

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF APPREHENSIONS OF CHILDREN  
TO THE CARE OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF  
WINNIPEG IN THE CALENDAR YEARS OF  
1954 AND 1959

Being a Report of a Group Research Project Submitted in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the  
Degree of Master of Social Work

1961

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May, 1961.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to our faculty thesis advisers, Professors M. Roger and M. Robins are hereby expressed, in recognition of their unbounded patience and co-operation as well as their indispensable contributions and guidance throughout the course of this study. We are also in debt to Mr. H. Rogers, Acting Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg for his interest and help which was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Huxby, of the Metropolitan Planning Corporation, provided us with certain population statistics which have proved useful.

## ABSTRACT

This is a limited study involving a comparison of certain factors in the background of children apprehended by the Children's Aid Society in the years 1954 and 1959. The area of study involves such aspects as a general increase in the population of Greater Winnipeg, children with rural residence, children of Indian and Metis extraction, size of family, illegitimate children, children from separated families, age of child, and age of father and mother. Children apprehended in 1954 are compared to children apprehended in 1959, after relevant data was obtained from case records, and compiled on a schedule.

Major findings are:

Three main factors within the community as identified by our study appear to be contributing to increasing apprehensions. These are: increasing illegitimacy, increasing family breakdown, and increasing apprehensions of children from families who might be termed "newcomers" to our society.

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## CHAPTER I

This study is concerned with the increase in the number of children whose care cannot be provided in their own home.

While the care and protection of children in our society is generally deemed to be the responsibility of the individual parent, it sometimes happens that parents, for various reasons, are unable to maintain a minimum standard of care as dictated by the community of which they are a part. When such an occurrence arises, it becomes society's responsibility through certain nominated social agencies to provide adequate substitute care for children who are considered to be neglected according to the standards of their environment. In simple terms, then, it could be stated that our society has demonstrated not only a concern, but a moral obligation to protect the children of its members who are for various reasons denied a minimum standard of physical and emotional well being necessary for their maturation and growth into healthy and desirable citizens. In this area the Children's Aid Society of Greater Winnipeg is the social agency elected to perform the function of protector of children as authorized by the Child Welfare Act of Manitoba.

This particular study is concerned with the large increase in numbers of children who have come into the care of the Children's Aid Society in recent years. The agency has noticed a radical increase in apprehensions particularly between the years 1954 and 1959. Naturally,

one is led to wonder what social changes and forces within the community may have contributed to the observed phenomenon. Knowledge of causation provides the basis for agency planning in both treatment services and preventive measures. Thus our study is primarily interested in ascertaining specific social changes or the existence of certain trends in our society which may have contributed to the rather spectacular increase in the numbers of apprehensions of children by the child caring agency in the last five years.

The problem was presented by the Children's Aid Society to a group of second year students in the School of Social Work of the University of Manitoba. The School of Social Work is naturally extremely interested in the problems of children and with the functioning of social agencies so that the problem presented certainly falls within the area of concern of the school and its students. Similarly social workers are interested in social changes in the city of Winnipeg, particularly as they may affect the family system and the interaction of its members within the community. It is evident that some of the consequences of social changes may lead to family malfunctions, to promoting family breakdown, and to handicapping the ability of the family to provide proper care for its children.

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics involved it would be necessary to examine almost every area of family functioning and social change, and changes within the Children's Aid Society itself. Such is not the intent of this study. It is proposed to limit the considerations to certain specific measurable aspects of the problem

which may in a small way help to shed some light on the overall picture.

It is generally accepted that expansion involving industrialization and urbanization may cause a certain degree of individual and family disruption. In many cases, the old family system has become inadequate in adjusting to the demands of a modern high-powered community. Expansion involves newcomers who must adjust to a new set of morals and values or else be in disharmony with the overall standards of the community. The process of adjustment is not always easy and individuals and families must face hardships with which they cannot always cope. Emotional upset and material deprivation may develop inability to care and provide for children as demanded by community standards. Some of these factors will be of interest to the study in an effort to determine some factors that may be affecting increasing apprehensions.

In our society family breakdown is generally the result of the interaction of a variety of forces upon individuals as members of families. What changes have occurred in these forces influencing this particular segment of the population during the last five years? It is hoped to identify some of these changes by examining certain features of the backgrounds of the families of the children apprehended.

To sum up, then, the main hypothesis of the study is:

The increase in the number of apprehensions of children by the Children's Aid Society of Greater Winnipeg is related to certain changes in the population of Greater Winnipeg.

As indicated by the above hypothesis our concern is largely centered around social changes within the population and the resultant effect produced upon a specific segment of the population whose inappropriate



adjustment has brought them to the attention of the Children's Aid Society. It is hoped that it might be possible to determine the relative incidence of these social changes through an examination of certain background information which is available in the Children's Aid Society records.

The study group recognized that the project would be more complete if all the years in the given period could be analyzed, but through limitations of time and an awareness of our own limitations as researchers it was decided to confine the scope of the study to a comparison of certain factors occurring in the two years 1954 and 1959. This provided us with the widest possible basis of comparison available, in that 1954 constitutes the year prior to the noted increase, whereas 1959 constitutes the most recent complete year where the data is available.

In considering the various aspects of the problem which may have affected the overall situation it was first suggested that there had been a notable increase in the general population of Greater Winnipeg during the last five years so that the relative increase of children apprehended might not be as great as it appeared. It was decided to examine the population figures for the years 1954 and 1959 to determine the rates of apprehension in both years on a proportionate basis.

