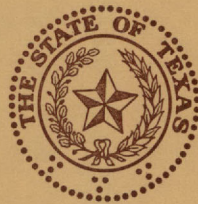


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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
TEXAS  
STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
to the  
GOVERNOR

FISCAL YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1956



Lewis Nordyke, Chairman

W. D. Whalen, Vice Chairman

John H. Winters, Executive Secretary

Harold J. Matthews  
Director of Institutions

James A. Turman, Ph.D.  
Consultant, Juvenile Delinquency



Seventh Annual Report

TEXAS

STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

to

The Governor

Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1956

A brief report of the program and activities of the Texas Youth Development Council and the facilities under its supervision: Central Office, Austin, the Gatesville State School for Boys, the Gainesville State School for Girls, and the State School for Negro Girls at Crockett.

Lewis Nordyke, Chairman

W. D. Whalen, Vice-Chairman

John H. Winters, Executive Secretary

Harold J. Matthews  
Director of Institutions

James A. Turman  
Consultant, Juvenile Delinquency

Herman Sapier, Superintendent  
Gatesville State School for Boys

Maxine Burlingham, Superintendent  
Gainesville State School for Girls

Emma G. Harrell, Acting Superintendent  
State School for Negro Girls, Crockett

State Youth Development Council  
808 Tribune Building, Austin, Texas



Membership

Texas State Youth Development Council

Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1956

Lay Members (Appointed by Governor)

Lewis Nordyke, Amarillo, Texas, Chairman

W. D. Whalen, McAllen, Texas, Vice-Chairman

Reverend Paul J. Ehlinger, San Antonio, Texas

Reverend Walter K. Kerr, Tyler, Texas

Louis Henna, Round Rock, Texas

Leslie Jackson, Dallas, Texas

Ex-Officio Members (By Virtue of House Bill 670,  
54th Legislature, Regular Session)

John H. Winters, Executive Director  
State Department of Public Welfare

Colonel Homer Garrison, Jr., Director  
Texas Department of Public Safety

Colonel Perry Brown, Chairman  
Texas Employment Commission



LEWIS NORDYKE  
CHAIRMAN-AMARILLO

JOHN H. WINTERS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



HAROLD J. MATTHEWS  
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONS

JAMES A. TURMAN  
CONSULTANT  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
808 TRIBUNE BUILDING  
AUSTIN 1, TEXAS

December 8, 1956

Honorable Allan Shivers  
Governor of Texas  
Austin, Texas

Dear Governor Shivers:

Attached is a brief report of the work of the Texas Youth Development Council for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1956.

We have made every effort to meet the problems of delinquent children committed to our custody with constructive treatment and training. We have utilized all the resources at our command in the retraining and rehabilitation of our wards, offering assistance to courts and agencies, and arousing interest in preventive measures.

We are pleased to submit this seventh annual report of the operations of the Youth Council, and we wish to express our appreciation for the help and interest shown by yourself, the Legislature, the various state departments and agencies, and the people of Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lewis Nordyke".

Lewis Nordyke  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. Winters".

John H. Winters  
Executive Secretary





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## THE TEXAS STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

### Organization

In 1949 the Texas Legislature enacted the statute which created the State Youth Development Council. It was composed of fourteen members, six of whom were citizens appointed by the Governor, and eight of whom were heads of various state departments. One member of the Council was designated Chairman and one was Vice-Chairman. There was an executive committee composed of the Executive Secretary, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman. The Executive Secretary of the Council, who was also Director of the State Department of Public Welfare, was the administrative head of the Council under the statute.

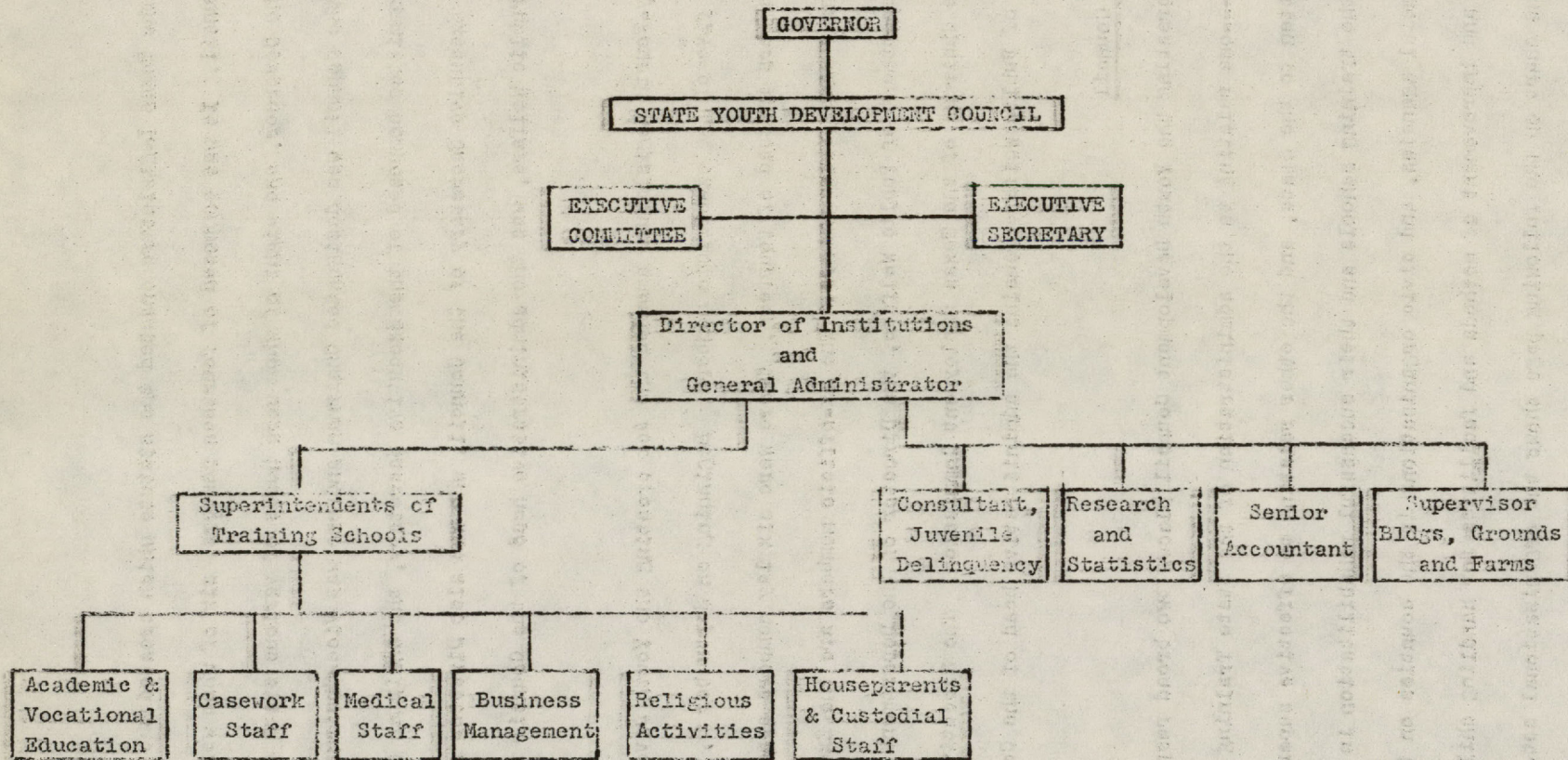
The Fifty-Fourth Legislature amended the Act creating the Youth Development Council by eliminating five of the ex-officio members. Beginning on September 6, 1955, the Council had nine members instead of fourteen. There were six lay members appointed by the Governor and three ex-officio members. The ex-officio members are the Executive Director of the State Department of Public Welfare, the Director of the Department of Public Safety, and the Chairman of the Texas Employment Commission. The Executive Director of the Department of Public Welfare remains the administrative head of the Council.

### Program of the Council

The Act creating the Youth Development Council places two broad responsibilities on the Council---one relating to the administration of the State Training Schools for children committed to the State, and the other relating to effective supervision of parolees from the training schools and their successful rehabilitation in society, work with courts, social agencies, and civic organizations in the counties on the prevention of delinquency and improvement of methods and facilities for handling children who get in trouble. The chart on the following page shows the organizational set-up in detail.

The staff of the Youth Development Council, provided by available appropriated funds, is insufficient for the Council to meet all the mandates of the law. Emphasis

CHART I  
 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



necessarily has been placed on (1) administering the Training Schools and (2) problems related to the placement and supervision of children released on parole from the Schools. These duties are primary under the statute and every effort has been made to keep the Schools operating smoothly and efficiently as well as providing the best supervision for parolees that could be secured from cooperating city, county and state agencies.

The Council has maintained a very close and intimate relationship with the staff in every phase of the work. The following aspects of the program have had close and continuing Council concern:

1. Selection and training of personnel.
2. Release on parole and final discharge of children from custody.
3. Orientation for new children committed to YDC custody.
4. Education and program activities.
5. Inventories and care of property.
6. Processing of business documents.
7. Decisions on budgetary matters and proper use of funds.
8. Decisions relating to repairs and remodeling, and planning new structures.
9. Maintaining statistics and reports on population, intake, release under supervision, and discharges, etc.
10. Interpretation of our program to the people of the state.

The improvements in the Training Programs at the Schools and the greatly improved attitude of the public, especially the courts and probation departments, toward the Schools and their use, have fully justified the Council's time and work.

The Council has no field staff, no branch offices, no one in the various population centers to help discharge its legal responsibilities to its wards on parole and under supervision. The Council must depend upon the generous help and cooperation of other agencies, especially the counties having Juvenile Departments and the State Welfare Department personnel. In the larger population centers the Council and its staff are completely dependent upon the probation departments to supply all personal, educational, medical and social information on children committed to its custody. They also must receive and supervise all children released on parole to their counties from the Schools, decide when paroles are broken, submit regular monthly reports on parolees, etc. In counties where there are no probation officers, staff members of the State Welfare Department attempt to provide this service in addition to their full-time regular jobs.

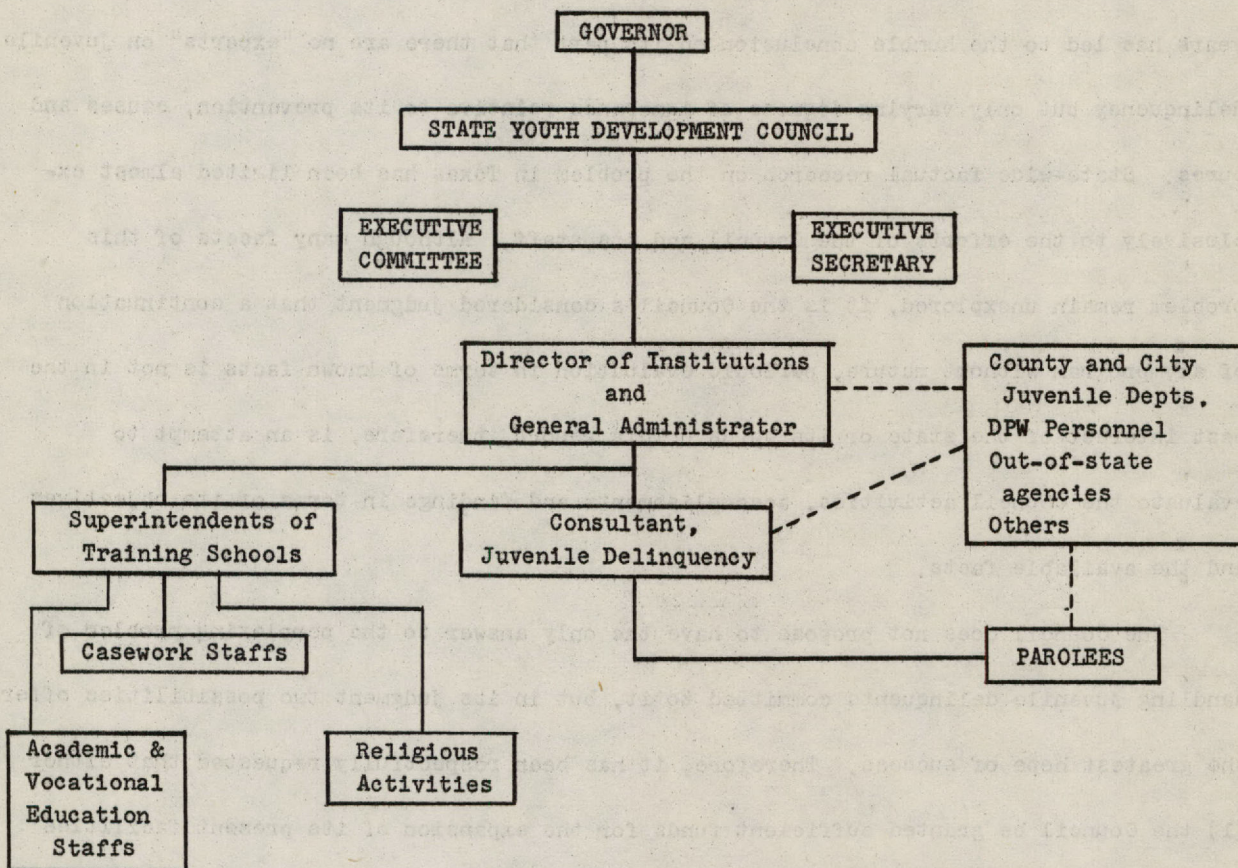
It is important, therefore, that the Council maintain close contact with these offices. A great deal is necessarily done by correspondence and telephone, but visits to the larger counties are absolutely necessary. The Council has attempted to meet all requests for consultation service, etc., from all communities in the state, but with such a small staff such work has been very limited.

Through conferences, correspondence, meetings with committees, distribution of literature and information, the staff has tried to help with local problems, improvement of probation services, establishment of probation services where needed, budgets of probation departments, recruitment of personnel, decisions on unusual cases, and to maintain necessary contact with other state agencies.

The Council has attempted to maintain contact with the Juvenile Court Judges and others legally and morally responsible for children in trouble. This also has proven to be a very difficult assignment with a limited staff.

On the following page is a chart showing services supplied to Youth Development Council wards while in the training schools and while on parole. Special attention is called to the fact that supervision of the children after their release from the state training schools is supplied by county and city juvenile departments, State Welfare Department personnel, out-of-state agencies and others on a strictly voluntary basis.

CHART 2  
 SERVICES TO YDC WARDS  
 IN TRAINING SCHOOLS AND ON PAROLE



— Indicates direct contact and direct responsibility

- - - Indicates direct contact but voluntary acceptance of responsibility

## CRITICAL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In recent years the problem of juvenile delinquency has grown increasingly serious all over the nation, and the State of Texas is no exception. The populations of the State Training Schools administered by the Council have increased to an alarming degree. At the same time communities, counties and courts are requesting and expecting increased assistance from the Council.

The Council's concern, study and experience with this problem over the past seven years has led to the humble conclusion on its part that there are no "experts" on juvenile delinquency but only varying degrees of ignorance relative to its prevention, causes and cures. State-wide factual research on the problem in Texas has been limited almost exclusively to the efforts of the Council and its staff. Although many facets of this problem remain unexplored, it is the Council's considered judgment that a continuation of any program without mature, periodic evaluation in terms of known facts is not in the best interest of the state or its wards. This report, therefore, is an attempt to evaluate the Council activities, accomplishments and findings in terms of its objectives and the available facts.

