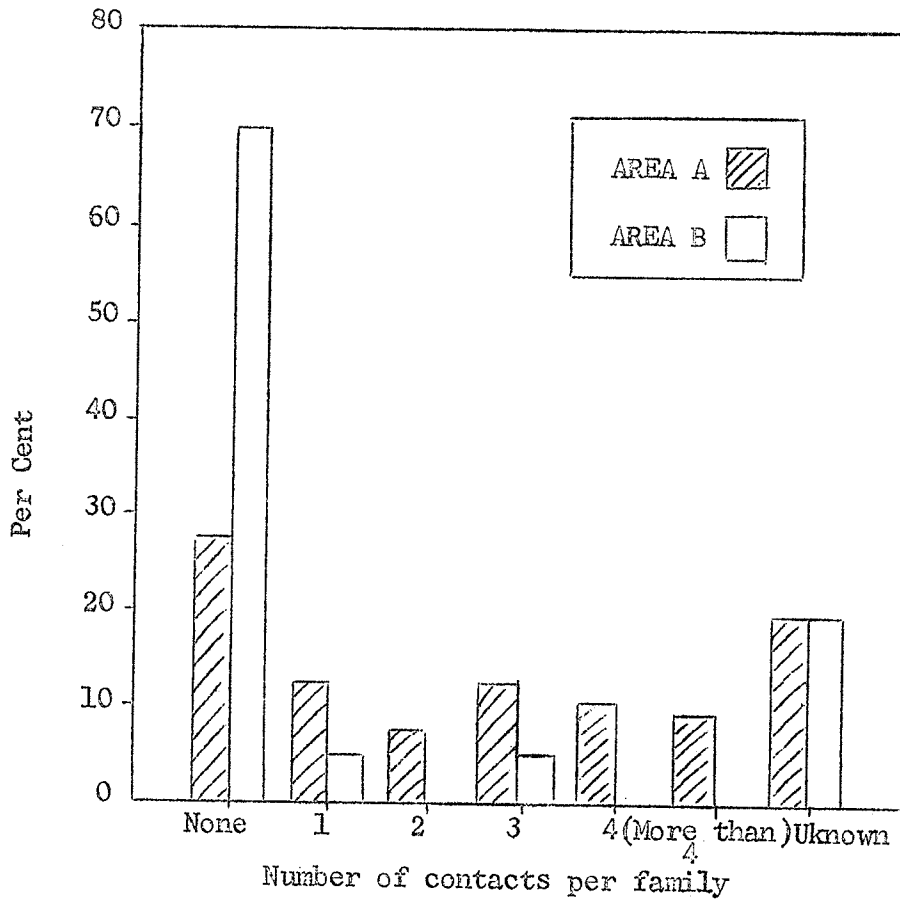
As indicated from these findings, there were fewer families in Area B known to social agencies than in Area A, the percentage being 70.7 percent and 27.4 percent respectively.

For Area B, the total number known to social agencies was evenly divided between one and three agencies, with 4.9 percent of the families known to each.

Area B families have higher earnings as seen in Figure 1, which may imply that they either manage their own problems, or else pay for their professional services as required. This in turn implies that in Area A there is a greater dependence on the community for professional help in social functioning.

FIGURE 7

PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN EACH AREA HAVING CONTACT WITH SOCIAL AGENCIES



8. The Size of Households in the Two Areas

This graph represents a comparison of the size of households in the two areas. Looking at the distribution of the percentages of households having between 3 and 6 members, it can be seen that Area A has 61.8 percent, while in Area B this accounts for 90.1 percent of the households. There is a greater range in the size of households in Area A than in Area B.