Another aspect for consideration involved the risk of maladjustment assumed by families to new environments. Families migrating from rural areas to Winnipeg must adapt themselves to the demand roles of the community or else find themselves in conflict and disharmony with the approved and accepted social standards and values which must be maintained at least at a minimum level as dictated by the overall community.

Immigrant families face even greater problems of adjustment to a new environment because of the difference in language and culture, and it is therefore postulated that breakdown in these families may be a factor contributing to increasing apprehensions. The Indian and Metis segment of our urban population is another group which encounters difficulty in adjusting to a demanding industrialized society whose goals and values are incredibly different from those learned in their relatively simple and uncomplicated society which has seen little recent change. Exact statistics related to these migrant families are not available, but we intend in our examination of files, to determine whether the increase has come from this group. We ask then, how frequently were children admitted to the care of the Children's Aid Society from immigrant families, rural families, or Indian and Metis families. Were these frequencies higher in 1959 than in 1954?

Sociologists suggest that the process of industrialization and urbanization may produce a weakening in family solidarity as well as a lessening of many of the traditional family values. Family units have become smaller, less dependent upon one another, much more mobile, and in general encounter much more stress than in the past. Larger families are somewhat handicapped in competing in our society since they may lack the resources and mobility required for successful competitive functioning. It is generally believed that the lower socio-economic classes have the largest families. We are led to wonder therefore how often children apprehended by the Children's Aid Society are members of large families and if this frequency has changed noticeably

from 1954 to 1959.

Changing family values and morals involve a lessening of controls over children who now have a tendency to seek emancipation and independence at a younger age. How often do they marry too young and find themselves unable to provide proper care for their children? It will therefore be of interest to see whether or not parents of children apprehended were younger in 1959 than in 1954 in an effort to establish whether or not younger marriages have contributed to increased apprehensions.

Carrying this thought a little further, it has been pointed out by sociologists that in an industrialized society a weaker marriage has been substituting for the more stable unions of the past. We have seen a generally increasing public acceptance of divorce, separation, and common law unions. This can be equated with the lessening family solidarity already mentioned. Has then increasing family breakdown contributed to the noted increase? Our study will determine whether or not this factor is evident in the backgrounds of the children to be studied.

The foregoing speculations concerning the probable effect of certain social changes within our society upon apprehensions by the Children's Aid Society will be summed up in the sub-hypotheses which are to follow. At this point it is evident that the problem is one of great complexity involving changes in broad areas of social functioning which are in constant flux and transition in response to the demands of society. There is no singular or simple answer, but perhaps certain changes and trends can be isolated which may be significant in promoting at least a little better understanding of the overall problem.

The sub-hypotheses which support the main hypothesis of this study are:

The increase in the admission of children to the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg is related to the increase in general population in Winnipeg.

More children from families with previous rural residence were admitted to the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg in 1959 than in 1954.

More children from immigrant families were admitted to the care of the agency in 1959 than in 1954.

More Indian and Metis children were admitted to the care of this agency in 1959 than in 1954.

More children from a specific age group were admitted to the care of the agency in 1959 than in 1954.

More illegitimate children were admitted to the care of the agency in 1959 than in 1954.

More children from families with four or more children were admitted to the care of this agency in 1959 than in 1954.

The parents of the children admitted to the care of this agency in 1959 were younger than those of the children admitted in 1954.

More children from broken homes were admitted to the care of this agency in 1959 than in 1954.

No comparable studies related to our topic could be found, so that our reading was limited to general material related to sociology, ecology, and population. This will be more fully elaborated in Chapter II.

In Chapter III, the method and procedure of this study will be dealt with extensively. For now it might be well to reiterate that the data was primarily obtained from files of the children studied at the Children's Aid Society of Greater Winnipeg. Therefore, the study is restricted to the information collected wholly at the Children's Aid

Society of Winnipeg. A schedule will be prepared and compiled for each child in the study group as a means of gathering the necessary data from the file. Information not available in the files, such as population figures, will be obtained from the Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Greater Winnipeg.

Then, in Chapter IV, an analysis will be made of the data obtained. Since this material will be primarily used for comparative purposes, showing characteristics of the apprehensions of 1954 and 1959, extensive use will be made of tables to portray this most clearly. A specific interpretation of such material will also be included.

In the fifth chapter, the findings will be summarized and related to the supporting hypotheses. The results, thus evaluated, will permit conclusions to be drawn, with respect to the hypothesis. Finally, attention will be directed to any inconclusive findings which suggest the need for further study.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

As mentioned in Chapter I, it was felt that a review of the literature would be helpful in providing background information for the study. The focus of the study is centered upon population change so that most of the material selected is of a sociological nature.

The sociologists contend that the tremendous increase in population has taken place chiefly during the past two centuries. This explosive growth is closely related to scientific improvements in food production, health practices and general living conditions, that were fostered by agricultural and industrial revolutions.

With specific reference to Canada, other factors contributing to population growth were: higher birth rates over falling death rates from 1941 to 1956, and mass immigration from the European continent. According to Canada Year Book<sup>1</sup>, the admittance of immigrants between 1913 and 1957 reached the number of 4,124,246. The total number of immigrant arrivals in the post-war period 1946 to 1957 was 1,669,340. In addition to the continued growth of the population and the upswing in

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<sup>1</sup> Canada Year Book 1959, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

the birth rate, a number of other important trends can be detected in the census data.<sup>1</sup> One of these is the continued decline in the rural population. The reduction in the farm population resulted from a huge migration of young persons from farms to urban areas where job opportunities increased as rural jobs decreased.