The Council does not propose to have the only answer to the perplexing problem of handling juvenile delinquents committed to it, but in its judgment two possibilities offer the greatest hope of success. Therefore, it has been respectfully requested that either (1) the Council be granted sufficient funds for the expansion of its present facilities (buildings, staff, and other operating expenses) to accommodate its ever-increasing populations at the schools, or (2) that it be granted funds for Prevention and Parole Services in order that it might keep its facilities at approximately their present operating capacities and accomplish a significant portion of its task outside the institutions in accordance with the statutes. Space available for this report will not permit a full discussion of the merits and weaknesses of these proposals but such has been done before the budget committees.



An Analysis of Average Daily Populations at the Schools

The Council has analyzed most carefully the increases in the average daily populations in its facilities and has factual data to support the prediction that a 10% yearly increase can be anticipated for the next biennium. For example, average daily populations at the three schools have shown the following increases:

	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
Gatesville	403	416	503	567	602	617
Gainesville	171	165	174	186	179	190
Crockett	51	66	71	81	84	88

Residential populations handled by the schools during any year vary greatly from the average population figures, however. During the 1955-56 fiscal year the population at Gatesville ranged from a low of 552 to a high of 697; Gainesville had a low of 150 and a high of 215; Crockett showed a 79 low population figure to a high of 103. These figures are significant indeed on the housing facilities at the schools since Gatesville is designed to handle 575 children per day; Gainesville, 180; and Crockett, 100.

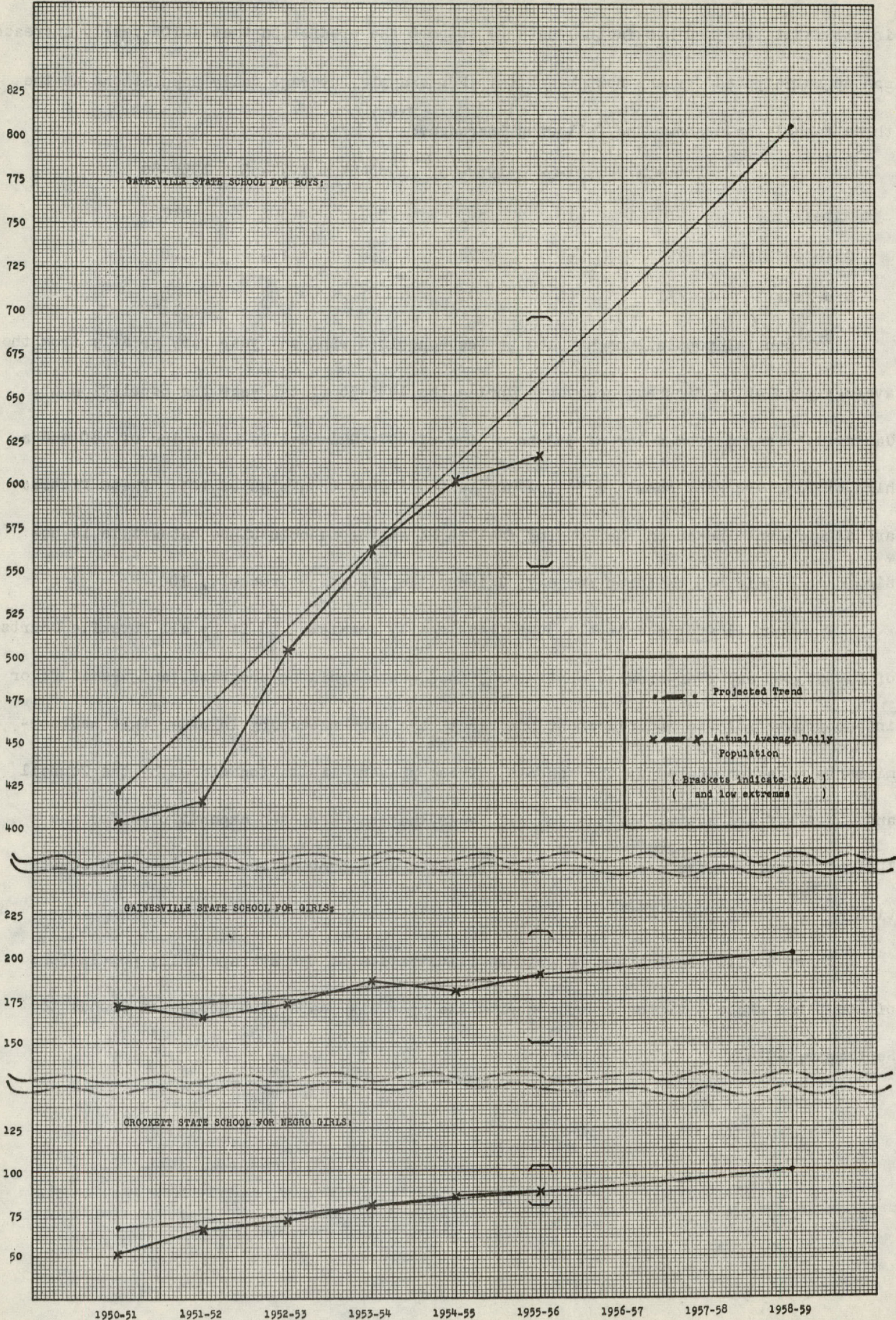
The Council must accept all juveniles legally committed to it by all Juvenile Courts of the state, and over-crowded conditions, inadequate training programs, and premature or inappropriate release and placement practices have been necessary in order that new commitments be accommodated at the schools. These present limitations faced by the Council and its staff are acute, but the Council feels that the proposed expenditures for the 1957-59 biennium contained in the budget requests will provide the immediate and continuing solutions required.

Chart 3 will present a more graphic illustration of the average daily populations of the three state training schools during the past six years plus projected trends to September, 1959.

# CHART 3

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AVERAGE DAILY POPULATIONS  
OF YOUTH COUNCIL FACILITIES BY FISCAL YEARS AND PROJECTED TRENDS



### Future Population Trends Studied

The movement of populations through the state training schools is a serious problem to the Youth Council and one which has demanded careful analysis. Projected trends of admissions to and releases from the institutions for delinquent children administered by the Council have been prepared. Charts 4 through 11 will show the average expected monthly admissions and releases, along with the actual figures for the past seven years, for each of the schools and the total numbers for all three. Special attention is directed to the following vital points:

Average monthly admissions of 107 children were expected during the current year (1956 on the charts) for all the schools. Approximately 110 children were admitted each month. Anticipated releases of 100 children were not realized in that only 97 children per month were paroled from the schools. This means that an accumulation of 13 children each month over the expected number were handled by the schools -- or approximately 150 during the year.

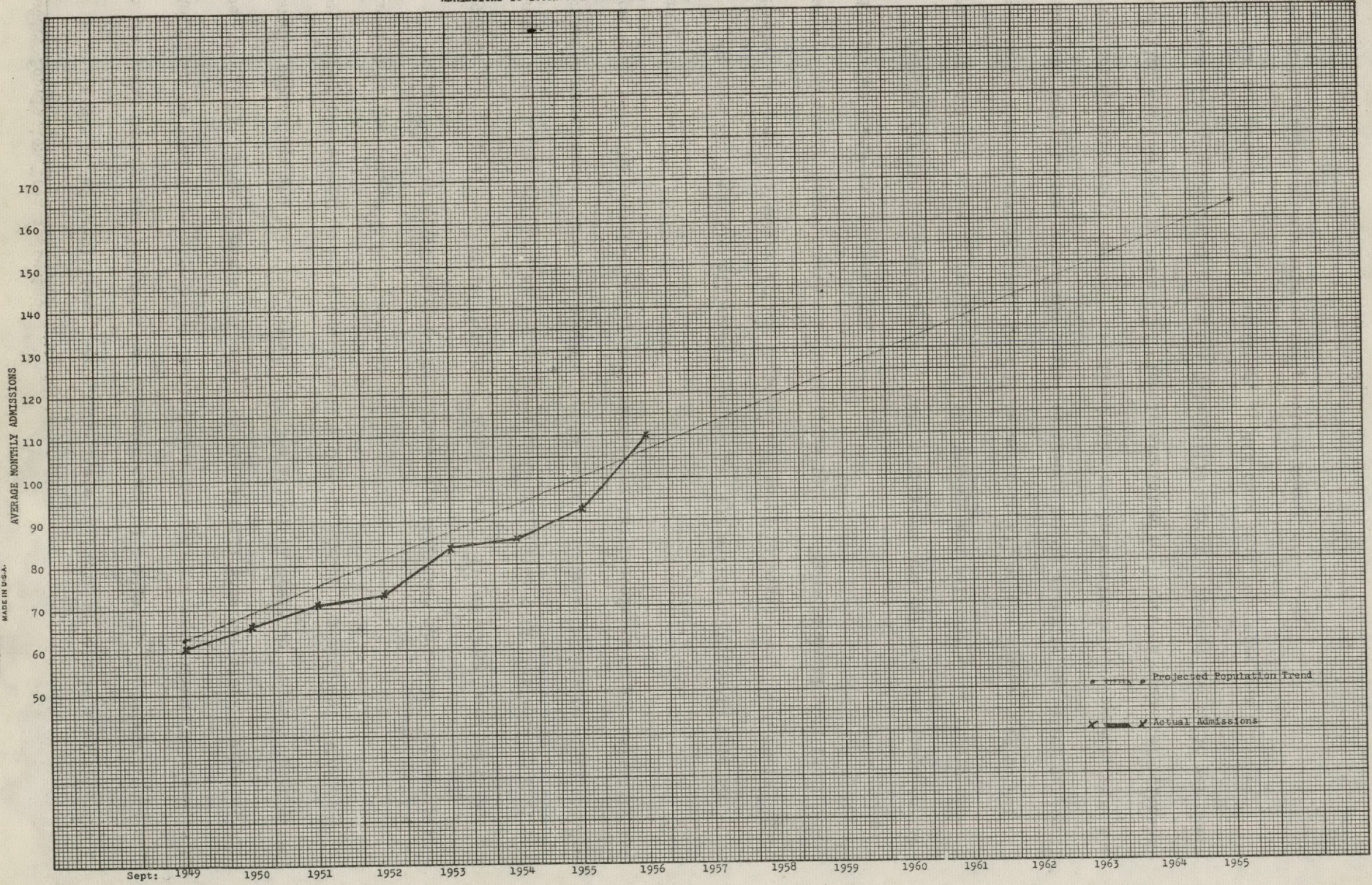
In 1960 the Youth Council expects to receive 132 children per month into the schools. An expected number of 125 children are to be released each month during 1960. However, if the predicted figures hold true, by 1965 the Youth Council will admit 164 children per month and release 157.

Figures for the projected trend in both admissions and releases are based on the number of children actually received into the schools and released under supervision over the last seven year period. It will be noted in all of the charts that actual admissions and releases follow the projected trends fairly steadily, with the Gatesville School being responsible for the very large increase in commitments. However, both the Gatesville and Crockett schools have closely maintained the expected number of releases from those institutions. Although the Gainesville School indicated one child per month less than was anticipated to be admitted, it did show that four more per month were received than were admitted during the previous year.

ADMISSIONS TO YOUTH COUNCIL FACILITIES BY FISCAL YEARS AND PROJECTED POPULATION TREND

CHART 4

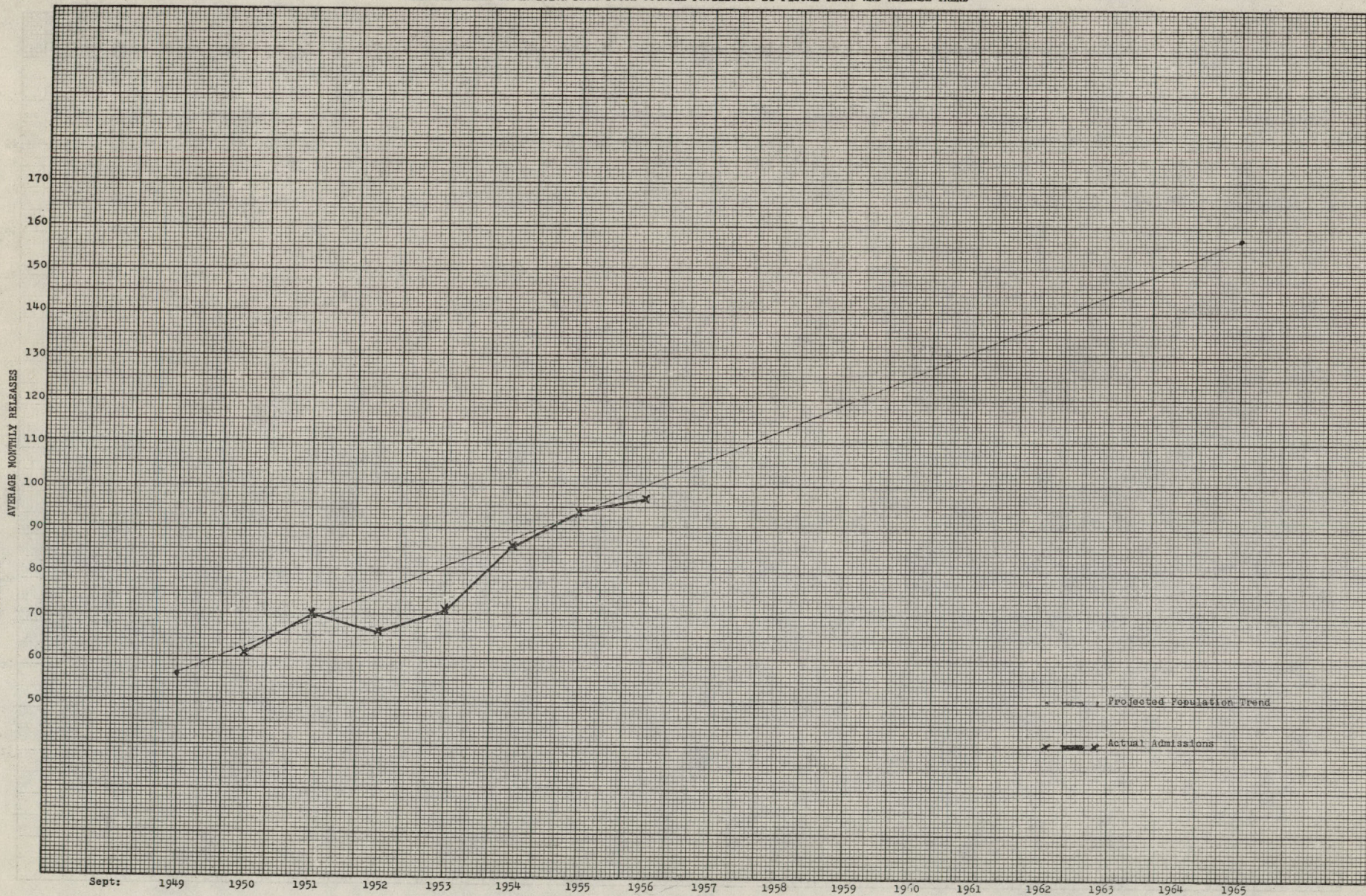
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RELEASES UNDER SUPERVISION FROM YOUTH COUNCIL FACILITIES BY FISCAL YEARS AND RELEASE TREND