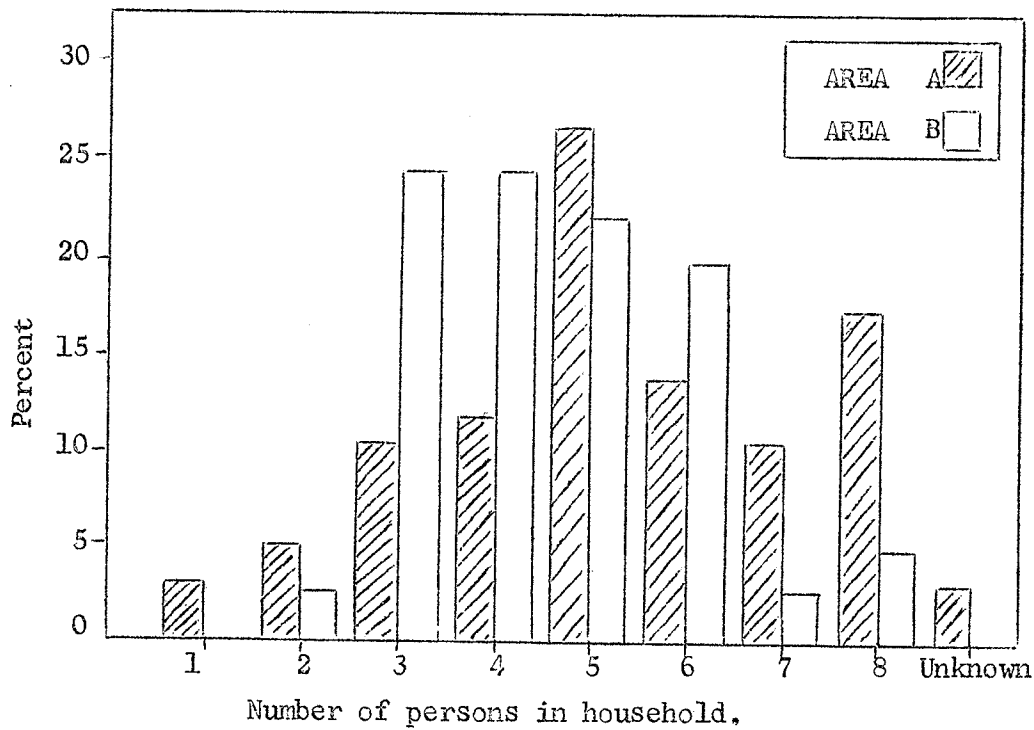
Thus the mean size of families in Area A is 5.2 persons, while in Area B, it is 4.6 persons. Thus it can be concluded that

families in Area A are larger than the families in Area B.

In comparing the results of this Figure with those of Figure 1, it can be seen that both larger families and lower incomes occurred in Area A, while the smaller families and higher incomes occurred in Area B.

FIGURE 8

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS OF
DELINQUENTS IN AREA A AND AREA B



9. Living Accommodation

The following table sets out, in comparative form for the two areas, the living accommodation and whether it is owned or rented.

It can be seen that in Area A 51.9 percent of the families

live in houses, while in Area B 90 percent live in houses. Further, in Area A, 6.5 percent own their homes, while in Area B, 75.6 percent own theirs.

The results as stated above would indicate that there is a relation between home ownership and economic status. As Figure 1 indicates, the economic standard in Area B is higher than in Area A. For this reason, more families in Area B are in a position to own their own homes.

It has been shown in Figure 8 that the size of households in Area A is larger than in Area B. Because of the higher financial standard of the families in Area B (see Figure 1), they have more opportunity to purchase housing in keeping with the size of their families. Conversely, the greater percent of the families in Area A rent their accommodation.

FIGURE 9

TYPES OF LIVING ACCOMMODATION OCCUPIED BY
THE FAMILIES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Classification	AREA A		AREA B	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	139	100%	41	100%
Live in house	72	51.9	37	90
Live in apartment	55	39.4	3	7.3
Unknown	12	8.7	1	2.7
Own their own home	9	6.5	31	75.6
Rent their home	114	82.0	7	17.0
Unknown	16	11.5	3	7.4
Total	139	100%	41	100%

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

In this chapter, general pictures of the families of juvenile delinquents in the two areas are compared. The conclusions arrived at from the collected data, are referred to the assumptions posed in Chapter I, and the validity of the hypothesis in the light of these findings is discussed. The study, its method, findings and limitations are evaluated; conclusions are drawn, and suggestions for future studies are made.

In comparing the families of the two areas, the study has not used any established norm or average. Thus, the comparisons are only in relation to the other area and as a result, one area can only have more or less, be higher or lower, in any particular instance, than the other area.

Area A

In Area A the families of juvenile delinquents have lower earnings than the families in Area B. This fact alone, to some extent, accounts for some of the other characteristics that described Area A. Certainly it is related to the fact that most of the families rent living accommodation rather than own it, and that many more families live in apartments rather than houses. In this area the families are

larger which means that less money must provide for more people than in Area B.

While there was some incidence of marital instability, most juvenile delinquents did not come from broken homes in this area and a high percentage of the parents showed concern for their delinquent children. The number of contacts families had with social agencies was much greater than the number of contacts families had in Area B.

So far as religion and education are concerned, families in Area A seemed to have very little contact with religion or religious-sponsored groups and, generally speaking, the educational level of achievement was not as high in Area A as in Area B.