Around the turn of the century Canada was mainly a rural country. By 1956 she had emerged as one of the foremost industrial and urbanized nations in the world.<sup>2</sup> In the 1901 census only 37.1 per cent of the total population resided in the urban centres, whereas by 1956 the proportion of Canada's population residing in the urban areas reached the record high of 67.2 per cent.

It is supposed that a rural family moving to urban centres will find a multitude of new conditions to which they will be bound to adjust. Pauline V. Young comments that "the population of a rural community is usually more homogeneous, less mobile, and not so highly stratified. In general, social interaction in rural areas is more intimate; social control is largely persuasive; behaviour is more closely regulated by the mores and the folkways; and the status tends to be assigned in relation to the whole personality rather than on the basis of segmented roles."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Census of Canada 1956, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Pauline V. Young, Scientific Social Surveys and Research. (3rd ed.) New York: Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, 1956, p. 495.

In reference to the urban community Gordon Ericksen states that "urban society is a masslike society not merely because of increased aggregates, but also because the people are unattached, floating, without roots in the soil of the social order."<sup>1</sup> He goes further to say that "a true expression of this is the migratory (r immigrant worker who has no claim on anything to give him rights and status. He has no permanent job, no organization, therefore no services to bank upon because of his mobility."

In regard to the immigrants, and their difficulties in adjustment Wilensky and Lebeaux<sup>2</sup> state that the immigrants face the social problems of adjustment, feelings of insecurity induced by the industrial system, problems of poverty complicated by language barriers, value conflicts and clashes between the younger and older generation due to faster assimilation of their children.

In modern industrial civilization a set of social trends that constitute virtually a slow social as well as industrial revolution has had fundamental effects on the population, especially on the family institution. The transformation to a complex industrial and commercial system, the migrants and vertical mobility of populations, the loss of continuity with the past of many areas, the detachment from community life, and the invention of many labour-saving devices for the household, these and

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<sup>1</sup>Gordon E. Ericksen, Urban Behavior. New York: The MacMillan Co., 1954, p. 168.

<sup>2</sup>Harold L. Wilensky and Charles N. Lebeaux, Industrial Society and Social Welfare. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1958, pp. 56-61.



other developments have altered the family from a large, settled, traditional, and sacred institution of kinship to a small, isolated secular household. The trend of industrialization has also replaced many of the functions hitherto carried out by the family, so that they are done more cheaply and efficiently elsewhere, thus reducing some of the importance of the family, and some of its basis of solidarity. Dr. William Ogburn observes that "the traditional family was held together by six bonds: economic, protective, religious, recreational, educational and social status."<sup>1</sup> In the analysis Dr. Ogburn points out that the economic function of the home has gradually been lost as the factory, store, bakery, laundry, etc., took over. The religious bonds have been taken outside the home or abandoned altogether. The protection has been increasingly in the hands of outside agencies. The recreational bonds have lost their hold as civic, commercial, and school recreational activities have increased. Education has gradually shifted to include younger and younger ages. The kindergarten and nursery schools have lessened home responsibilities. Social status once was transmitted through the family, but in urban modern society a youth can escape the reputation of his family, and be rated on the basis of his own earned qualities. One function remaining to the family that is clearly institutional and incapable of being shifted to any other institution without a revolutionary change in Society," concludes Dr. Ogburn, "is

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<sup>1</sup> William F. Ogburn, "The Family and Its Function", in Recent Social Trends in the United States. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1933, Vol. I, pp. 661-708.

the bearing and rearing of children."

Dr. J. Roby Kidd, in his article "External Influences Bringing About Changes in Family", emphasizes that, "Industrialization has brought a higher standard of living, created more jobs and brought to an end some of the problems that formerly beset, crippled or destroyed many a family, but at the same time has changed the family life, thus reducing family functions at home. Shifts in economic arrangements may produce negative effects.

The present widespread use of consumer credit now means that an entire generation of young people hold and share different values in regard to thrift than do their seniors. The created jobs take away mother and father for many hours a day as wage earners. The church no longer exercises the effect on family life that it once had, nor does the larger family group, the grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. The primary family of parents and children are much more on their own than has often been the case in other times, and other cultures."<sup>1</sup>

Dr. A. M. Meerloo points out that, "an individual has become a cog in a wheel, which is itself a small part of a bigger machine. In the process of automation human relations are threatened with disruption because the machine takes away the idea of individual human services."<sup>2</sup> Judge V. Lorne Stewart of Toronto, in his

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. J. Roby Kidd, "External Influences Bringing About Changes in Family Life." Canadian Family Study 1957-1960, undertaken by: The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation, pp. 15-16.

<sup>2</sup> Foost A.M. Meerlco, M.D., Ph.D. "The Development of the Family in the Technical Age." in Emotional Forces in the Family, edited by Samuel Liebman, M.D., Philadelphia. Montreal: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1959, p. 3.

article "Family Breakdown", states that "a predominant source of the trouble was found in the home itself - highly charged with emotional instability, and filled with immaturity and conflict."<sup>1</sup> Judge Stewart points out that over seventy per cent of delinquent children in Metropolitan Toronto spring from homes in which the under-the-roof climate and culture is characterized by misunderstanding, recriminations, unstable and immature conduct on the part of parents, quarrelling and friction and an inconsistent code of personal standards. He refers to a study conducted in 1955 in Metropolitan Toronto, and stresses that some 1,518 children were found to be delinquent in this area; 1,993 children were found to belong to homes in which there was acute neglect; 3,422 husbands and wives gave evidence in Court about the break-up of their marital lives. Judge Stewart cites one example of a mother who asked him to place her children to make it possible for her to go to work. Asked how long she had in mind for this holiday from the kitchen, she replied "I would like to work for ten or fifteen years, but would like to see the children every six weeks."