CHART 5

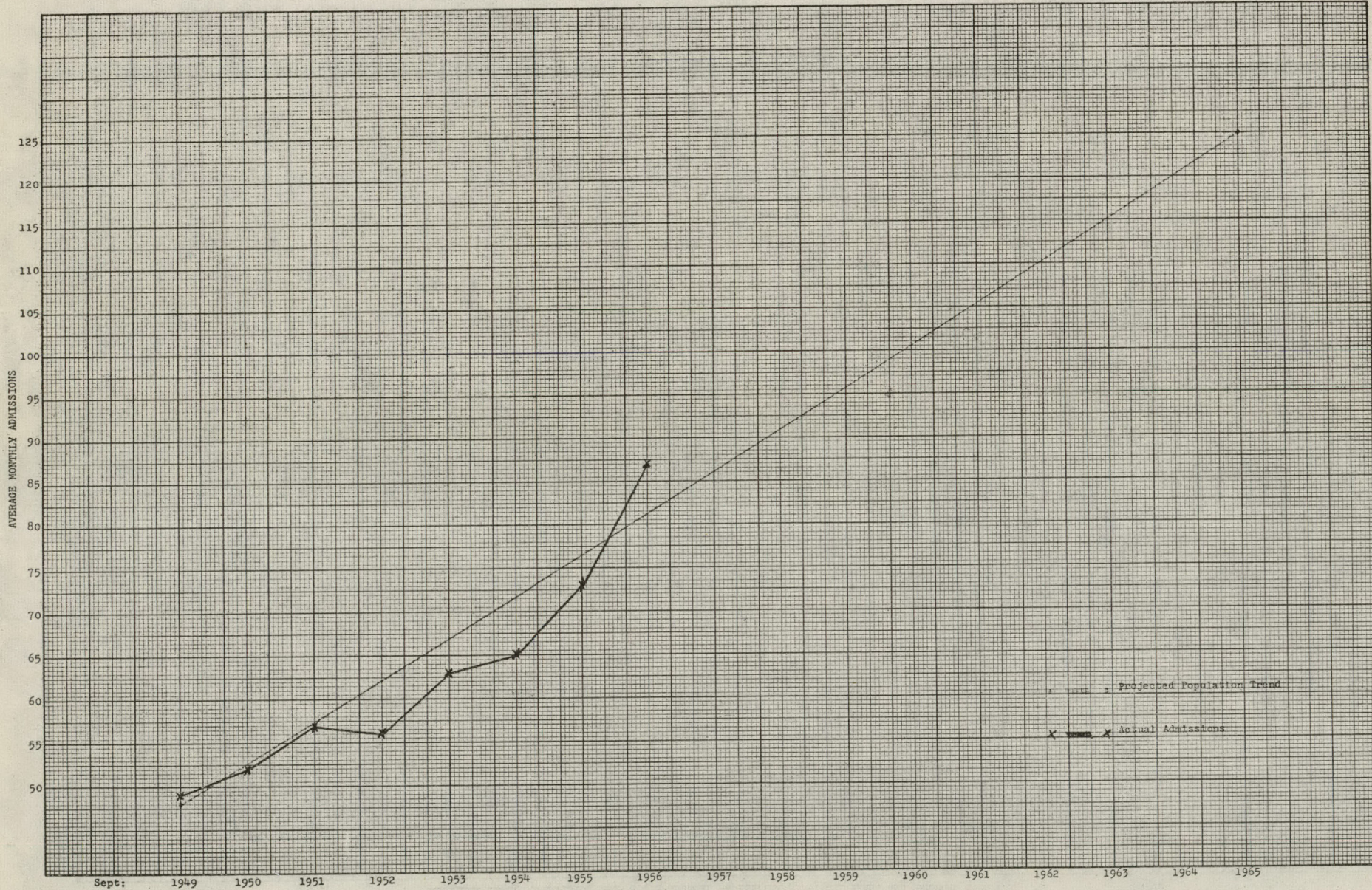
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ADMISSIONS TO GATESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS BY FISCAL YEARS AND PROJECTED POPULATION TREND

CHART 6

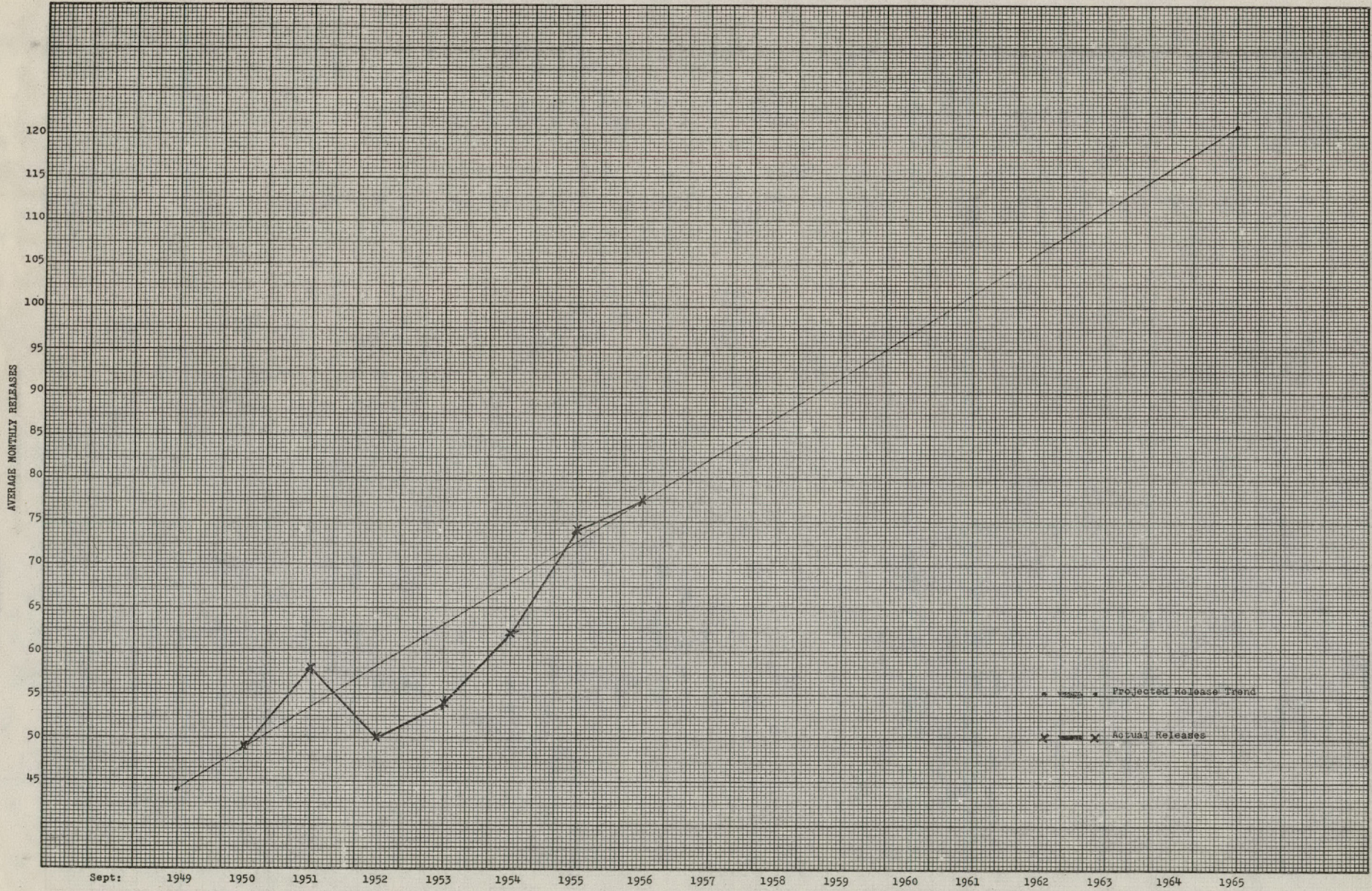
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RELEASES UNDER SUPERVISION FROM GATESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS BY FISCAL YEARS AND RELEASE TREND

CHART 7

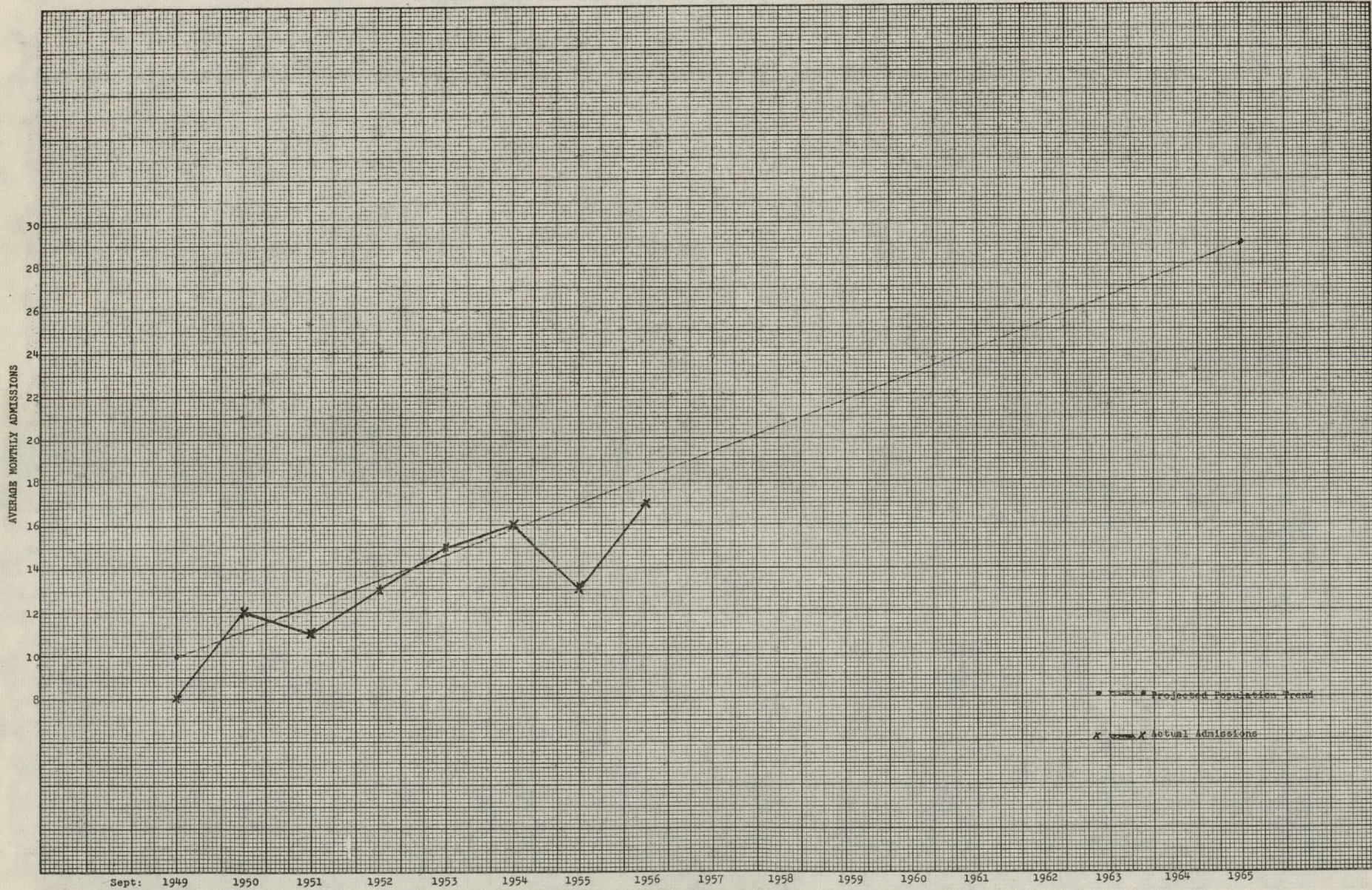
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ADMISSIONS TO GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS BY FISCAL YEARS AND PROJECTED POPULATION TREND

CHART 8

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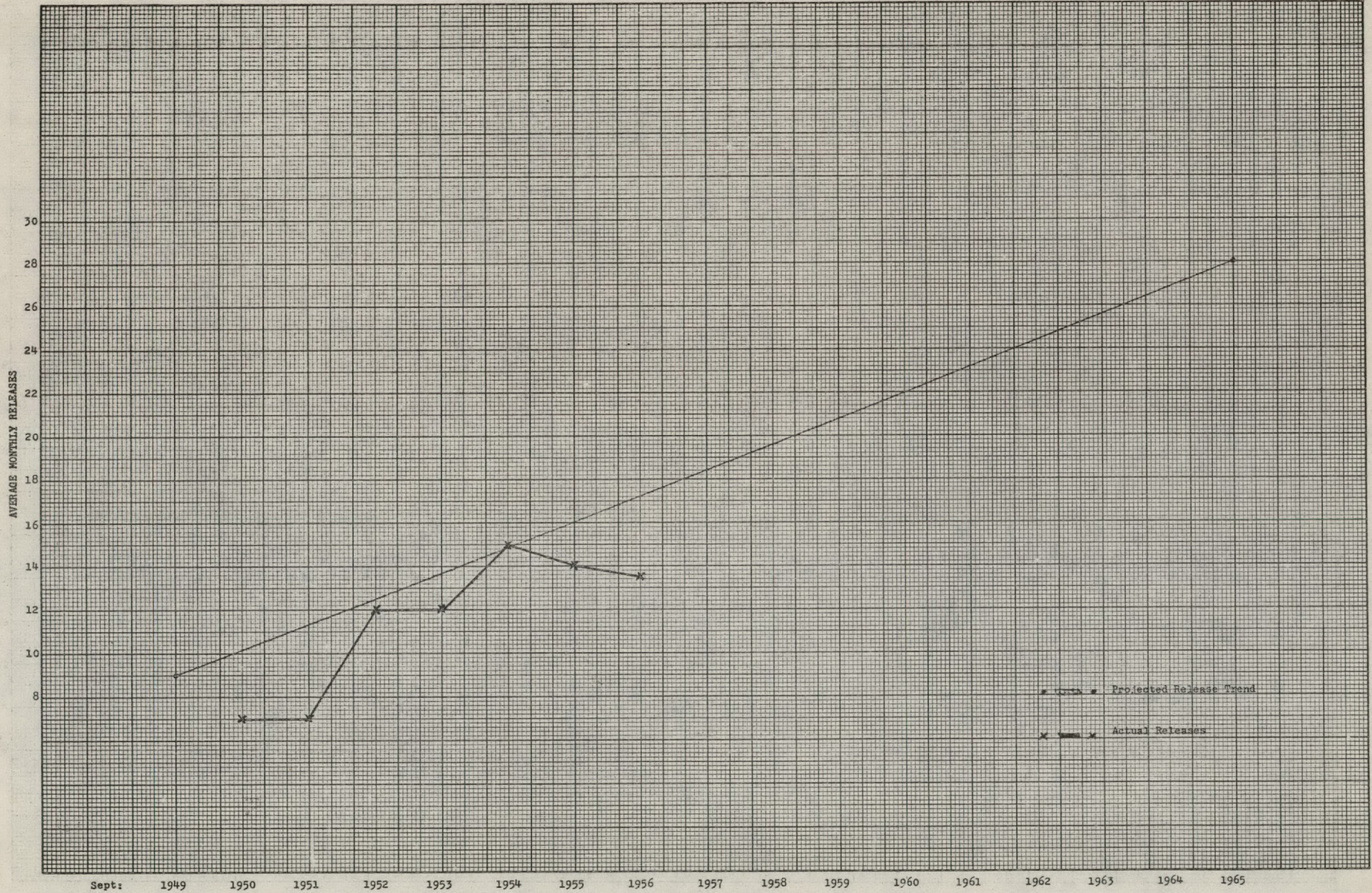




