

# DISTRICT AND COUNTY-LEVEL COURT ACTIVITY IN JUVENILE MATTERS

## ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1995

Section 51.04 of the Texas Family Code provides for the designation of a court or courts in each county as the juvenile court, to hear proceedings under Title 3 of the Family Code. The court designated must be either a district court, criminal district court, county court at law, or constitutional county court. The designation is to be made by the juvenile board in each county, or if there is none, by the judges of the above-mentioned types of courts in the county.

This section contains the combined juvenile activity previously included in the district and county-level courts sections of this report. The total statewide activity indicates that during the state fiscal year, about 82 percent of the juvenile cases in the State were handled by district courts and 18 percent were handled by county-level courts (county courts at law or constitutional county courts).

### JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS INCREASE

Statewide, 23,981 new juvenile cases were filed during fiscal year 1995. Motions to revoke probation totaled 2,960. Of the new filings, 23,325 were allegations of delinquent conduct and 656 were for allegations of conduct indicating a need for supervision. The courts disposed of 29,723 cases — 12.7 percent more than in 1994.

Findings of delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision (C.I.N.S.) were entered in 61 percent of the disposed cases. Findings of no delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision were entered in one percent. The remaining juvenile cases were either dismissed or otherwise disposed.

### JUVENILE PROBATION INCREASES

Of those children found to be delinquent or in need of supervision, 98.9 percent were placed on formal probation, as compared to 95.0 percent in 1994. Where probation was granted, 14,377 (or 79.6 percent) of the children were placed in the care of their parents; 3,597 (or 18.9 percent) were placed in residential care facilities; and 90 (or 0.5 percent) were placed with foster parents.

Children found to be delinquent were ordered confined to a Texas Youth Commission facility in 12.2 percent of the cases.

During fiscal year 1995, 499 children were certified to be tried as adults, down from 715 children in 1994.

Other actions taken by juvenile courts during the fiscal year included the holding of 42,727 detention hearings and 2,604 hearings on motions to modify court orders.