August B. Hollingshead points out that "the family cycle is broken prematurely in the working class about twice as frequently as it is in the middle classes. Community studies indicate that from one fourth to one third of working class families are broken by divorce,

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<sup>1</sup> Judge V. Lorne Stewart, "Family Breakdown", in Canadian Family Study 1957-1960, undertaken by: The Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation, pp. 10-11.

desertion, and death of a marital partner. Family instability is a product of the conditions under which most working class families live. In the first place, they are completely dependent on the swings of the business cycle in our wage price-profits system, for the working class family is almost invariably supported by wages earned by the hour, the piece, or the week. The economic insecurity is but one of a number of factors that give rise to instability."<sup>1</sup>

In discussing physical and emotional neglect, Dr. J. Bowlby states that, "physical neglect is most often due to economic factors, the ill health of the mother, and ignorance; emotional neglect is the result of emotional instability and mental illness in the parents."<sup>2</sup>

Kaspar D. Naegele, in his paper, "Children in Canada: Present and Past", stresses that "Canada as an industrial society faces certain dilemmas. As Canadians we are stretched, as it were, between wanting urban comforts and rural freedoms, stable homes and adventurous lives, improved standards of living and the avoidance of the crasser forms of materialism, a diversified society and a generalized kind of decency."<sup>3</sup>

The literature suggests that all of the phenomena we have observed may be expected to remain, but they can be expected to diminish in quantity in the future. However, there will always remain

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<sup>1</sup> August B. Hollingshead, "The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," Vol. 272 (November 1950), pp. 39-46.

<sup>2</sup> John Bowlby, M. A., M. D., Child Care and the Growth of Love. London & Tonbridge; The Whitefriars Press Ltd., 1957, pp. 88-89.

<sup>3</sup> Kaspar D. Naegele, "Children in Canada: Present and Past". Canadian Conference on Children, October 1960, Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia, p. 20.

a residual amount of disorganization, but the costs to society may be low and easy to carry.

Robert Faris suggests that "the most important new factors which may be expected to maintain a new level of stability are the new level of knowledge and wisdom in the population, produced by the spread of education and of instruments of mass communication, and the development of scientific research in matters of human behavior and organization."<sup>1</sup>

The literature is useful indirectly in providing background information which helps to provide a basis for the study. Nothing could be found which was directly applicable to the topic but nevertheless much interesting helpful material has been garnered. The scope of the literature selected is indicative of the complexity of the problem that was studied.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert E. L. Faris, Social Disorganization. New York: The Ronald Press Co., 1955, p. 652.

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

This chapter will be devoted to the analysis and presentation of data as described in the previous chapter.

It was found that, in the two years under study, the total number of apprehensions were 188 and 375 respectively, thus showing an increase of 100 per cent in the number of apprehensions, from the year 1954 to the year 1959.

It was found that the population of Greater Winnipeg, excluding St. Boniface, increased from 352,621 in 1954 to 405,366 in 1959, this being an increase of 52,745 or 14.9 per cent. The apprehension of 188 children in 1954 represents 0.54 apprehensions for each 1,000 of population in this year; and 375 apprehensions in 1959 represent 0.94 apprehensions of each 1,000 of population, thus showing an increase of 0.4 apprehensions for each 1,000 of population for the year 1959 over the year 1954.

In the following analysis, the figures representing the findings of this study are related to the 84 cases in 1954 and 168 cases in 1959, which constitute our sample. The findings will be expressed as percentages of the samples in the two years, and compared as such, thus showing a possible change in the composition of apprehensions as related to the backgrounds of the children involved in the two years.

re-apprehensions of children will be obtained from the Registration of Apprehensions Book, of the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, for the years studied.

The required information, about each child apprehended, to answer the questions raised by the hypotheses set forth in Chapter I, will be recorded on a schedule prepared for this purpose.

An initial test of the schedule was made using a few of the files of children apprehended in 1954 and 1959.

This information was compiled and analyzed. It was found that the schedule met all requirements and no revision was necessary. A copy of the schedule can be found in Appendix I.

To determine the children to be studied, a method of sampling by regular intervals<sup>1</sup> will be employed. The monthly listings of children apprehended and listed in the Registration of Apprehension Book, for the year of 1954 and 1959 will be used.

A fifty per cent sample of all cases was selected for use by the group. It was found that in the year of 1954, the total number of children apprehended was 188 cases, a 50% sample being 94 cases. In 1959, the total number of children apprehended was 375 cases, a 50% sample being 188 cases.

As the schedules were being completed, it was found that

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<sup>1</sup> Pauline V. Young, Scientific Social Surveys and Research.  
(3rd ed.) Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall Inc., 1956, p. 308.

material recorded was occasionally contradictory or ambiguous. Information regarding residence of family prior to apprehension of the child or children, was lacking in some cases. It was further noted that the age of the father and mother in some cases was either not recorded, unknown, or stated an approximate age. Similarly, it was found in some cases that children who were apprehended in 1953 or 1958 respectively, were not registered until 1954 or 1959.

It was therefore found necessary to discard ten of the children's files of 1954 and twenty of the children's files of 1959, because of the previously mentioned factors. These files were totally discarded, the finding being accepted as a limitation of information available.

This reduced the sample to 84 cases in 1954 and 168 cases in 1959 to be studied.

Thus the study is concerned with a total of 252 cases wherein related factors may exist pertinent to the problem.