RELEASES UNDER SUPERVISION FROM GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS BY FISCAL YEARS AND RELEASE TREND

CHART 9

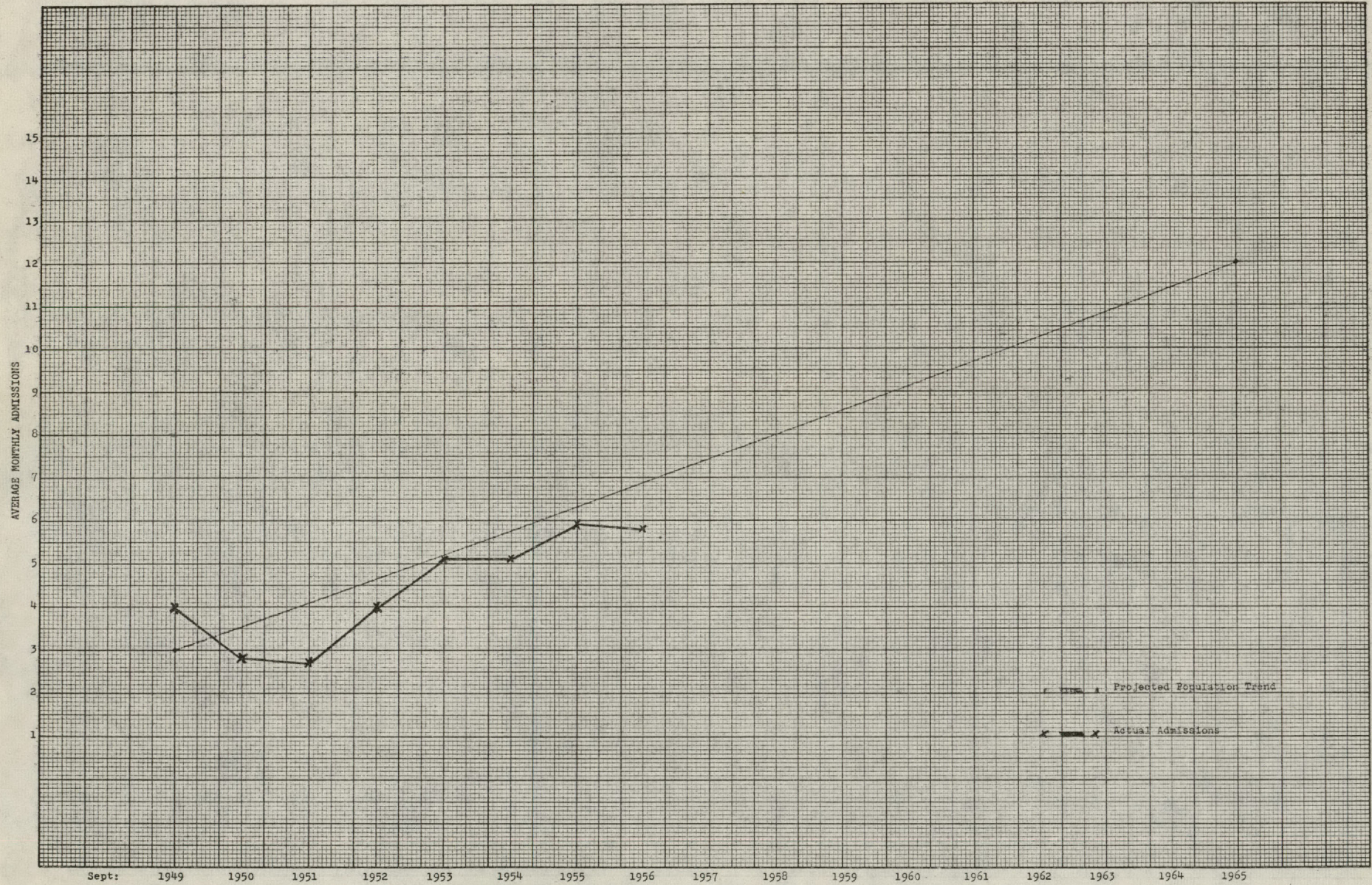
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ADMISSIONS TO CROCKETT STATE SCHOOL BY FISCAL YEARS AND PROJECTED POPULATION TREND

CHART 10

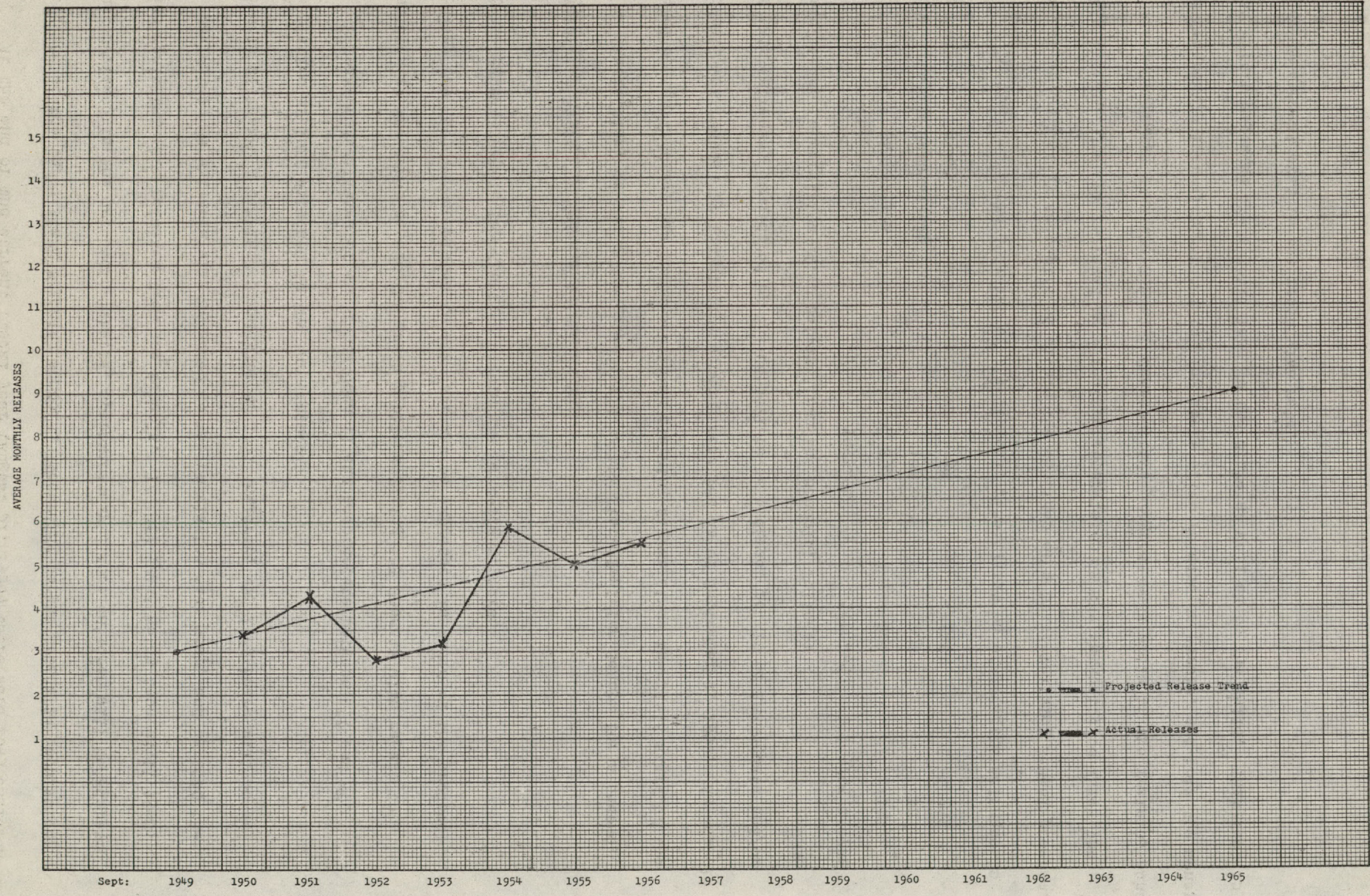
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RELEASES UNDER SUPERVISION FROM CROCKETT STATE SCHOOL BY FISCAL YEARS AND RELEASE TREND

CHART 11

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At the end of the current fiscal year (August 31, 1956) there were 1045 children attached to the three state training schools. According to the trends in population just reviewed in the preceeding charts, approximately 7 more children will be admitted each month than are released from the schools. If this trend holds true until 1960, approximately 84 children will be added to the population each year, and by 1960 the schools will show a combined population of 1381 children. By 1965 there will be a population of 1800 attached to the three schools.

Present facilities of the Youth Council can accommodate between 850 and 900 children at the schools. So the grave problems facing the Council with regard to housing for children committed to its care may be expressed in terms of the prospect of the student population doubling within the next eight years.

#### Recidivism Rates for Texas Training Schools

Recidivism, or the return of a child to the State Training School for a second, third or fourth time, has increased to an alarming degree since the field staff of the Council was reduced by legislative economy measures as of September 1, 1953. An example of this increase, considered by the Council to be a direct result of inadequate and/or insufficient supervision after release from the schools, follows:

	1953-54	1954-55	9/55 - 4/56
Gatesville	29%	28%	34%
Gainesville	19%	20%	32%
Crockett	3%	14%	23%

In the considered judgment of the Council, rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents cannot be completely accomplished within the confines of a State Training School program. Such training must be followed by effective supervision in the community to which the child is released from the School. Constructive progress made while in the Training School is frequently lost within the first few weeks after release on parole, and both the money and effort expended are a total loss to the State as well as to the child. This fact is clearly demonstrated in the recidivism rate.

The 1957-59 biennium budget request, respectfully proposed by the Council as a minimum necessity for it to fulfill the mandates of the law, takes into account the re- placement of buildings considered by the Council's building committee to be hazardous to the lives, health and welfare of children. It also takes into account new construction necessary for the care of increased populations in the schools if a parole program is not granted. It proposes a minimum plan of prevention and parole as one effective method of constructive rehabilitation as well as the most effective method of reducing the popula- tions in the schools. The Council presents both proposals for consideration by the Legislature with a comparative analysis of the cost of both for the biennium.

Recommendations

In addition to its present program, related to the administration of the Training Schools and the retraining of children for better adjustment in the community, the Council's evaluation of its stewardship reveals that increased efforts are required in the following areas of responsibility: (1) Improve its planning for the placement of children released from the Schools. (2) Provide adequate supervision and treatment for all children under its custody in the Training Schools and on parole in the communities. (3) Offer assist- ance to courts, county probation departments and police departments on problems of juve- nile court administration, development of community responsibilities in problems of delinquency control and prevention, detention problems and planning, and other preventive measures. (4) Set up a minimum service in the collection and dissemination of statistics and information regarding delinquency over the state, movement of population in the in- stitutions, etc. (5) Maintain a minimum service in the keeping of records and the handling of inquiries and requests regarding juvenile delinquency as prescribed by the statutes.

If the State Youth Development Council can be provided funds to employ the necessary staff to offer these basic services, it can fulfill its statutory obligations regarding the problems of delinquency in the state. It can fulfill its obligations in terms of the care and training of its wards, rehabilitation in the communities, and meet the requests of courts, counties and communities in providing the leadership which was the purpose and intent of the law.

## OUT-OF-STATE PLACEMENTS

In this modern day of social mobility and fast transportation, it is not difficult to understand that a state agency like the Youth Development Council would have some of its wards go to other states and the wards of other states come to Texas upon release on parole from the training schools.

By reciprocal agreement states assist each other in supervision of out-of-state parolees, try not to impose on each other, do not send state wards to other states without first clearing and securing permission. The Youth Development Council is the state-level agency which handles such matters in Texas.

During this fiscal year the Council gave service on 104 out-of-state referrals from 22 different states. After the initial investigation 82 of these cases were placed in Texas and supervision was arranged.

At the same time, Texas had 92 children in 21 other states. Forty-eight children were placed during the current fiscal year and forty-four were carried over from previous years. During the year only four of these children broke parole and had to be returned to the training schools.

## TEXAS' TEEN-AGERS IN TROUBLE

### State-wide Delinquency Survey in Texas for 1955

In an attempt to carry on the statistical research program required by the statute, information on delinquency cases for 1955 was requested from all Juvenile Courts in the state. Data was submitted from 146 counties, wherein 77% of the Juvenile Court age children (those 10 thru 17 years) resided and indicated 16,829 referrals to the courts during 1955 in cases of delinquency. A delinquency rate of 19 per each 1,000 children was noted. (A rate of 18 per 1,000 was seen last year.)

Based on the entire juvenile population for the state, it was estimated that about 4,200 additional children in the 108 counties not reporting had appeared before Juvenile Courts. In other words, over 21,000 Texas children were in difficulties of a serious

enough nature to be brought to the attention of the courts and probation departments.

In 1952 the Youth Council predicted that 17,200 children would be handled during 1955, so it seems obvious that far more children are becoming involved in delinquencies than were expected.

A complete review of the 1955 survey is not possible at this time but the high-

lights were as follows:

1. 75% of all Juvenile Court cases were handled "unofficially." This means that no formal petition for judicial hearing was filed but the children were counselled and dismissed.
2. Boys outnumbered girls by 4 to 1 in number of referrals.
3. Of the number of referrals reported, 86% were white children and 14% were negro. The rate of referral for white children was 22.8 per 1,000, while for negro children it was 27.4 per 1,000.
4. 65% of the children referred were between 14 and 16, with the median age of 15.1 noted.
5. Law enforcement officers referred 73% of the children.
6. Main reasons for referrals were:  
For boys: 43%--stealing; 20%--disobedience; 3%--immoral conduct; 5%--violence against persons; 29%--other reasons.  
For girls: 12%--stealing; 49%--disobedience; 9%--immoral conduct; 2%--violence against persons; 28%--other reasons.
7. Over 50% of the children referred were detained by juvenile authorities overnight or longer. About 20% of those detained were held in jails, although at least 5% of that group were detained in separate juvenile quarters. 79% of those detained were held in detention homes.
8. In official cases 44% of those handled were placed on probation while 20% were lectured to and dismissed. In unofficial cases 43% were placed on probation and 52% were lectured to and dismissed.

(Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the 1955 state-wide delinquency report may write to the Council and we will be happy to supply it.)

#### The Problems Facing Texas

The Youth Development Council feels that it would be unfair to the people of Texas if certain aspects of the delinquency picture in Texas, as well as nationally, were not submitted here for their information and consideration. The Council solicits the advice, counsel and suggestions of all interested citizens of the state in meeting its problems.

The cry that juvenile delinquency is growing by leaps and bounds is heard daily by practically every person in our country. Statistics on the subject are available in newspapers and magazines, movies, and stories. Yet, a great majority of parents remain unaffected by these signposts of current events -- they say that social workers and probation people are unduly excited over the approximately 1% of the children of the country who can't seem to be "normal" youngsters.

For those children who follow the rules and tenets of society and make good, responsible citizens we have only the highest commendations as well as for their families. There are indeed many teen-agers in this group. But what of that small segment of youngsters who are classed as "juvenile delinquents?" Actually, how "bad" are they?