Area B

In Area B the families have a considerably higher level of earnings than in Area A. Indeed, more than three quarters of the families in Area B have earnings higher than families in Area A. This suggests the reason for a larger percentage of families in Area B owning their own homes than those in Area A. Since so few of the families in Area B have had contacts with social agencies this may also be a result of having more money and fewer people in each household to spend it on. It may mean that services of a nature provided by social agencies, such as counseling and hospital services, are paid for privately.

The lack of apparent marital instability in this area is most noticeable, yet in neither area did a high percentage of the juvenile delinquents come from "broken homes". The percentage of

families in both areas showing concern was also very high.

Finally, the families of Area B showed some participation in religious or religious-sponsored groups but only slightly more than in Area A. Educationally, the juvenile delinquents of the families in Area B were further ahead in their achievement than those in Area A. A much greater percentage of them were average or ahead in Area B than in Area A.

In Chapter I in support of the hypothesis that families of juvenile delinquents have certain social problems depending on socio-economic status and place of residence, certain assumptions were made as to what the study would show. These were the assumptions made: (1) that families in Area B would have a higher level of income than families in Area A; (2) that there would be marital instability in the families in both areas; (3) that the parents of families in Area B would show more concern for their delinquent children than the parents of the families in Area A; (4) that the attitudes of the families towards religion and education would be different in the two areas; (5) that a larger number of families in Area A would be known to social agencies during a specific period than the families in Area B; (6) that the size of households in Area A would be larger than the size of households in Area B; and finally (7) that most families in Area B would own their own homes while most would not in Area A.

With regard to the first assumption, the data show that it is correct. Families in Area B do have a higher level of earnings than families in Area A.

The second assumption needs a more detailed discussion.

It was suggested by the fact that in some previous studies of delinquency it had been found that juvenile delinquents tended to come from broken homes. The data found in this study do not entirely bear out this assumption. By far the largest percentage of families were not broken (as indicated by marital instability) in either area; further, in both areas by far the largest percentage of families had both parents in the home. In fact, only in Area A was there any discernible amount of family breakdown, as indicated by marital instability, and this, only in about one third of the cases studied. It is possible that if the number of cases in Area B had been greater there might have been some indication of family breakdown. But, as these cases constituted the whole universe of cases for the period under study, and not just a sample thereof, this argument does not seem to hold. Therefore, it can safely be said that, within the limitations of this study, the majority of juvenile delinquents did not come from broken homes in either area.

The third assumption dealing with concern of the families shown for the juvenile delinquents was also shown to be not true. Families in both areas showed a high incidence of concern for their delinquent children. By looking at the concern expressed by parents it was hoped that some implication could be made from this data as to parent-child relationships in the families in this study. Although there are underlying psychological factors suggested by the recorded expressions of concern, it can only be concluded that location or area is not a variable in the parent-child relationships. It is

necessary to look for other clues which will point up the difficulties anticipated with regard to this problem.

The fourth assumption which proposes that the attitudes towards religion and education in the two areas are different, was dealt within separate parts. With regard to religion, participation in religious or religious-sponsored groups was taken to indicate favourable attitudes, and non-participation, unfavourable attitudes. The number of cases in both areas for which data were unobtainable makes generalizations highly questionable. The data have shown, however, that there seems to be a slightly more favourable attitude towards religion in Area B than in Area A.

With regard to education, the achievement of the juvenile delinquent in school was taken to be the indicator of a favourable or unfavourable attitude on the part of the families towards education. The juvenile delinquents in Area B showed a much higher percentage in the "Average in grade achievement" or "Ahead in grade achievement" classifications than did the juvenile delinquents in Area A. Conversely, the juvenile delinquents in Area A showed a higher percentage in the "Behind in grade achievement" classification than did the juvenile delinquents in Area B. Thus it can be said that the families of the two areas did have a difference in attitudes towards education, and that the families in Area B show a more favourable attitude than the families in Area A.

The fifth assumption which stated that a larger number of families in Area A would be known to social agencies during a specific

period than the families in Area B was shown to be correct. More families in Area A had a greater number of contacts with social agencies than did the families in Area B.

The sixth assumption, dealing with the size of households, has also been shown to be correct. The households in Area A are larger than the households in Area B. This, coupled with the fact that the families of Area A have a lower income, may give rise to many of the other problems of these families such as those dealt with in this study. This investigation does not purport to show that the problems, or lack of problems, of families in either Area are the result of the economic status of the families.