There are basic limitations in method which will be discussed later in this chapter. Terms of reference and areas of study are defined as clearly as possible so that the required material could be recorded and analysed.

Following are definitions of terms used in this study which have not been previously defined:

1. Child -

Any boy or girl under the age of 21 years, apprehended by the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg.

2. Parents -

The natural or legal parents of a child (children).

3. Family -

The child apprehended, its parents, if any, its siblings,



if any, as recorded on the face sheet of the file.

4. Apprehension (apprehended) -

Any child brought into the custody of the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg.

5. Re-apprehension (re-apprehended) -

Any child apprehended more than once by Children's Aid Society whether in year 1954 or 1959, and recorded as such in the file.

Following are the units of classification and method of analysis as used in this study in relation to the hypothesis.

Two sets of like characteristics will be compared for two different periods of time, namely, the calendar years of 1954 and 1959.

It is not the purpose of this study to explain the increase of the numbers of apprehensions of children by the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, or find factors operating in the year of 1959, which have not, or did not exist in the year of 1954, which might be responsible, or even partly so, for the increase. A limitation is that a set of suspected contributing factors in one year will be compared to the same set of factors in another year. If in the analysis it should appear that any combination of the factors in the composition of the groups are meaningful, they will be spelled out in Chapter IV. All results will be expressed in table form in Chapter IV.

The total number of apprehensions in 1954 and 1959 will be counted and the totals for each year will be compared to the population figures for that year, to determine if there is a real increase in the number of apprehensions.

In this study the City of St. Boniface will not be included in the population figure of Greater Winnipeg, as this area is not served by the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg.

The number of re-apprehensions in 1954 and 1959 will be determined and compared to the number of apprehensions in respective years, to determine if the increase is influenced by an increase in the number of children re-apprehended.

In considering the hypothesis concerning families with previous rural residence, this study will consider those families who have had their residence anywhere in Manitoba, except the cities of Brandon, Portage la Prairie, and Greater Winnipeg, one year prior to the apprehension of one or more children of that family, to be families with rural residence.

The number of children apprehended in 1954 with previous rural residence as compared to 1959 shall be determined, to see if all, or part of, the increase lies in the group moving from the rural to the urban areas. We would like to determine if the increase in rural families is proportionate to the population increase in Greater Winnipeg, however these figures are not available and we were thus unable to do so.

In considering the hypothesis concerning immigrant families, this study will consider only those families in which prior to the apprehensions of one or more of their children, either or both partners immigrated to Canada on or after January 1st, 1946.

Similarly the number of children apprehended with immigrant status in 1954 will be compared to 1959.

Concerning separated families, for this study, such a family will be considered in which one or both of the natural and/or legal parent is absent owing to death, divorce, desertion, legal separation; this classification also includes illegitimacy. This group will be compared in the same way as the previous group as to quantity found in the total group in 1954 and 1959.

Concerning families with four or more children, for the purpose of this study, will be so classified when it is recorded in the child's file, that the child apprehended had three or more siblings.

The number of children apprehended who had three or more siblings will be determined and compared 1954 as to 1959.

Concerning Indian or Metis children, this study will consider any child wherein it is recorded on the child's file either as such, or parents as such.

The number of children apprehended who were Indian or Metis will be determined and the number in each year will be compared.

In considering the hypothesis concerning illegitimate children, for this study only those children so classified in the Children's Aid Society file as illegitimate, will be considered.

The total number in each year will be compared and the increase, if any, determined.

Concerning age groups of children, for this study, the age of the child will be calculated to nearest birthday at date of apprehension.

The following units of classifications were established: from 0 years - 1 year of age, over 1 year - 3 years of age, over 3 years to 6 years of age, over 6 years to 10 years of age, over 10 to 13 years of age, over 13 to 16 years of age, over 16 years of age.

The number of children apprehended who were in the age groupings will be determined, to see in what grouping there has been a real increase or decrease.

In considering the hypothesis concerning age of parents, for this study the age of the father and mother will be calculated to nearest birthday at date of child's apprehension.

Age groupings of five year intervals were established commencing at 15 years and under to 40 years or over, inclusively.

The age group in which most parents were at time of child's apprehension will be determined. The average age of parents, of apprehended children, will also be determined.

Owing to the lack of comparable studies in the area, the analysis is limited wholly to the information collected at the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg.

The method of analysis having been described, the following chapter will set forth the actual analysis of the material obtained.

## CHAPTER III

### METHOD

In Chapter One it was stated that the focus of the study would be on factors concerning the population of Winnipeg, which might be related to the problem of the increase in apprehensions of children, by the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, in the calendar years of 1954 and 1959.

The specific factors to be examined, and about which certain theories were formulated, were children with rural residence, size of family, immigrant children, children of Indian or Metis extraction, illegitimate children, children from separated families, families with four or more children, age of child, age of father and mother, general increase in the population, total number of apprehensions and re-apprehensions by the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg.

The primary source of data will be the individual child's file kept by the C. A. S. of Winnipeg. The face sheet and the social history record will be the source of the necessary data.

Information regarding population of Greater Winnipeg, population of ethnic groups, such as Indian or Metis, birth rate figures, will be obtained from the Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Greater Winnipeg.

Information regarding total numbers of apprehensions and

To give an understanding of the numerical increase and also a composition to the 100 per cent increase in total admissions, the numerical change of findings between the two years is expressed in per cent as the gross increase.