According to the FBI's latest bulletin on crime trends in the United States, in 1954 58% of all the auto thefts were committed by young people under 18 years of age. They also committed 49% of all burglaries, 15% of all rapes and even 5% of all homicides. Most of the delinquency occurred in the 15 to 17 year-old age bracket, but thirty-five per cent of these youngsters had been in court before. Nine-tenths of these children were having marked difficulty adjusting to normal social life before they were eleven years old.

The Senate Subcommittee investigating Juvenile Delinquency, too, has noted many interesting aspects of juvenile crimes. Senator Estes Kefauver, Chairman of the committee, issued an interim report on November 10, 1955, which said, in part: "Over 1,333,000 children came to the attention of the police in 1954. Almost half a million were brought to the attention of the juvenile courts.....Less densely populated areas experienced.... increases. Courts serving areas of less than 100,000 persons showed a combined increase of 63% (from the 1948 figures)."

Statistics such as these are not intended to frighten anyone, but they are vital in pointing up the fact that our juveniles who become delinquents, though they may be a small percentage of the entire population, present an ever-increasing and most serious problem. The amount of money which they cost the average tax-payer each year is enormous not to mention the waste of human resources that the children themselves represent in terms of potentially solid citizens.



The Council, and surely every person in our state and nation, wishes there were not one, single juvenile delinquent. However, simply closing our eyes to the fact that delinquency does exist will not eliminate it nor will it deal with the problem. The vital question is, therefore, what additional steps may be taken to curb the obviously up-ward spiralling trend in delinquency.

Activities undertaken by the Youth Development Council should certainly be expanded in all areas of its scope. (A discussion of this matter has already been presented.) However, since delinquency begins on a community level, it must also be treated from that setting. United planning and efforts in every element of community life, i.e. the home, the school, the church, the law enforcement agency, the recreational area, etc., must be undertaken and maintained before this problem can be effectively dealt with.

Awareness of the problems of youth is necessary to everyone who comes in contact with them. An understanding outlook is equally important. What a child does frequently is not nearly so important as why he does it.

The children in our state are most surely its most precious resources. With every person vitally interested in and concerned over their welfare and aware of their needs and desires, perhaps it will be possible for all children -- with a little help -- to enjoy the rich heritage which is rightfully theirs.

#### REPORT ON THE STATE TRAINING SCHOOLS

Limitation of space for this report will not permit a complete survey and description of each of the State Training Schools administered by the Council. We can only touch on the highlights of the program and indicate some of the more significant changes and developments. A detailed financial statement has been made to the Governor and the Legislature but a copy of it will be supplied anyone who will write the Council and request it.

The Youth Development Council and its staff at the State Schools are always happy to have anyone visit the institutions and spend as much time as they wish examining the program and plant. They are your institutions and you have both the right and the

responsibility to know something about them. Only by actual observation can one understand what these institutions are doing and what their needs are. The Council is particularly eager to have judges and other state and county officials visit the institutions.

The statistical tables in this report afford a concise, complete and interesting picture of the children committed to the State, touching on various aspects of their lives, families, and cause of their troubles. They are also significant from the standpoint of comparison with delinquency as a whole in the State or in any particular community. The same patterns are observed, the same causes, sources of referrals, status of family and education.

It must not be forgotten that the State Youth Development Council and its facilities, the State Schools, cannot control their intake, cannot say what children they will accept or reject, but must take all children committed within certain broad legal limits. In all cases these children represent the failures of our communities, the ones for whom all other resources have been exhausted.

STATISTICAL SECTION

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE JUVENILES COMMITTED TO  
THE STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
AND ADMITTED TO THE THREE STATE  
SCHOOLS FOR DELINQUENT  
CHILDREN

FISCAL YEAR  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956



TABLE I

WARDS OF THE STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Case Movement	Number of Children			
	Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
State Wards, September 1, 1955	2046	1446	412	188
Outside of state schools under supervision, September 1, 1955 *	1140	830	212	98
Attached to schools, September 1, 1955	906	616	200	90
On absences (furlough, transfer or escape)	87	51	28	8
Present in schools, September 1, 1955	819	565	172	82
Total Admissions During Year	1315 <sup>a</sup>	1041	205	69
First Admissions	979	748	171	60
Returns from Release	336	293	34	9
Total Releases During Year	1176 <sup>b</sup>	943	165	68
Releases Under Supervision	1078	884	133	61
Releases Under Supervision while on absence from school	22	11	9	2
Discharged from Absence	76	48	23	5
Attached to schools, August 31, 1956	1045	714	240	91
On absences (furlough, transfer or escape)	94	52	38	4
Present in schools, August 31, 1956	951	662	202	87
Outside of state schools under supervision, August 31, 1956	1136	844	196	96
State Wards, August 31, 1956	2181	1558	436	187

\* 768 children who were outside of the state schools under supervision on September 1, 1955, were discharged from Youth Council custody during the year.

<sup>a</sup> Includes 1315 admissions of 1291 children. 1 girl from the Gainesville State School for Girls and 23 boys from the Gatesville State School for Boys were admitted twice during the year.

<sup>b</sup> Includes 1176 releases of 1156 children. 20 boys from the Gatesville State School were released twice during the year.

NOTE: A release under supervision is a separation from the school. A discharge, however, signifies termination of jurisdiction from the Youth Council and the school for a given commitment.

TABLE II

ADMISSIONS BY SIZE OF COUNTY CHILD POPULATION  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Size of Child Population	Number of Counties	Child Population 1955-56*	Children Committed to YDC During Year				
			Total Number of Commitments	Rate per 10,000 Population	Recidivists		
					Number of Recidivists	Per Cent of Total Commitments	Rate per 10,000 Population
State Total	254	1,108,462	1315	11.9	336	26%	3.0
50,000 and more	4	338,552	526	15.5	146	28%	4.3
40,000 - 49,000	-0-	-0-					
30,000 - 39,999	2	61,589	111	18.0	21	19%	3.4
20,000 - 29,999	4	97,652	100	10.2	24	24%	2.5
10,000 - 19,999	6	83,892	140	16.7	39	28%	4.6
1,000 - 9,999	161	484,235	408	8.4	101	25%	2.1
Less than 1,000	77	42,542	30	7.1	5	17%	1.2

\* Child population figures used here are for Juvenile Court ages (10-17 inclusive) and are based on scholastic population data for 1955-56 obtained from the Texas Education Agency.

TEXAS' SIXTEEN LARGEST COUNTIES COMMIT TWO-THIRDS OF CHILDREN

The sixteen counties in Texas with Juvenile Court age children totaling 581,685 (or 52% of the total for the state) committed 67% of the children received at the state schools during the 1955-56 fiscal year. The next 161 counties with a Juvenile Court age population of 1,000 to 9,999 (or 44% of the state's total) sent 31% of the total admissions, while the remaining 77 counties (with 8% of the Juvenile Court age population) sent only 2% of total admissions.

Following the same population groupings, the 16 largest returned 68% of the "recidivists" or those who broke their paroles, the next 161 returned 30% of them, and the latter group of 77 counties returned only 2%.

Some variations with the percentage figures for last year will be noted. Last year the sixteen largest counties committed 71% of the total admissions and returned 70% of the children who broke parole. This shows a decrease of 4% in total admissions and 2% in return of recidivists for the current year. The next largest group of counties, which last year numbered 162, sent 27% of the total admissions and 29% of the recidivists during 1954-55, whereas this year that same group contained only 161 counties but sent 31% of the admissions and 30% of recidivists. The remaining group of counties sent 2% of total admissions and 1% of recidivists last year.

The changes are slight but seem rather indicative of the fact that more and more children are being received into the state training schools from the so-called smaller counties.

In terms of the number of children per each 10,000 in the state, a significant change may be seen. The rate of commitment for each 10,000 in the 16 largest counties was 14.3 last year but 15.1 this year. In the next group of counties the number was 6.2 last year but 8.4 this year. The group of 77 smallest counties had a commitment rate of 6.4 per 10,000 last year and 7.1 during the current fiscal year. Recidivism rates increased during the current year from 3.6 in the largest group to 4.0, from 1.7 in the middle group to 2.1, and from .7 per 10,000 to 1.2 in the last group.

Increases in the number of children received at the training schools are not the only changes in the delinquency picture for Texas during 1955. Each year the Youth Council with the assistance and cooperation of the Juvenile Judges of Texas compiles information regarding the number of children referred to juvenile courts during the year. A total of 146 counties reported that during 1955 their juvenile courts handled 20,805 cases of delinquency. This number indicated that 19 out of each 1,000 juveniles (those 10 to 17) in the state became involved in delinquent acts of a serious enough nature to appear before Juvenile Judges. All too many other children were never known to the courts.

Fifteen of the state's sixteen largest counties contributed information to this study and reported handling 81% of the delinquency cases for the state. 92 of the 161 counties with juvenile age populations between 1,000 and 9,999 reported handling 18% of the delinquency cases, while 39 counties in the remaining group of 77, with less than 1,000 juvenile age children, reported only 1% of the cases of delinquency.

Based on the number of cases reported by the participating counties, the Council estimated that approximately 21,000 children appeared before Texas Juvenile Courts during 1955. The previous year 127 counties had participated in this state-wide study and reported 16,481 cases of delinquency. A rate of approximately 18 children of each 1,000 was noted in 1954 in

the reporting counties, so it was assumed by the Council that if this rate was reliable for the counties not reporting, something like 19,340 children were known to Juvenile Courts during that year.

During the 1954-55 fiscal year the Youth Council received 10 of each 10,000 of these children. However, during the 1955-56 fiscal year the Council received 12 per each 10,000 of the juvenile age children of Texas.



TABLE III

TYPE OF ADMISSION OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Offense	Per Cent of Total	Total	Number of Children		
			Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
First admission under first commitment	74.4	979	748	171	60
Re-admission	25.6	336	293	34	9
Return from active supervision	24.2	318	285	28	5
Return from inactive supervision	.5	6	2	4	
Return from supervision--unknown if active or not	.2	3	2	1	
Recommitment following discharge	.7	9	4	1	4

RE-ADMISSIONS TO STATE SCHOOLS INCREASING

The 1955-56 fiscal year showed an 18% increase in admissions to all three state schools over the year before. There was a 17.7% increase in new commitments with a 19.6% increase in the number of children returned from releases under supervision. An average of 110 children were accepted into the schools each month of the current fiscal year as compared to an average of 93 received each month during the last fiscal year.

Seventy-four per cent of the children were admitted for the first time. Twenty-six per cent had been in the schools previously (some for as many as three and four times) and were returned because of parole violations or were recommitted. Last year twenty-four per cent of the total admissions were recidivists. There were 336 re-admissions to the schools, representing an increase of 55 over the preceding year, with Gatesville showing a 22% increase, Gainesville a 6% increase and Crockett a 13% increase.

Gatesville and Gainesville showed very considerable increases in the number of new commitments during the year of 17% and 33% respectively. Crockett, on the other hand, indicated a 5% decrease in the number of new commitments. In terms of total admissions Gatesville had an increase of 18% and Gainesville an increase of 27%, while Crockett showed a decrease of 3%.

TABLE IV

REASON FOR REFERRAL OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Offense	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Stealing	68.4	900	870	16	14
Auto theft	21.0	276	275	1	
Burglary	31.6	416	411	3	2
Robbery	2.4	32	32		
Forgery	1.7	22	16	6	
Other theft	11.7	154	136	6	12
Disobedience	13.2	174	45	99	30
School truancy	1.9	25	17	3	5
Running away	7.5	99	10	71	18
Being ungovernable	3.8	50	18	25	7
Immoral conduct	8.2	108	28	63	17
Vagrancy	1.3	17	5	8	4
Sex Offenses	6.9	91	23	55	13
Violence	3.6	47	43	1	3
Homicide or attempt	1.4	19	18		1
Injury to person	2.2	28	25	1	2
Other	6.1	80	52	23	5
Carelessness or mischief	1.8	24	17	3	4
Liquor or drugs	3.0	39	27	12	
Other delinquent behavior	1.3	17	8	8	1
Not Reported	.5	6	3	3	

## STEALING STILL MAJOR REASON OF REFERRAL

Some form of stealing is the main reason for referral of children committed to Youth Council facilities. This year 900 children, or 68% of the total admissions, were referred for various forms of stealing, with 21% referred for auto thefts and 32% for burglaries.

Over-all percentage changes in the major reasons for referrals this year over the preceding year are as follows: Stealing--2% increase; Disobedience--0.5% increase; Immoral

Conduct--0.5% decrease; Violence--0.5% decrease; Other--1% decrease. Commitments listed as "Other Delinquent Behavior" included 5 boys referred for arson and 1 for traffic violation.

The majority of children committed for stealing are usually boys, while the majority of children committed for disobedience and immoral conduct are usually girls. This year 84% of the boys and 11% of the girls were committed for some form of stealing. On the other hand, 76% of the girls and only 7% of the boys were committed for disobedience or immoral conduct.

It must be kept in mind, however, that the offenses which result in commitment to the Council quite often are not the primary delinquency offense for children brought before juvenile authorities. All too frequently girls are committed for being ungovernable at home, for being truant from school, for running away, for stealing small items, etc., when perhaps they have been sexual delinquents for long periods of time before the referral which resulted in their being sent to a training school. In reporting the reason for commitment the Council must of necessity show the reason given on the court's commitment order, when actually that single offense does not always give a true picture of the child's delinquency background.

Estimations are that possibly as high as 90% of all girls committed to the Youth Council have sexually promiscuous backgrounds. Boys, too, have more immoral conduct situations than are revealed in the records, but these situations are still not as frequently noted as in the cases of girls.

TABLE V

SOURCE OF REFERRAL OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Source	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Probation Officer	11.6	153	11	76	66
Other court	.1	1		1	
Law enforcement officer	84.0	1105	1026	78	1
Parents or relatives	2.4	32	2	30	
Local public welfare agency	.3	4		4	
Individual	.2	2		2	
State Dept. of Public Welfare	.4	5	1	2	2
School	.7	9		9	
Private social agency	.1	1		1	
Other	.1	1		1	
Unknown	.2	2	1	1	

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE MAJOR SOURCE OF REFERRAL

As in the past, the law enforcement officer still remains the chief source of referral of children to the Juvenile Courts. This year 84% of the children were referred by police while 12% were referred by probation officers. The remaining 4% were referred by individuals, parents or relatives, or public or private agencies.

Referrals by police officers were made in 99% of the boys' cases but in only 29% of the girls'. However, parents or relatives were responsible for referral of 11% of the girls but only 0.2% of the boys. These differences in referrals of boys and girls are due in a great part to the types of delinquent acts in which they are involved. Girls are usually delinquent in their personal conduct while boys are more apt to violate property rights of others by stealing, etc. Hence, boys are most likely to be reported to the police for such violations.

TABLE VI

SEX OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Sex	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Boys	79.2	1041	1041		
Girls	20.8	274		205	69

EIGHTY PER CENT OF ADMISSIONS ARE BOYS

A ratio of four boys admitted to each girl was noted this year as well as last year.

Although there was an increase of 18% in the number of boys and girls received into the schools over the number received last year, the over-all ratio of 4 to 1 was maintained.

The national ratio of referrals of children to Juvenile Courts is 5 boys to each girl.