The data related to the seventh assumption has shown that most families in Area B own their own homes, whereas most families in Area A rent living accommodation. This assumption grew from the oft-heard theory¹ that families of juvenile delinquents live in over-crowded quarters and under poor living conditions. As an indication of this, the study assumed that the families owning their accommodation would be more likely to buy adequate housing for their needs, whereas families renting would not be able to do so to the same extent. Here the difference in the problems of the families in the two areas may be most apparent. In Area A not only do most families rent accommodation, but a far larger percentage

Robert E. L. Ferris, Social Disorganization, Second Edition, New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1955, p. 201; Joseph S. Roucek and Roland L. Warren, Sociology, An Introduction, Ames, Iowa: Littlefield, Adams and Company, 1956, p. 132.

rent apartments than do families in Area B. This seems to uphold the theory of over-crowding amongst the families of juvenile delinquents in Area A. On the other hand, in Area B where families own their homes they are presumably better able to provide the room they need for the number of persons in the household is smaller, and less crowding is likely to occur. Thus it would appear that this assumption is valid.

In the light of these findings the validity of the main hypothesis which stated that families of juvenile delinquents have certain social problems depending on socio-economic status and place of residence, can now be examined. Certainly this study has shown that place of residence is related to socio-economic status. The earnings of families in Area B were higher than the earnings of families in Area A. It must now be considered whether the problems studied were characteristic of the families of one Area or the other.

While there was incidence of marital instability in Area A, the overwhelming characteristic of both areas was the high degree of marital stability and presence of both parents in the home. The general conclusion, therefore, is that marital instability is not dependent on socio-economic status and place of residence for these areas.

The concern shown for the delinquents by the parents was evident in a very high percentage of cases in both areas. Therefore, this cannot be construed as being dependent on socio-economic status and place of residence.

The attitudes towards education have been shown to differ depending on the socio-economic status and place of residence of the family. Families of Area B show a much more favourable attitude towards education than do families of Area A. The attitudes of the parents of juvenile delinquents toward religion in both areas could not be accurately determined because of the lack of available information. From the information that was available it was found that Area B had a slightly more favourable attitude than Area A, but no conclusion can be made as to whether this is dependent on socio-economic status and place of residence.

Socio-economic status and place of residence certainly have been shown to make a big difference in the number of contacts the families have had with social agencies. Families of Area A have had many more contacts with social agencies than families of Area B. This, however, does not exclude families in Area B from having problems similar to those faced by families in Area A. But, it would seem they do not employ the same resources to cope with such problems.

It was shown, as had been anticipated, that the size of households is dependent on socio-economic status and place of residence. That is, families living in Area B have higher earnings and fewer members in the household than do families in Area A. Also, owning or renting living accommodation, be it house or apartment, has been shown to be dependent on socio-economic status and place of residence. Most families own houses in Area B while most families rent houses or apartments in Area A.

Thus, these problems were found to be dependent to some degree on socio-economic status and place of residence in this study: (1) attitude towards education, (2) contacts with social agencies, (3) size of households, and (4) ownership of living accommodation. Marital instability and concern shown for the delinquent were not found to be dependent on socio-economic status and place of residence in this study. Only the attitude towards religion could not be shown to be either dependent on or independent of these factors. Thus, within the framework of this study, of the seven sub-hypothesis on which data was gathered and analyzed, four proved the hypothesis to be valid, two proved it to be invalid, and one was inconclusive. It may safely be said, therefore, that for the most part the hypothesis has been upheld.

Any evaluation of this study must take into account the goals that the study set out to reach, its method of attaining those goals and its success or failure in meeting them. The goal, as has already been stated, was to see what social problems, based on socio-economic status and place of residence, the families in the two areas had.

The reliability of the study is indicated by the degree of conclusiveness with which the findings were able to prove the main and sub-hypothesis. There is evidence to show that this study is for the most part reliable within the limitations imposed upon it. As indicated previously, the findings have shown how similar or different the problems were in the two socio-economic areas. The findings,

however, do not appear to lend themselves to use in other situations. The reason for this lies in the purpose for which the study was intended, namely, for use by the Juvenile and Family Court of Winnipeg and Logan Neighbourhood House.

While a great deal has been learned about these families by comparing the different socio-economic areas, the findings have not been evaluated according to established norms, or standards, or against control groups representing similar areas populated by families of non-delinquents. This would tend to make the applications of the findings invalid outside of the areas under study, and hence, would limit the study's usefulness in other situations.

Because of the methods used, it was not possible to probe to any great depth in ascertaining psychological factors underlying marital instability, and parental concern for the delinquents. Although this study showed that in both areas there was a low percentage of marital instability, and a fairly high proportion of parents who showed concern according to our definitions, nevertheless a closer examination of other psychological factors, such as parent-child relationships, might reveal significant findings.