It has been suggested by the assistant executive director of Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, that a contributing factor to the noted increase may be the fact that if one child is apprehended more than once within the same year, an increase will appear, as every apprehension is counted as a separate item. The findings confirm the assumption, although the number of cases involved is very small, and the findings can therefore not be seen as conclusive. In 1954 two children (2.4 per cent) were re-apprehended. Eight (4.8 per cent) children were reapprehended in 1959; the increase therefore is 2.4 per cent.

The first group of findings deals with the concept of the adjustment of families who came to Winnipeg and out of a different environmental background. This group comprises children, who were apprehended by Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg and who came from families with previous rural background, from immigrant families, and those who had Indian or Metis background. Table 1 compares the findings for these three groups.

TABLE 1

ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND OF  
CHILDREN APPREHENDED IN 1954 AND 1959

Child's back-ground	No. of child. apprehended in 1954	No. of chil. apprehended in 1959	% of 1954 sample	% of 1959 sample	Differ. between '54 & '59	Gross Increase %
Rural	7	25	8.3	14.9	+ 6.6	257.0
Immigrant	3	8	3.6	4.8	+ 1.4	167.0
Indian or Metis	13	46	15.5	27.4	+11.9	254.0

The smallest increase was established with children from immigrant families. Three children apprehended in 1954 became eight children in 1959. This marks a gross increase of 167 per cent in the number of children apprehended in these two years. The immigrant children apprehended in 1954 made up 3.6 per cent of all children apprehended in this year. The eight children apprehended in 1959 constitute 4.8 per cent of the apprehensions, thus showing an increase of 1.4 per cent.

Next are children with Indian or Metis background. Thirteen such children were apprehended in 1954 and forty-six in 1959. Here

the gross increase was 254 per cent. The number of apprehended Indian or Metis children represent 15.5 and 27.4 per cent of the total apprehensions and show therefore an increase of 11.9 per cent. Closely following are children from families with previous rural residence with a gross increase of 257 per cent. The number of such children apprehended were seven in 1954 and twenty-five in 1959. These figures made up 8.3 and 14.9 per cent respectively for the two years of the total number of apprehensions, thus increasing by 6.6 per cent.

In comparing the increase in the number of apprehended children coming from a different environmental background it was realized that these characteristics are not exclusive. The fact that a child comes from a family with rural background does not exclude from the group Indian or Metis, or vice-versa. A further breakdown shows that the number of apprehended children coming from families with previous rural residence and being also either Indian or Metis has increased from four in 1954 to thirteen in 1959. These children made up 4.8 per cent of the sample in 1954 and 7.7 per cent in 1959, thus showing an increase of 2.9 per cent. The increase of four children to thirteen children in the two years represents a gross increase of 325 per cent.

The following table 2 shows the distribution of children apprehended to seven age groups.



TABLE 2

AGE GROUPS OF CHILDREN  
APPREHENDED IN 1954 AND 1959

Age group	No. of children in 1954	No. of children in 1959	% of sample in 1954	% of sample in 1959	Incr. or decr. betw. '54 & '59
0 to-1	39	78	46.4	46.4	-
1 to-3	13	23	15.5	13.7	-1.8
3 to-6	12	22	14.3	13.1	-1.2
6 to -10	8	17	9.5	10.1	+0.6
10 to-12	5	10	6.0	6.0	-
12 to-16	6	17	7.1	10.1	+3.0
16 over	1	1	1.2	0.6	-0.6

In two age groups, 0 - 1 and 10 - 12, the number of apprehensions in 1959 was double that of 1954, therefore being in accordance with the 100 per cent increase in total apprehensions. The age 0 - 1 made up 46.4 per cent of the total apprehensions and the age group 10 - 12 6.0 per cent in both years. The biggest increase was found to be in the age group 12 - 16, where the apprehensions went up from six to seventeen, a gross increase of 180 per cent. The number of these apprehensions are 7.1 and 10.1 per cent of the total apprehensions, and thus shows an increase of 3.0 per cent. This is followed by a lesser increase in the age group 6 - 10, where the number of apprehensions went up from eight to seventeen respectively in the two years. In the age group 16 and over, the number of apprehensions remained the same, namely one. The remaining two age groups, 1 - 3 and 3 - 6, showed a gross increase of seventy-seven and eighty-three per cent respectively. As these

gross increases fall below 100 per cent, they represent a decrease of 1.8 and 1.2 per cent of the percentages of the total apprehensions.

It therefore can be said that the composition of children according to age groups within the two years has not changed significantly except for the group aged twelve to sixteen.

In the next table the number of illegitimate children apprehended is presented.

TABLE 3  
NUMBER OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN  
APPREHENDED IN 1954 and 1959

No. of illeg. chil. apprehended in 1954	No. of ill. child. appr. in 1959	% of sample in 1954	% of sample in 1959	Difference in %	Gross Increase in %
41	86	48.8	51.2	2.4	110.

Here we see that the number of forty-one illegitimate children apprehended in 1954 has increased to eighty-six, or by 110 per cent in 1959. Although the actual number of illegitimate children has more than doubled, the increase in the proportion of illegitimate children to the total number of apprehensions has only increased from 48.8 to 51.2 per cent, or 2.4 per cent.

Looking at apprehended children, who came from families with four or more children, an increase was also noted.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF CHILDREN APPREHENDED IN 1954 AND 1959 AND  
COMING FROM FAMILIES WITH FOUR OR MORE CHILDREN

No. of child. with 3 or more sibl. appr. in 1954	No. of child. with 3 or more sibl. appr. in 1959	% of sam- ple in 1954	% of sam- ple in 1959	Difference of %	Gross Increase in %
28	70	33.3	41.6	8.3	159

Twenty-eight children with three or more siblings were apprehended in 1954 and seventy such children in 1959. The gross increase was therefore 159 per cent. In 1954 a third (33.3 per cent) of all apprehensions were children with three or more siblings, whereas in 1959 this proportion was 41.6 per cent, thus increasing by 8.3 per cent.