TABLE VII

RACE OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Race	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
White	76.3	1004	800	204	
English-speaking	45.3	596	446	150	
Spanish-speaking	31.0	408	354	54	
Negro	23.5	309	240		69
Other	.2	2	1	1	

SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION SHOWS LARGEST INCREASE

Of the total admissions received into the state training schools during 1955-56 45% were English-speaking white children and 31% were Spanish-speaking white children while 24% were negro. Last year the percentages were 45% English-speaking whites, 27% Spanish-speaking whites and 28% negro.

In comparing the changes in admissions by race with last year we note the following: an increase of 96 English-speaking white children, or 19%; an increase of 106 Spanish-speaking white children, or 35%; but 2 less negro children, or a 1% decrease.

According to the Texas School Census for the school year 1955-56, white children of Juvenile Court age (10-17) comprise 87.2% of the entire scholastic population for those ages while negro children of the same age group have 12.8%. The rate of admission per 10,000 white children for the 10-17 age group for 1955-56 is 10.3 (it was 8.6 last year). The rate of admission per 10,000 negro children of this same age group is 21.7 (it was 21.9 last year).

Of the children listed as "Other" the boy was born in Hawaii and the girl in Puerto Rico.

TABLE VIII

AGE OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Age in Years	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
10 Years	.2	2	1	1	
11 "	1.4	19	17		2
12 "	3.4	46	36	7	3
13 "	8.6	113	89	13	11
14 "	19.5	256	194	50	12
15 "	28.3	372	297	47	28
16 "	33.2	437	378	50	9
17 "	4.9	65	27	34	4
18 "	.2	2		2	
19 "	.1	1		1	
Unknown	.2	2	2		

MAJORITY OF CHILDREN BETWEEN THIRTEEN AND SIXTEEN

Approximately 90% of the children received at the state training schools were between the ages of 13 and 16. The median age for all schools was 15 years, 7 months. The boys' median age was the same as the median age for all the schools combined, but the girls' median age was 15 years 6 months.

Percentage-wise it is noted that the largest age group is the 16 year olds, with an approximate 3% increase over the same group seen last year. The sharp drop in children received after sixteen is due to the fact that after the age of 17 for boys and 18 for girls, when a child becomes involved with the law, it is likely he or she will be tried in adult courts and is seldom returned to the training schools.

The state schools must, according to law, accept boys between the ages of 10 and 17 and girls between the ages of 10 and 18. Some children may be returned to the schools for parole violations even though they may be past these ages. The majority of children in the 17-19 age group above were returnees, although several of the 17-year-old girls were first offenders.

TABLE IX

MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Marital Status	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Unmarried	5.8	76	59	4	13
Married, living together	34.8	457	384	60	13
Marriage intact, not living together	.5	7	6	1	
Divorced, separated or deserted	39.2	516	384	101	31
Father dead	12.0	158	129	23	6
Mother dead	4.9	64	48	11	5
Both parents dead	1.8	24	19	4	1
Unknown	1.0	13	12	1	

ONE-THIRD OF PARENTS ARE MARRIED AND LIVING TOGETHER

As was the case last year, approximately one-third of the natural parents of children admitted to state facilities were married and living together. Last year 32% were living together and maintaining some evidence of a home and family; this year the number increased to 35%.

It will be noted in the above chart that exactly the same number of boys' parents were married and living together as those who were divorced, separated or deserted. Both of these status groups comprised 36.9% of the total admissions for boys. However, in the case of girls only 26.7% of their natural parents were married and living together but 48.2% of their parents were divorced.



TABLE X

RELATIONSHIPS OF PERSONS WITH WHOM CHILDREN WERE LIVING  
 PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Child Living With	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Two Parents	53.7	706	587	87	32
Both natural parents	32.0	421	365	43	13
Mother and stepfather	16.0	210	167	30	13
Father and stepmother	4.6	61	43	12	6
Adoptive parents	1.1	14	12	2	
One Parent	28.2	370	302	45	23
Mother only	23.3	306	248	38	20
Father only	4.9	64	54	7	3
Grandparents or Other Relatives	11.1	146	113	21	12
Grandparents	5.2	68	58	6	4
Relatives	5.9	78	55	15	8
Non-Relatives	6.8	90	38	50	2
Independent Arrangement	2.0	27	9	18	
Foster family	1.6	21	11	8	2
Child care institution	2.5	33	13	20	
Elsewhere	.7	9	5	4	
Unknown	.2	3	1	2	

NATURAL PARENTS IN THIRTY-TWO PER CENT OF HOMES

Thirty-two per cent of the children admitted during the 1955-56 fiscal year came from homes in which both natural parents resided. In 22% (the same as last year) there was a mother and stepfather, father and stepmother, or adoptive parents. Children were living with one parent in 28% of the cases, with grandparents or relatives in 11%, with non-relatives in 7% of the cases of those admitted this year.

It will be noted that boys were living with two parents in 56% of the cases while girls were with two parents in only 43%. Also, 29% of the boys and 25% of the girls were living with one parent. Approximately 11% of the boys and 12% of the girls were living with grandparents or relatives, but 4% of the boys and 19% of the girls were living in homes with non-relatives.

TABLE XI

RECORD OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN  
 PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

School Attendance	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Regular Attendance	44.7	588	474	92	22
Irregular Attendance	53.7	706	554	105	47
Occasionally	52.5	691	544	101	46
Never	1.2	15	10	4	1
Unknown	1.6	21	13	8	0

OVER-TWO-FIFTHS ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY

The number of children who attend school regularly prior to admission to state training schools seems to increase gradually from year to year. Last year about 42% attended regularly prior to admission while this year the amount has grown to 45%. During the 1955-56 fiscal year 53% attended occasionally and only 1% did not attend school at all.

Both boys and girls showed a better school attendance record before admission this year than was indicated last year. About 46% of the boys and 42% of the girls were attending regularly before their admissions during the current fiscal year. Last year 42% of the boys and 38% of the girls had attended regularly.

Irregularities of school attendance present some effects on grade placement of children, hence, the following table will be of interest in pointing up these effects.

TABLE XII  
 GRADE IN SCHOOL OF CHILDREN PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Grade	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
0	.2	2	2		
1st	.5	7	7		
2nd	2.1	28	26	1	1
3rd	3.3	44	40	4	
4th	5.9	78	68	6	4
5th	10.0	132	115	12	5
6th	19.2	252	210	31	11
7th	20.1	264	207	45	12
8th	19.8	261	199	45	17
9th	12.8	168	119	39	10
10th	4.2	55	34	16	5
11th	.7	9	3	4	2
Unknown	1.2	15	11	2	2

AVERAGE GRADE IN SCHOOL IS SEVENTH

School grades completed by children prior to admission to Youth Council facilities during the year ranged from no grade completed thru the eleventh grade. The median grade level was 7.5, with boys having completed the low 7th grade while girls median grade indicated they had completed the low 8th.

Comparing the median grade with the median age (15.6), it would seem that children received into the training schools are approximately three school grades retarded, since the average 15 year old would be in the 10th grade. Also the youngest child received at the school was ten years of age, and normally a youngster of this age would be in the fourth grade. 6% of the children in the schools ranked below the fourth grade. Only 5% of the children had reached senior high school grade placements.

TABLE XIII

COURT HISTORY OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Court History	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1315	1041	205	69
Previous court history	87.3	1148	963	127	58
No previous court history	11.2	147	66	71	10
Unknown	1.5	20	12	7	1

MAJORITY OF CHILDREN PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO COURTS

Approximately 87% of the children committed to the state training schools during the fiscal year had previously been in contact with juvenile authorities prior to the referral which resulted in their commitment. This figure represents a 5% increase over the preceding year.

Several significant ideas may be perceived from the above figures. First of all, it is indicated that the majority of children are being referred to local probation departments and other interested welfare agencies in the home communities with the hope of giving them the guidance they need before commitment to the state schools, which is usually an action of 'last resort'. Also, the supervisors of children who have been released under supervision from the training schools are making every effort to give the attention and supervisory services these children require.

Although the children are "recidivists" in the local probation departments, the plan of working intensively with them in their own communities is two-fold: it aids in more rapid and more normal rehabilitation for the youngsters, and it proves a great deal more economical to the tax-payers in the long run. Good probation officers may be employed for \$3,600 to \$4,200 per year and usually handle case-loads of forty to fifty children per month. The average cost of keeping only one child in the training schools is approximately \$1,200 per year.

For a more comprehensive understanding of the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent annually on state wards by the Youth Council, please consult the financial summary presented later.

TABLE XIV

CHILDREN ADMITTED TO STATE SCHOOLS BY COUNTY AND TYPE ADMISSION  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

County	Scholastic Population (School Census) 1955-1956	Number of Children								
		Grand Total	Total		Gatesville State School for Boys		Gainesville State School for Girls		Crockett State School for Negro Girls	
			New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns
Total		1315	979	336	748	293	171	34	60	9
Per Cent			74%	26%	57%	22%	13%	3%	5%	0.7%
Anderson	3,928	5	5		5					
Andrews	1,273	3	2	1	1	1			1	
Angelina	4,889	2	2		2					
Aransas	704									
Archer	912	1	1				1			
Armstrong	233									
Atascosa	3,164	7	7		7					
Austin	1,670	2	2		2					
Bailey	1,271									
Bandera	454									
Bastrop	2,424									
Baylor	754									
Bee	3,232	4	3	1	2	1	1			
Bell	8,945	8	7	1	7	1				
Bexar	73,255	138	112	26	84	22	24	4	4	
Blanco	521									
Borden	118									
Bosque	1,351	1	1		1					
Bowie	8,507	2	1	1		1	1			
Brazoria	9,189	5	2	3	2	3				
Brazos	4,611	1		1				1		
Brewster	831	7	7		7					
Briscoe	473									
Brooks	1,429	1	1		1					
Brown	3,029	2	2		2					
Burleson	1,746									
Burnet	1,151	3	3		2		1			
Caldwell	2,640									
Calhoun	1,891									
Callahan	1,026									
Cameron	21,286	10	8	2	6	2	2			
Camp	1,174	2	1	1	1	1				
Carson	930									
Cass	3,697	1	1		1					
Castro	942									

NOTE: Figures for scholastic population include only those children of Juvenile Court age, i.e. 10 thru 17 years of age. Also, the county of original commitment is charged with the return of children received into the schools on broken paroles.

TABLE XIV (continued)

County	Scholastic Population (School Census) 1955-1956	Grand Total	Number of Children											
			Total		Gatesville State School for Boys		Gainesville State School for Girls		Crockett State School for Negro Girls					
			New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns				
Chambers	1,295													
Cherokee	4,045													
Childress	1,090													
Clay	1,082													
Cochran	960	1	1		1									
Coke	522	1	1					1						
Coleman	1,639													
Collin	5,314	6	3	3	3	3								
Collingsworth	1,056													
Coloradac	2,431													
Comal	2,478	1		1			1							
Comanche	1,378	1	1		1									
Concho	532	1	1		1									
Cooke	2,971	2	1	1	1	1								
Coryell	2,384	2	1	1	1	1								
Cottle	576													
Crane	671													
Crockett	572													
Crosby	1,456	4	4		2			1			1			
Culberson	385													
Dallam	983	3	3		3									
Dallas	89,751	159	95	64	68	59	12	3	15	2				
Dawson	2,568	2	2		1		1							
Deaf Smith	1,570	1		1		1								
Delta	902													
Denton	4,776	2	2		2									
DeWitt	3,371													
Dickens	849													
Dimmitt	1,669													
Donley	670													
Duval	2,373													
Eastland	2,462													
Ector	8,799	21	8	13	8	12		1						
Edwards	423													
Ellis	5,458	4	2	2	2	2								
El Paso	31,313	66	57	9	49	9	8							
Erath	1,661	1	1		1									
Falls	3,044													
Fannin	3,259	3	3		3									
Fayette	2,634	2	2		2									
Fisher	1,058	3	3		3									
Floyd	1,564	2	1	1			1	1						
Foard	448													
Fort Bend	4,929	4	3	1	2	1	1							
Franklin	542													

TABLE XIV (continued)

County	Scholastic Population (School Census) 1955-1956	Number of Children								
		Grand Total	Total		Gatesville State School for Boys		Gainesville State School for Girls		Crockett State School for Negro Girls	
			New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns
Freestone	1,955	3	2	1	1	1	1			
Frio	1,690									
Gaines	1,853	2	1	1	1	1				
Galveston	16,623	18	12	6	12	6				
Garza	884	2	2		1		1			
Gillespie	1,241									
Glasscock	148									
Goliad	850									
Gonzales	2,530	1	1		1					
Gray	3,690	7	4	3	3	3	1			
Grayson	8,466	16	12	4	3	4	9			
Gregg	9,124	11	8	3	6	3	1	1		
Grimes	1,983									
Guadalupe	3,608									
Hale	5,071	10	9	1	8	1	1			
Hall	1,212	1	1		1					
Hamilton	977	3	2	1	1	1	1			
Hansford	633									
Hardeman	1,127									
Hardin	3,154									
Harris	121,761	157	119	38	80	34	26	1	13	3
Harrison	6,720	3	3		3					
Hartley	154	2	1	1	1	1				
Haskell	1,609									
Hays	2,817									
Hemphill	375									
Henderson	2,993	1	1		1					
Hidalgo	27,460	2	2		2					
Hill	3,369	1		1		1				
Hockley	3,346	1	1		1					
Hood	636									
Hopkins	2,455									
Houston	2,687									
Howard	4,142	8	8		6		2			
Hudspeth	476									
Hunt	4,673									
Hutchinson	4,654	3	2	1		1	2			
Irion	188									
Jack	941									
Jackson	2,237									
Jasper	3,267	6	6		6					
Jeff Davis	261									
Jefferson	28,578	38	31	7	19	5	6		6	2
Jim Hogg	821									
Jim Wells	5,069	7	3	4	3	3		1		

TABLE XIV (continued)

County	Scholastic Population (School Census) 1955-1956	Grand Total	Number of Children							
			Total		Gatesville State School for Boys		Gainesville State School for Girls		Crockett State School for Negro Girls	
			New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns
Johnson	4,189	14	9	5	6	3	3	2		
Jones	2,607	6	6		6					
Karnes	2,351									
Kaufman	3,780	4	4		2		1		1	
Kendall	749	1		1				1		
Kenedy	85									
Kent	136									
Kerr	1,660	3	2	1	2	1				
Kimble	512									
King	108									
Kinney	307	2	2		2					
Kleberg	3,623	7	2	5	2	5				
Knox	1,218									
Lamar	4,721	3	3		3					
Lamb	3,229									
Lampasas	1,181									
LaSalle	1,625									
Lavaca	2,421									
Lee	1,332									
Leon	1,667									
Liberty	4,374	3	2	1	2	1				
Limestone	2,624									
Lipscomb	441									
Live Oak	1,279	1	1		1					
Llano	508	1		1		1				
Loving	14									
Lubbock	15,423	26	20	6	18	6	2			
Lynn	1,514									
Madison	899	1		1		1				
Marion	1,300	4	2	2	1	2			1	
Martin	736									
Mason	527									
Matagorda	3,374	9	7	2	6	1	1	1		
Maverick	2,222	2	2		2					
McCulloch	1,260	2	2				2			
McLennar	16,996	43	29	14	25	11	1	3	3	
McMullin	117									
Medina	2,882	11	10	1	9	1	1			
Menard	382									
Midland	6,283	10	8	2	8	2				
Milam	3,091									
Mills	570									
Mitchell	1,625									
Montague	2,024									
Montgomery	3,778	12	12		10		1		1	