The study was designed to accomplish an examination of family characteristics which were varied, and broad in scope, rather than the probing of any one factor to a great depth. Nevertheless, it has provided at least a partial answer to the contentious question that juvenile delinquents come from broken homes, or homes in which marital instability exists.

Thus, it would seem that the very limitations of this study are suggestive for future studies. Although this study was not able to probe deeply into the family interaction, such investigation might possibly have revealed incidence of marital breakdown on an emotional level even though the marriage had not been severed by separation or divorce. Likewise, it would have been interesting to see if the families in the higher socio-economic area had the same type of problems that caused families in the lower socio-economic area to go to social agencies. Another area open to further study would be an investigation of parent-child relationships. Further studies might be undertaken to examine the psychological factors inherent in parent-child relationships. It is a temptation to extend the attitudes of families in the two areas toward religion and education, either singly or in combination, to wider interpretation suggesting awareness by the family of societal norms or mores. While this study was not carried out with any specific set of standards as a criterion, the attitudes of families in the spheres of religion and education may be taken as an acceptance of social consciousness -- a relating, as it were, to the community outside the family through an expression of practice held in value by society. However, these and other topics for study must be left for a deeper consideration in the future.

APPENDIX A

FAMILIES OF DELINQUENTS GROUP

No. _____

Name _____ Address _____

Birthdate _____ M. _____ F. _____

Grade at School _____

List name and relationship of persons to delinquent living in household:

Date of offence _____

Has either parent had a previous marital union? Yes _____ No _____
Unknown _____

What is the marital status of the parents of the delinquent?
married _____ common-law _____ unknown _____
separated _____ father widowed _____
divorced _____ mother widowed _____

What is the living accommodation of this family?
House _____ Apartment _____ unknown _____
Own _____ Rent _____ unknown _____

How many agencies other than the Juvenile Court has the family been known to during the period of January 1, 1954 to December 31, 1959?
_____ Unknown _____

Is the father employed? yes _____ no _____ unknown _____

What is his occupation _____

Is the mother employed? yes _____ no _____ unknown _____

What is her occupation?

Do parent show concern for child regarding the offence?
yes _____ no _____ unknown _____

What members of the family are active in religious groups or religious sponsored groups? _____

APPENDIX "E"

Family Constellation (Statistics)

- 1 - Name, address (at time of offence), birthdate and sex of the delinquent.
- 2 - Date of Offence:
- 3 - List the name and birthdate of persons living in household and relationship to the delinquent.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
.....
.....
.....
.....

4 - What is the marital status of parents of the delinquent?

- Married..... Divorced.....
- Separated..... Widowed.....
- Common-law..... Illegal union.....

5 - Has either of the parents been married previously? Yes.... No.....

6 - If parents separated or divorced, give dates:

7 - Indicate as is pertinent:

- House..... Apartment or flat.....
- Occupy all..... or part.....of house, apt. or flat
- Own..... Rent.....Other (explain).....

8 - Is the family Metis? Yes..... No.....

9 - Does mother demonstrate affection for child? Yes..... No.....

10 - Does father demonstrate affection for child? Yes..... No.....

11 - Do mother and father distinguish between right and wrong for child?
Yes..... No.....

12 - Is child allowed to stay up as late as he wishes every night?
Yes..... No.....

13 - If "no", what time must he be in on week nights?.....
On weekends?.....

14 - Does mother know what child does after school? Yes..... No.....

Appendix "B" - continued

- 15 - To what extent does the family participate in community affairs such as lodges, club, or other local groups. Answer "yes", "no", or "don't know". If answer is "yes", please specify.
- Father.....
Mother.....
Siblings.....
- 16 - With what agency, other than the Juvenile Court, has the family had contact, and how often during the period under study?.....
.....
- 17 - Does any, or all of the family attend church? Yes..... No.....
- 18 - Is father employed? Yes..... No.....
- 19 - What is his occupation?
- 20 - Is mother employed? Yes..... No.....
- 21 --What is her occupation?.....
- 22 - Is there another source of income? (describe).....
- 23 - Do the children receive a regular allowance? Yes..... No.....
Other.....
- 24 - Does the family allow liquor in the home? Yes..... No.....
If not, does any member of the family drink outside the home?
Yes..... No.....
Does any member of the family belong to A.A.? Yes.....No.....
- 25 - Do any members of the family have any religious affiliation?
Yes..... No..... If so, which members?.....
And What?.....
- 26 - Is there any incidence of illegitimacy in the family? Yes.....
No..... If yes, specify.....
- 27 - Does the family engage in any leisure time activity as a unit?
If so, what?.....
- 28 - Is educational achievement encouraged in this family? Yes.....
No..... To what level of achievement?.....

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