The analysis of the age of fathers and mothers of children apprehended in the two years was limited by the fact that the age of parents was not always available in the files, from which these data were gathered. In 1954, out of 84 samples, the age of sixty fathers and seventy-five mothers could be established, and in 1959 out of 168 samples, the age of only 118 fathers and 141 mothers was stated. The average (arithmetical) age of fathers was found to decrease from 35.5 years in 1954 to 32.8 years in 1959, and that of mothers from 28.4 years in 1954 to 27.8 years in 1959.

TABLE 5

AGE GROUPS OF FATHERS OF CHILDREN  
APPREHENDED IN 1954 AND 1959

Age group of fathers	No. of fath. in 1954	No. of fath. in 1959	% of sample in 1954	% of sample in 1959	Decr. or incr. in %
15 & under	-	-	-	-	-
15 to-20	2	5	2.4	3.4	+0.6
20 to-25	9	24	10.7	14.3	+3.0
25 to-30	11	23	13.1	13.7	+0.6
30 to-35	6	16	7.1	9.5	+2.4
35 to-40	10	24	12.0	14.3	+2.3
40 & over	22	26	26.6	15.5	-10.7
Age unknown	24	50	-	-	-

In the proportion, the number of fathers in the different age groups, making up the sample, it was found that the only significant change was in the group forty and over. In 1954 twenty-two (or 26.6 per cent of the sample) fathers aged forty and over were counted, whereas there were twenty-six (or 15.5 per cent) of such fathers in 1959, thus showing a decrease of 10.7 per cent. All other age groups show a very small increase between the two years, the biggest being 3.6 per cent for the age group 20-25.

Proceeding in a like manner we get the following result with mothers of apprehended children:

TABLE 6  
AGE GROUPS OF MOTHERS OF  
CHILDREN APPREHENDED IN 1954 AND 1959

Age group of mothers	No. of moth. in 1954	No. of moth. in 1959	% of sample in 1954	% of sample in 1959	Incr. or decr. in %
15 & under	-	1	-	0.6	+0.6
+15to -20	10	25	12.0	14.9	+2.9
+20to -25	18	34	21.4	20.2	-1.2
+25to -30	18	26	21.4	15.5	-5.9
+30to -35	13	27	15.5	16.1	+0.6
+35to -40	6	25	7.1	14.9	+7.8
40 & over	10	3	12.0	1.8	-10.2
Age unknown	9	27	-	-	-

The distribution of age groups of mothers of apprehended children in the two years is somewhat different from that of the fathers, as there was a decrease established with three age groups. Very similar to the fathers aged forty and over, there was a decrease established in the case of the mothers. In 1954 ten (12.0 per cent of the sample) mothers were at the time of apprehension of a child aged forty and over. Three were counted

in 1959, showing a decrease of 10.2 per cent as compared to a decrease of 10.7 per cent in the case of fathers. In the age groups 20 - 25 and 25 - 30 a decrease was also noted. There were 1.2 and 5.9 per cent less mothers in these two age groups in 1959 than in 1954, these percentages being the difference of the numbers of mothers in these age groups expressed as percentages of the sample of the two years respectively. On the same basis an increase was established within the remaining age groups. The biggest of 7.9 per cent for the age group 35 - 40. The smallest 0.6 per cent being for the group 15 or under where there was no such case in 1954 and one in 1959.

In the last finding an increase of broken homes was established for the year 1959 as compared with those of 1954.

TABLE 7  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN APPREHENDED IN 1954  
AND 1959 AND COMING FROM BROKEN HOMES

Number of children apprehended from broken homes in 1954	58
Number of children apprehended from broken homes in 1959	135
Percentage of the sample in 1954	69.0
Percentage of the sample in 1959	80.5
Difference in percentage	11.5
Gross increase in percentage	132.8

The gross increase of apprehended children coming from broken homes including illegitimate children was established as being 132.8 per cent, increasing from fifty-eight children in 1954 to one hundred and thirty-five such children in 1959. The number of these apprehended children constitutes 69.0 and 80.5 per cent of the sample of 1954 and 1959 respectively, and therefore showing an increase of 11.5 per cent.

As already pointed out before the number of apprehended children coming from broken homes also includes illegitimate children. Therefore the findings for the two years represent biased figures. But since this was previously defined, it is felt that the figures within the framework of this study are valid.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS

In Chapter IV it has been demonstrated that there has been an increase in all of the groups that were selected for study. The overall increase of the number of children apprehended amounted to 100% in 1959 as compared to 1954. During the same period of time the population of Greater Winnipeg increased by 14.9 per cent. From this we surmise that only a small percentage of the noted increase in apprehensions can be attributed to the general population increase. Carrying this thought forward, it can be assumed that other social forces have affected increasing apprehensions.

In Chapter I we postulated the existence of these other social forces and the findings of the study as tabulated in Chapter IV appeared to bear those out. Let us therefore proceed to examine some of the individual sub-hypotheses set out in the first chapter to see if conclusions can be drawn at this point concerning their validity or invalidity in the light of our findings.