TABLE XIV (continued)

County	Scholastic Population (School Census) 1955 - 1956	Number of Children								
		Grand Total	Total		Gatesville State School for Boys		Gainesville State School for Girls		Crockett State School for Negro Girls	
			New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns
Moore	2,246	1	1						1	
Morris	1,718									
Motley	448									
Nacogdoches	3,870	1		1		1				
Navarro	4,944	3	1	2	1	2				
Newton	1,537									
Nolan	2,543									
Nueces	30,276	45	33	12	27	9	3	3	3	
Ochiltree	701									
Oldham	389									
Orange	7,396	5	4	1	4					1
Palo Pinto	2,304	2	2		2					
Panola	2,562									
Parker	2,820	2	2		2					
Parmer	1,219	2	2		2					
Pecos	1,554	5	4	1	4	1				
Polk	2,091	1		1		1				
Potter	12,995	32	25	7	14	5	9	2	2	
Presidio	915	2	2		2					
Rains	485									
Randall	806									
Reagan	472									
Real	156									
Red River	2,416	4	4		4					
Reeves	2,510	6	6		6					
Refugio	1,721	8	6	2	5	2	1			
Roberts	126									
Robertson	2,658									
Rockwall	883									
Runnels	2,082	1	1		1					
Rusk	5,051	4	3	1	3	1				
Sabine	1,097									
San Augustine	1,187									
San Jacinto	960									
San Patricio	7,517	7	5	2	4	2	1			
San Saba	890									
Schleicher	381									
Scurry	2,678									
Shackelford	515									
Shelby	3,145	2	1	1		1	1			
Sherman	346									
Smith	10,261	13	7	6	5	5	1	1	1	
Sommervell	274									
Starr	3,049									
Stephens	1,037									

TABLE XIV (continued)

County	Scholastic Population (School Census) 1955-1956	Number of Children								
		Grand Total	Total		Gatesville State School for Boys		Gainesville State School for Girls		Crockett State School for Negro Girls	
			New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns	New	Returns
Sterling	195									
Stonewall	432									
Sutton	517									
Swisher	1,465	1	1		1					
Tarrant	53,785	72	54	18	37	13	16	5	1	
Taylor	8,792	3	3				1		2	
Terrell	353									
Terry	2,052	4	3	1	3	1				
Throckmorton	373									
Titus	2,249	3	2	1	2	1				
Tom Green	7,800	15	11	4	9	3	2	1		
Travis	20,328	50	35	15	24	12	9	2	2 1	
Trinity	1,271									
Tyler	1,741									
Upshur	2,656									
Upton	990									
Uvalde	2,786	1	1		1					
Val Verde	2,899	2	1	1	1	1				
Van Zandt	2,553									
Victoria	5,838	4	3	1	3	1				
Walker	2,156									
Waller	1,540	4	4		4					
Ward	1,734	2		2		1		1		
Washington	2,463									
Webb	9,638	4	3	1	2	1	1			
Wharton	5,785	12	8	4	7	4			1	
Wheeler	1,210	4	3	1	3	1				
Wichita	11,594	8	8		4		4			
Wilbarger	2,208	1	1				1			
Willacy	3,374	1	1		1					
Williamson	4,776	5	5		4		1			
Wilson	2,151	1	1		1					
Winkler	1,513	1	1		1					
Wise	1,851									
Wood	2,720									
Yoakum	991	2	2		1		1			
Young	1,990	1	1				1			
Zapata	602									
Zavala	2,045	3	2	1	2	1				

STATISTICAL SECTION (CONTINUED)

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF JUVENILES  
RELEASED UNDER SUPERVISION FROM  
THE THREE STATE SCHOOLS FOR DELINQUENT CHILDREN

FISCAL YEAR  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956



TABLE XV

REASON FOR SEPARATION OF CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason Separated	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1100	895	142	63
Satisfactory Adjustment	91.6	1008	854	104	50
Done all possible with present staff and facilities	4.5	50	12	33	5
Released for delivery of child	.1	1		1	
Placed in other institution in state	.3	3	1		2
Placed in other institution out of state	.1	1	1		
Feebleminded	.7	8	5		3
Psychotic	.3	3		1	2
Return of out-of-state ward to court of jurisdiction	1.1	12	9	2	1
Released to Immigration authorities	.5	6	6		
Request of court	.7	8	7	1	

VAST MAJORITY OF CHILDREN RELEASED ON PAROLE MAKE GOOD ADJUSTMENT AT SCHOOLS

During the 1955-56 fiscal year 1100 children were released under supervision from the state training schools. This number represents an average of 92 children released each month. Approximately 92% of those released had made a satisfactory adjustment according to requirements of the different schools and after what was considered normal lengths of stay in school.

For various special reasons the remaining 8% were released from the schools, some after much shorter stays in the institutions than is normal. Fifty children, or 5% of the total number, were released after more or less normal lengths of residence but due to limitations of staff and facilities, it was felt that further rehabilitation for them was very doubtful. Also 1.1% were out-of-state wards returned to the courts of original jurisdiction.

The average lengths of time under care for the different institutions can be studied by referring to Table XIX.

TABLE XVI

SUPERVISOR TO WHOM CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Supervisor	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1100	895	142	63
Probation Officer	74.4	818	653	110	55
Child Welfare Worker	1.3	14	10	3	1
Public Assistance Worker	16.3	179	155	20	4
YDC Staff	.1	1	1		
Out-of-State Agency	4.5	49	42	5	2
Committing Judge	.4	5	5		
Other	.5	6	3	2	1
None	2.5	28	26	2	

MOST CHILDREN SUPERVISED BY PROBATION AND WELFARE PERSONNEL

Of the children released during the current year 1051 were placed in 127 Texas counties under the supervision of probation departments and personnel of the State Department of Public Welfare. Probation officers supervised nearly 75% of the children, and DPW workers supervised an additional 18%. Another 5% were placed in 19 states outside Texas, to be supervised by agencies within those states.

It seems enigmatic that the Youth Council does not supervise any of its wards who have been placed on parole. Due to severe limitations of both funds and personnel no services can be provided in the area of supervision.

Probation officers and Welfare Department workers undertake to give supervision to YDC wards in addition to their regular case-loads on a more or less "gratis" basis. The valuable service which these people are rendering to the youth of Texas cannot be commended too highly.

TABLE XVII

PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Placement	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1100	895	142	63
Two Parents	51.3	564	488	61	15
Both natural parents	30.0	330	292	29	9
Mother and stepfather	15.8	174	148	23	3
Father and stepmother	4.5	49	38	8	3
Adoptive parents	1.0	11	10	1	
One Parent	25.4	280	217	38	25
Mother only	21.8	240	188	30	22
Father only	3.6	40	29	8	3
Grandparents or other Relatives	17.0	187	150	26	11
Grandparents	4.3	47	38	6	3
Relatives	12.7	140	112	20	8
Non-Relatives	5.0	55	28	15	12
Independent arrangement	.1	1	1		
Foster family	1.9	21	11	2	8
Child care institution	.4	4	2	2	
Elsewhere	2.6	29	14	11	4
No Plan	1.3	14	12	2	

## ONE-THIRD OF CHILDREN PLACED WITH NATURAL PARENTS

Thirty per cent of the children released during the year were placed in homes with their natural parents. Approximately this same number of children were living with their natural parents at the time of their commitment to the schools.

Perhaps the greatest percentage of change between where the children were living prior to their commitment and where they were placed upon release will be noted regarding placement with relatives. Nearly 7% more of the children were placed with relatives (other than grandparents) upon their release from the schools than were living with them at the time of their commitment.

TABLE XVIII

FAMILY OF PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Family of Placement	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	1100	895	142	63
Same family and county	66.5	732	614	75	43
Same family, different county	5.9	65	57	7	1
Different family, same county	11.9	131	82	34	15
Different family and county	11.2	123	99	21	3
Same family, different situation, in same county	3.1	34	30	3	1
Same family, different situation, in different county	.4	4	4		
Not applicable	1.0	11	9	2	

MORE CHILDREN RETURN TO SAME HOME SITUATION

Seven hundred thirty-two children, or approximately sixty-seven per cent of the total number released under supervision, were returned to homes in the same county and in which the same family relationships existed prior to their admission to the schools. Three per cent returned to the same family and county but different situations within the home existed. Either one of the parents had died while the child was away, divorces or re-marriages had occurred or other changes resulted in new home situations prevailing when the child returned.

Six per cent of the children were placed with the same family group but not in the same county from which they were admitted; also 0.4% were placed with the same family group but in a different county and with a different home situation prevailing.

Approximately twelve per cent of the children were returned to the same county of commitment but placed with different families upon their release, while eleven per cent more of the children were sent to different counties and with different family groups from those with whom they lived at the time of admission to the training schools.

These percentage figures show small decreases in each category from last year, with the exception of those placed in homes with the same family and in the same county, which indicated a 6% increase over the preceding year.



TABLE XIX

LENGTH OF TIME UNDER CARE OF CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Months in School	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total *	100.0%	1059	864	138	57
1 - 3 months	3.5	37	35	2	
4 - 6 "	29.5	312	305	7	
7 - 9 "	32.9	348	333	13	2
10 - 12 "	15.9	168	119	46	3
13 - 15 "	9.8	104	51	42	11
16 - 18 "	4.5	48	10	13	25
19 - 21 "	1.9	20	4	9	7
22 - 24 "	1.4	15	6	3	6
25 - 27 "	.3	3	0	2	1
28 - 30 "	.3	3	1	1	1
Over 30 "	.1	1	0	0	1

\* 41 children released prior to normal time of release not included

EIGHT MONTHS AND EIGHTEEN DAYS IS AVERAGE TIME IN SCHOOLS

Populations at the state schools increased very significantly during the current fiscal year. The strain on the schools has indeed been great in trying to hold children long enough to provide even partially adequate training while struggling with increasingly overcrowded conditions. The Gatesville School for Boys, which had managed to maintain an average time in school of 8.8 months during past years, was forced to release boys after an average stay of 7.4 months. The girls' schools held their wards slightly longer than the average set last year.

Average time under care of each school this year as compared to last year may be noted as follows:

	Time Under Care 1955-56	Time Under Care 1954-55
Gatesville State School for Boys	7.4 months	8.8 months
Gainesville State School for Girls	13.0 "	12.3 "
Crockett State School for Negro Girls	16.9 "	15.6 "

TABLE XX

AGE AT ADMISSION AND RACE OF CHILDREN  
RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Age at Admission	Per Cent of Total	R A C E				
		Total	English-speaking	Spanish-speaking	Negro	Other
Total	100.0%	1100	487	315	297	1
10	1.3	14	1	3	10	
11	2.7	30	5	7	18	
12	6.5	72	16	21	35	
13	12.5	138	61	32	45	
14	23.0	253	119	70	64	
15	26.1	287	148	84	54	1
16	24.5	269	114	95	60	
17	3.1	34	22	3	9	
18	.1	1	1			
Unknown	.2	2			2	

SLIGHTLY EARLIER ADMISSION AGE NOTED FOR NEGRO CHILDREN

Of the 1100 children released under supervision during 1955-56, 44% were English-speaking and 29% were Spanish-speaking white children. 27% of the releases were negro.

The median age at admission for white children released during the year was 15 years and 4 months, while for negro children it was 14 years and 7 months. Admissions during the current year indicated a median age of 15 years 7 months, so it would seem that children admitted to the school in prior years were received at a slightly earlier age, particularly negro children.

Also, it was pointed out in Table VIII that there seemed to be more admissions in the 16-year-old group. The trend is slight but there are indications that more and more older juveniles are being admitted into the schools each year.

TABLE XXI

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY IN SCHOOLS BY REASON OF COMMITMENT AND SEX  
OF CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason of Commitment	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total
Auto theft	7.9	19%	7.8	23%	16.0	1%
Stealing	7.8	50	7.7	59	12.0	12
Disobedience	11.0	12	7.6	6	14.3	39
Immoral Conduct	12.6	8	7.6	3	13.8	34
Violence	7.5	4	7.2	4	19.0	1
Other	8.7	6	7.6	5	13.8	10
Unknown	14.5	1	6.0	0.2	16.0	4

BOYS LENGTH OF STAY SAME REGARDLESS OF OFFENSE

The median time which boys remained in the Gatesville School was 7.4 months. By comparing the median time of each group by offenses committed, it will be seen that most boys remain approximately the same length of time regardless of the offense which resulted in their commitment to the school.

Although there was no great amount of variance from the median for the girls schools (15 months), some groups stayed in the school for longer than the normal time, such as those committed for auto theft and violence. However, too much emphasis should not be placed on the offenses committed as playing an overly important part in keeping the girls at the schools. Many times, particularly in cases of negro girls at the Crockett School, children had to be retained in the schools because there was no person available with whom they might be paroled.

The percentage figures of the totals for each group also point up the fact that more boys are committed for some form of stealing while most girls are disobedient or act immorally.

Please refer to Table IV for various offenses listed in the general categories given in this chart. However, auto theft is listed apart from other forms of stealing for the purpose of emphasis.

TABLE XXII

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY IN SCHOOLS BY AGE AT ADMISSION AND SEX  
OF CHILDREN RELEASED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Age at Admission	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total
10	11.5	1 %	10.0	1 %	10.0	1 %
11	10.3	3	9.7	3	15.0	1.5
12	9.4	7	9.2	8	16.0	2
13	9.6	13	8.7	12	16.4	17
14	8.5	23	7.9	23	15.0	23
15	7.8	26	7.2	27	12.8	22
16	6.9	24	6.5	25	13.6	21
17	11.7	3	5.2	1	12.7	13
18	10.0	0.1	0	0	12.0	0.5
Unknown	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.2	0	0

YOUNGER CHILDREN STAY IN SCHOOL LONGER

A comparison of the lengths of stay in school by the age at first admission shows that children tend to remain in school progressively shorter times as they reach 16 and 17. Boys showed a steady decline from 10 months in school at age 10 to 5 months at age 17. There was some fluctuation in the length of time the girls were retained with the 12 and 13 year-olds being held the longer periods. Girls are retained nearly twice as long as are boys, due primarily to the types of delinquencies evident among girls. Emotional patterns must be dealt with and are more difficult to change than those problems which face boys. Also, boys find it easier to secure employment while girls who desire to work after release must be taught useful vocations in order to find gainful employment. All this takes much time.

Few boys are noted in the 17 year group due to the fact that they are not considered as juveniles beyond this age. The few who were in the school are those returned for parole violations where further training was felt to be profitable.

Only about 1% of the boys remain in school over 18 months but nearly 15% of the girls remained over that time. Approximately 75% of the boys were between the ages of 14 and 16 at the time of first admission; 66% of the girls fell within that age group. There were 5% more girls in both the 12 and 13 year groups than in those of the boys, however.

STATISTICAL SECTION (CONTINUED)

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF JUVENILES  
WHO VIOLATED PAROLE AND WERE RE-ADMITTED TO  
THE THREE STATE SCHOOLS FOR DELINQUENT CHILDREN

FISCAL YEAR  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956



TABLE XXIII

## TIME LAPSE BETWEEN RELEASE AND RETURN OF RECIDIVISTS TO STATE SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Months Out of School	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	336	293	34	9
0 - 4 Months	44.9	151	131	17	3
5 - 8 "	25.9	87	76	9	2
9 - 12 "	15.8	53	47	4	2
13 - 16 "	6.8	23	18	4	1
17 - 20 "	2.7	9	8		1
21 - 24 "	2.1	7	7		
25 - 28 "	1.2	4	4		
Over 28 "	.6	2	2		

## RECIDIVISTS RETURN WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER RELEASE

It has been noted in previous years that the majority of children who are released from the schools and get into trouble while on parole are returned to the schools within twelve months after being released. Approximately 87% of the children were returned during that period this year. Nearly 45% were returned during the first four months after release.

Average time out of school for boys was 5 months and 24 days; for girls it was 5 months and 12 days. The over-all average time out was 5 months and 24 days.

The fact that recidivism has continued to increase during the last three years needs explaining somewhat. Prior to September 1953 the Youth Council had a field staff to assist probation and welfare personnel in supervising wards of the Council. Recidivism was higher before 1953 due to the fact that this intensive supervision was responsible for discovering many children who needed further training in the schools and returning them promptly.

During the last two years the number of returnees as compared to the number of children released from the training schools have increased at a rather steady rate. This trend may be explained in part by pointing out that after the field staff was discontinued in 1953 the supervisors may not have been able to give the maximum amount of supervision or did not return the children to the schools as soon the need for further rehabilitation

became obvious. With the large increases in children being admitted to the schools each year, it seems logical to assume that more parolees are also being returned simply because more and more of them are being involved in difficulties with the law after their release from the schools. Since the caseloads of the supervisors have become heavier within the last three years, it does not seem likely that the children have suddenly gotten more intensive supervisory services than heretofore.

If the Youth Development Council had a field staff of parole officers to maintain supervision over wards of the Council on parole, our children would most surely receive the kind of probationary services which they require and are entitled to receive, and the probation officers and DPW personnel in the various counties who so generously contribute this service would be relieved of the extra work devoted to YDC wards and could carry on their own tasks with greater efficiency.



TABLE XXIV

TIME LAPSE BETWEEN RELEASE AND RETURN OF RECIDIVISTS BY COMMITTING COUNTY AND SEX  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

## -BOYS-

Committing County	No. of Returnees	Average Months Out	Committing County	No. of Returnees	Average Months Out
Andrews	1	5	Kleberg	5	5
Bee	1	16	Liberty	1	21
Bell	1	2	Llano	1	4
Bexar	22	6	Lubbock	6	6
Bowie	1	8	Madison	1	3
Brazoria	3	7	Marion	2	8
Cameron	2	9	Matagorda	1	25
Camp	1	1	McLennan	11	5
Collin	3	5	Medina	1	2
Comal	1	4	Midland	2	2
Cooke	1	11	Nacogdoches	1	23
Coryell	1	7	Navarro	2	5
Dallas	59	5	Nueces	9	7
Deaf Smith	1	4	Pecos	1	10
Ector	12	5	Polk	1	2
Ellis	2	14	Potter	5	7
El Paso	9	5	Refugio	2	4
Fort Bend	1	2	Rusk	1	1
Freestone	1	4	San Patricio	2	5
Gaines	1	10	Shelby	1	8
Galveston	6	6	Smith	5	12
Gray	3	6	Swisher	1	1
Grayson	4	5	Tarrant	13	4
Gregg	3	6	Terry	1	16
Hale	1	17	Titus	1	5
Hamilton	1	2	Tom Green	3	6
Harris	34	5	Travis	12	7
Hartley	1	0	Val Verde	1	24
Hill	1	8	Victoria	1	3
Hutchinson	1	8	Ward	1	10
Jefferson	5	10	Webb	1	11
Jim Wells	3	4	Wharton	4	12
Johnson	3	3	Wheeler	1	2
Kerr	1	6	Zavala	1	41

## -GIRLS-

Committing County	No. of Returnees	Average Months Out	Committing County	No. of Returnees	Average Months Out
Bexar	4	5	Matagorda	1	2
Brazos	1	10	McLennan	3	3
Dallas	5	8	Nueces	3	6
Ector	1	4	Orange	1	20
Floyd	1	5	Potter	2	4
Harris	4	5	Smith	1	16
Jefferson	2	7	Tarrant	5	4
Jim Wells	1	5	Tom Green	1	13
Johnson	2	5	Travis	3	7
Kendall	1	1	Ward	1	11

TABLE XXV

MEDIAN TIME OUT OF SCHOOL BETWEEN RELEASE AND READMISSION OF CHILDREN  
RETURNED FOR PAROLE VIOLATIONS BY SUPERVISOR AND SEX  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Supervisor	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total
Probation Officer	5.5	81 %	5.5	82 %	5.4	74%
Child Welfare worker	4.0	1	4.0	1	0	0
Public Assistance worker	6.4	13	5.6	13	4.0	12
Out-of-state agency	8.0	1	4.0	1	12.0	2
Committing Judge	4.0	0.3	4.0	0.3	0	0
Pastor	8.0	0.3	5.0	0.3	0	0
Other	28.0	0.3	28.0	0.3	0	0
None or Unknown	7.0	3	11.0	2	3	12

MEDIAN TIME BETWEEN ADMISSIONS IS 5½ MONTHS

The chart above shows the average time between admissions for boys and girls and the supervisors of those children. The average time out of school between admissions for all schools has been stated as 5.8 months (5 months and 24 days). It will be observed in this chart that children supervised by probation officers are returned in 5.5 months while those under the supervision of welfare personnel remain out slightly longer or 6.4 months.

Approximately 81% of the children readmitted to the schools during the current year were being supervised by probation officers and 14% were being supervised by either Child Welfare or Public Assistance workers of the State Department of Public Welfare.

TABLE XXVI

MEDIAN TIME OUT OF SCHOOL BETWEEN RELEASE AND READMISSION OF CHILDREN  
RETURNED FOR PAROLE VIOLATIONS BY OFFENSE AND SEX  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason of Commitment	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total
Auto theft	6.2	15%	6.2	18%	0	0
Stealing	5.1	52	5.1	59	4.7	5
Disobedience	5.3	13	6.2	8	3.3	46
Immoral Conduct	8.0	9	8.0	4	7.4	40
Violence	4.0	4	4.0	4	4.0	2
Other	6.5	7	6.7	8	5.0	7

CHILDREN COMMITTING PROPERTY VIOLATIONS RETURN SOONER

Children who commit delinquencies involving the property rights of others are usually returned to the state schools sooner than others. As a rule, these children are brought to the attention of their supervisors and proper authorities much quicker than are those children whose misbehavior involves moral delinquency. Those who exhibited violent actions (homicide or attempts, injury to persons, etc.) were returned about a month and a half sooner than was average. Those committing immoral acts remained out about a month and a half longer than was considered average.

Comparison of readmissions of boys and of girls will reveal that girls who were disobedient (ungovernable, truant, etc.) were returned in a relatively short time. The first four months after release is considered as the most difficult period of adjustment for the children and this seems especially true in the cases of girls.



STATISTICAL SECTION (CONTINUED)

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF JUVENILES  
DISCHARGED FROM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CUSTODY

FISCAL YEAR  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956



TABLE XXVII

DISCHARGES OF CHILDREN FROM CUSTODY OF YOUTH COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason for Discharge	Per Cent of Total	Number of Children			
		Total	Gatesville State School for Boys	Gainesville State School for Girls	Crockett State School for Negro Girls
Total	100.0%	844	636	147	61
Satisfactory Adjustment	53.9	455	338	85	32
Satisfactory Adjustment	47.3	399	282	85	32
Enlisted in military service	6.6	56	56		
Unsatisfactory Adjustment	19.9	168	146	13	9
Committed to State Pen	5.3	45	44		1
Unsatisfactory Adjustment	7.0	59	45	10	4
Released to Federal Authorities	.9	8	8		
Recommitted by court of another county	.2	2	2		
Recommitted by same court	.6	5		1	4
Conviction by Criminal court	5.8	49	47	2	
Adjustment Unknown	16.5	139	94	34	11
Whereabouts unknown	13.2	111	72	29	10
Dismissed by supervising agency	3.3	28	22	5	1
Handicapped	2.6	22	11	6	5
Feebleminded	1.0	8	5		3
Mental Illness	1.5	13	6	5	2
Dependent & Neglected	.1	1		1	
Miscellaneous	7.1	60	47	9	4
Over 21	.1	1	1		
Illegal Alien	.6	5	5		
Request of court	1.3	11	10	1	
Ward of another state	3.7	31	22	5	4
Done all possible with present staff & facilities	.8	7	5	2	
Death	.6	5	4	1	

FIFTY-FOUR PER CENT OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED MADE SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENT

Over one-half of the children discharged from YDC custody during the 1955-56 fiscal year had made satisfactory adjustments after their releases from the state training schools.

The same percentage was noted last year although during the current year 1% more boys entered military service than did last year.

Seven hundred sixty-eight children were outside of the state schools under supervision when discharged from YDC custody. Another seventy-six were on absences from the schools and had either gotten into further trouble and were convicted in adult courts or their whereabouts had been unknown for several years.

Approximately one per cent less children made unsatisfactory adjustments during the current year than did last year. However, nearly one per cent more than last year went to the state penitentiary. Sixteen per cent of the children had either been dismissed by the supervising agency after a period of supervision or their whereabouts were unknown. It may be assumed that some portion of this number of children made at least a fair adjustment or the courts or Youth Council would have been notified.

A policy of the Youth Development Council has been to retain boys over 17 and girls over 18 on a supervisory status for at least one year from the time of their release from the schools. If, within that period, they are making a good adjustment, they may be considered for discharge from custody. Many times however, the children have become involved in difficulties and since they are over Juvenile Court age, they may be sentenced in adult courts. This automatically terminates Youth Council jurisdiction of those children.

Of the children discharged during the current year, girls were retained under supervision for approximately 15.8 months while boys were retained 13.3 months before discharge.



TABLE XXVIII

REASON FOR DISCHARGE OF YOUTH COUNCIL WARDS BY RACE AND SEX  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason for Discharge	B O Y S						G I R L S					
	English-speaking		Spanish-speaking		Negro		English-speaking		Spanish-speaking		Negro	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	290		208		136		109		38		61	
Satisfactory Adjustment	156	54	107	51	74	54	64	59	21	55	32	52
Unsatisfactory Adjustment	71	24	51	24	23	17	9	8	4	10	9	15
Adjustment Unknown	37	13	33	16	24	18	25	23	9	24	11	18
Handicapped	3	1	2	1	6	4	5	5	1	3	5	8
Miscellaneous	23	8	15	7	9	7	6	5	3	8	4	7

ALL RACES SHOW PREDOMINATELY SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENTS

Of the 844 children discharged during the current fiscal year 47% were English-speaking white children, 29% were Spanish-speaking white, and 24% were negro. It is interesting to note that exactly the same percentage of white and negro children were admitted to the state schools during the year, although 2% more of the white children admitted were Spanish-speaking with 2% less being English-speaking.

Comparisons between the discharges of boys and girls show the following distributions: of the boys discharged 46% were English-speaking, 33% were Spanish-speaking, 21% were negro; of the girls 53% were English-speaking, 18% Spanish-speaking, and 29% were negro.

In studying the percentage of each group of children and their adjustments one will see that over half of all children made a satisfactory adjustment. However, several other items of interest may be found, such as: a fewer percentage of negro boys made unsatisfactory adjustments than white boys but a larger percentage of negro girls made adjustments considered unsatisfactory than did white girls. Also, the adjustment of a larger number of girls was unknown than those of boys, but this may be explained by the fact that girls usually commit delinquent acts which endanger their moral safety and these acts are too infrequently brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

TABLE XXIX

REASON OF COMMITMENT OF YOUTH COUNCIL WARDS DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason of Commitment	REASON FOR DISCHARGE									
	Satisfactory Adj.		Unsatisfactory Adj.		Adj. Unknown		Handicapped		Miscellaneous	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	455		168		139		22		60	
Auto theft	86	53	34	21	25	15	1	1	16	10
Stealing	186	53	80	23	48	14	7	2	30	8
Disobedience	70	57	15	12	25	20	7	6	6	5
Immoral Conduct	56	59	11	12	20	21	4	4	4	4
Violence	24	57	8	19	9	21	0	0	1	3
Other	26	43	18	29	11	18	3	5	3	5
Unknown	7	70	2	20	1	10	0	0	0	0

RELATIVELY SAME ADJUSTMENT SHOWN REGARDLESS OF COMMITTING OFFENSES

As seen in this chart comparing the reason of commitment with the reason for discharge, most children show relatively the same sort of adjustment regardless of the reason they were committed to the schools. The group of committing reasons listed as "Other" shows the least percentage of children making satisfactory adjustments. This group includes liquor and drug violations, fighting, arson, traffic violations, etc.

In studying each reason for discharge group the Council found that of the children discharged approximately 61% had originally been committed for some form of stealing, 26% for disobedience and immoral conduct, 5% for violence and 8% for other reasons. Also, boys had been committed for stealing in 76% of the cases and for immoral conduct in 9%. Girls, on the other hand, had been committed for stealing in 14% of the cases and for disobedience and immoral conduct in 76%. These percentages are approximately the same as those for the reasons of commitment for the current year and seem to follow the usual pattern of delinquency among boys and girls.

TABLE XXX

MEDIAN TIME IN SCHOOL DURING LAST ADMISSION BY REASON OF DISCHARGE AND SEX  
OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

Reason for Discharge	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total	Median (Mo.)	Per Cent of Total
Satisfactory Adjustment	9.4	54	8.4	53	12.7	56
Unsatisfactory Adjustment	8.7	20	8.1	23	14.2	11
Adjustment Unknown	8.8	16	7.8	15	11.4	22
Handicapped	6.0	3	7.0	2	3.0	5
Miscellaneous	6.0	7	5.1	7	9.0	6

CHILDREN MAKING GOOD ADJUSTMENTS STAYED IN SCHOOL OVER AVERAGE

The children who were discharged from custody as making satisfactory adjustments remained in the schools for an average of 9.4 months during their last admissions. Average time in school has been around nine months during the last few years. This table indicates that those who make good adjustments usually remain in school for an average length of training.

It will be noted that girls making unsatisfactory adjustments remained in school for a longer period of time than those making a good adjustment. Girls, as a rule, are kept in the schools as long as possible, and up until this year the girls' schools have not been as burdened with the problem of over-population as the boy's school at Gatesville. Hence, girls who show difficult adjustment problems are frequently kept in school for as long a period as is possible.

The 5% of children who were committed to the state penitentiary during the year spent an average time of 9.3 months in the training schools during their last admission. This is approximately one month longer than was spent in school by other children showing unsatisfactory adjustments and indicates the intensive training which the schools were trying to provide.

MEDICAL FEES IN SCHOOL DURING LAST ADMISSION BY REPORT OF PHYSICIAN AND SEX  
 OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM STATE SCHOOLS  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956

**SUMMARY OF OPERATING EXPENSE**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 - AUGUST 31, 1956**

Facility	Average Number of Children	Net Operating Expense	
		Total	Per Child
<b>TOTAL</b>	894	\$1,217,005.69	\$
Central Office, Austin		48,103.37	
Colored Girls Training School, Crockett	88	107,124.63	1,219.96
Gainesville State School for Girls	189	267,105.22	1,413.26
Gatesville State School for Boys	617	794,672.47	1,288.67