We postulated that newcomers to an industrial community encounter difficulties of adjustment which may contribute to family breakdown. The three groups considered specifically were Indian and Metis, families with previous rural residence, and immigrant families. In all instances a significant increase was noted as recorded in Chapter IV. Apprehensions of children with rural or Indian and Metis background have



increased over two and one-half times in number: those with immigrant background one and one-half times. A limitation to these findings exists in that we do not know the exact amount of increase of each of these groups within the total population. However, it seems somewhat unlikely that any of these groups could have increased to the same extent as apprehensions within these groups have increased.

It was further suggested that there may have been a notable increase in apprehensions of children in a specific age group: Specifically, the teen-age group was first considered. This, however, was broadened to include all age groups. The analysis of the sample has shown little change in the composition as related to age groups of children apprehended. However, the teen-age group did show a slight increase. This may indicate a trend toward a changing value system and a struggle for earlier emancipation on the part of teen-agers. However, the limited size of the sample in this study does not permit conclusions to be drawn.

It was also suggested that more illegitimate children were admitted to the care of the agency in 1959 than in 1954. This appears to be a very significant feature in our study as our findings indicate that apprehensions of this group have more than doubled in comparing the relevant years. This observation leads to speculation that increasing illegitimacy reflects changing morals and values within our society, perhaps suggesting that social taboos concerning pre-and extra-marital relationships are lessening in their impact upon the members of our society. It may also be that unmarried mothers are less able to care adequately for their children as a consequence of lessening family solidarity; the modern

industrial family being less able to accept additional responsibility than its earlier counterpart.

We postulated the theory that larger families are somewhat handicapped in competing in our society since they may lack the resources for successful competitive functioning. Generally, it is believed that the lower socio-economic classes have the largest families. From our analysis of families with four or more children we found that the number of children apprehended from such has increased by two and one-half times. Accordingly, one may be led to conclude that larger families are a source of increase, possibly because they might experience more difficulty in competing in our industrial society and homes might be more prone to breakdown.

One of the sub-hypotheses suggested that earlier marriages and younger parents may form less stable unions which in turn may have contributed to increasing apprehensions. It was found, however, that no significant change was recorded in the ages of parents in our sample. For this reason we cannot conclude the existence of a trend that was thought to exist as indicated above.

It was hypothesized in the first chapter that more children from broken homes were admitted to the care of the agency in 1959 than in 1954. Our findings support this hypothesis in that the numbers have more than doubled in comparing the two years. Lessening family solidarity, increasing public acceptance of divorce, separations and common-law unions may be some of the factors which are contributing to marital instability and breakdown and hence are also contributing to increasing apprehensions. However, in this study illegitimate children were included

in this classification, so that this affects the overall increase shown.

Thus, to sum up our findings in relation to our main hypothesis, we can conclude that the numerical population increase accounts for only a small proportion of the increase in apprehensions. The proportion of illegitimacy, family breakdown, and of newcomers to the urban area increased markedly in the two samples. It would appear then that these might be some of the factors influencing the increase.

The age of parents of the children apprehended has not significantly changed in the two years studied, but the apprehension of children from larger families has doubled in number.

The findings of this study appear valid in that they support conclusively the trends postulated most of the hypothesis. However, the source of data was restricted to recorded material thereby limiting to an extent the depth and significance of the conclusions. It is also important to note that policy changes within the agency were not considered.

Other significant limitations to the study stem from the original frame of reference wherein certain factors were selected for consideration. Other factors which may have been significant were not studied because of limitations of time, availability of information, and our own limited experience as researchers.

Other studies that might be suggested from our findings include rising illegitimacy, changes within the Agency, and increasing family breakdown. While those factors have been significant in a contributory fashion to our study no attempt has been made to identify causation of these trends but rather a simple recognition of their existence.

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APPENDIX  
STUDY OF APPREHENSIONS

School of Social Work  
University of Manitoba

1960-61

File Number \_\_\_\_\_ Researcher \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Referral \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Admission \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by:

(C.G.C.\_\_\_\_) (JUV.C.\_\_\_\_) (PRCV.\_\_\_\_) (CITY\_\_\_\_) (S.C.C.&A.\_\_\_\_) (F.B.\_\_\_\_)  
(OTHER\_\_\_\_)

If by "Other" specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Had Parents Rural Residence 1 year prior to Admission? (Yes\_\_\_\_) (No\_\_\_\_)

Did the Family Immigrate to Canada since Jan. 1, 1946? (Yes\_\_\_\_) (No\_\_\_\_)

Was the Child (Children) Indian or Metis? (Yes\_\_\_\_) (No\_\_\_\_)

Ages at Date of Admission: (To nearest birthdate)

Father (Under 15\_\_\_\_) (15/-20\_\_\_\_) (20/-25\_\_\_\_) (25/-30\_\_\_\_) (30/-35\_\_\_\_) (35/-40\_\_\_\_) (40/-\_\_\_\_)

Mother (\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_)

Child (0-1\_\_\_\_) (1/-3\_\_\_\_) (3/-6\_\_\_\_) (6/-10\_\_\_\_) (10/-12\_\_\_\_) (12/-16\_\_\_\_) (16/-\_\_\_\_)

Number of Children in the Family:

(1\_\_\_\_) (2\_\_\_\_) (3\_\_\_\_) (4\_\_\_\_) (5\_\_\_\_) (6\_\_\_\_) (7\_\_\_\_) (8\_\_\_\_) (9\_\_\_\_) (10\_\_\_\_) (11\_\_\_\_) (12/-\_\_\_\_)

Was the Child Illegitimate at Date of Admission? (Yes\_\_\_\_) (No\_\_\_\_)

Was the Child Apprehended Previously?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_ How Often? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In this Year? \_\_\_\_\_

Were Child's parents separated, divorced, or living apart at the time of apprehension? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_