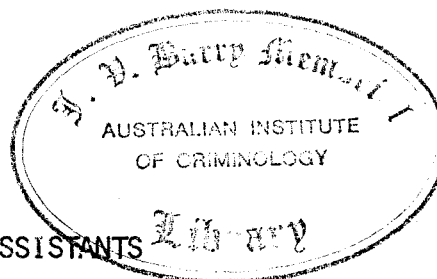


ANTHONY ANDREW EAKIN B.A., B.SC.
ERIC LINFORD REILLY B.S.W., DIP. DIV.

DELINQUENCY SURVEY

"PERSONAL/SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF DELINQUENTS"

PRELIMINARY REPORT



AS PRESENTED BY THE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

TO A.A. EAKIN
AND E.L. REILLY

ON THE FIRST 100 COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES

INTRODUCTION

The investigation is being carried out by Lin Reilly, University of Queensland Social Work Department, and Andrew Eakin, Department of Children's Services, under the auspices of the Criminology Research Council. A random sample of 250 cases appearing before the Children's Courts in the Brisbane metropolitan area will ultimately be the subject of 2 interviews :

- 1. of the child concerned, wherever possible at court, immediately after the court hearing;*
- 2. of his family in their home.*

After extensive discussions and questionnaire preparation a pilot sample of 14 cases were interviewed by Mr. Devon Carter between July and September, 1974, and from the information thus gained, the questionnaire was redesigned by Lin Reilly, Andrew Eakin, Wayne Boldery, and Eena Job in collaboration. In its final form the child's questionnaire

consists of 135 questions, plus 25 in which he is asked to underline the answers he considers most appropriate. The questions relate to ethnic origin, health, family and peer relationships, school, work, aspirations, and possible acts of delinquency. The family questionnaire (137 questions) covers much the same ground, with more detailed demographic data obtained from the family than from the child. As with all surveys, it was soon evident that even the final form of the questionnaire had many deficiencies.

Eena Job was employed as research assistant on 30th September, but interviews with the final questionnaires did not begin until Monday, 27th November, 1974. At first a series of random numbers was matched with a list obtained by the D.C.S. court officer from the police, but for several reasons this did not prove practicable. To make appointments for family interviews with parents present at the court and interview the children concerned without causing delay and inconvenience, necessitates maximum flexibility, and any previous structuring of the sample introduced grave difficulties. Because the child's interview takes at least half an hour, many parents understandably declined to wait, and the research assistant found that while she was interviewing one respondent, most of those with whom she had arranged interviews had left the court. Again, if a policeman brings the child to court, he usually undertakes to drive him home afterwards, and is unable or unwilling to wait while interviewing takes place.

In view of these and other difficulties, a second research assistant, Audrey Cox, was employed from 13th December to make appointments, direct respondents to the interview room, and conduct interviews herself. More flexibility was also introduced by interviewing children at home if necessary. Child questionnaires answered at home are marked to this effect, and every effort is made to ensure that the child feels free to answer candidly - e.g. by sitting in the garden or in the car, or in some cases driving to a local park. Of the 100 interviews so far completed, 16 were at the child's home and one at Opal. Another 6 boys were interviewed at Westbrook.

Both research assistants have found that families and children who agree to be interviewed co-operate well; many seem to welcome the chance to explore the problems which the questions expose. The family interview has proved impossible to complete in less than an hour and usually takes from 1½ to 2 hours; occasionally tact and firmness is needed for the interviewer to extricate herself after 3 hours or even longer. Some, on the other hand, are reluctant to be interviewed, and no effort is made to persuade these to agree to an appointment, but once an appointment is made the interviewers go to considerable lengths to see that it is kept, if necessary returning to the address again and again.

At first no record was kept of refusals made at the initial approach, but this has been remedied.

The first 100 joint child and family questionnaires were completed on 25th January, 1975. Of the total of 200 separate interviews involved, 51 were conducted by Audrey Cox and 149 by Eena Job, as under :

Child + family both interviewed by AC	14
" " " " by EJ	63
Child interviewed by EJ, family by AC	11
" " " AC, " by EJ	12
	100
	joint interviews

COVER SHEETS

In an investigation of this kind the interviewer must perforce rely on subtleties and nuances in order to distinguish between what is said and what is meant. Cover sheets recording "Interviewer's Impressions" were used from the beginning, but the employment of an additional interviewer soon revealed the need to structure these impressions so that both were, at least, talking about the same thing. Accordingly a "Susceptibility to Delinquency" Scale was adapted from the Index of Social Environment (Martin Davies, Home Office Research Studies, 1973). In practice this seemed to work quite well, and its success encouraged EJ to attempt the unravelling of "ethical attitudes" (another heading used as a guideline for interviewer's impressions). On the principle that life is a matter of give and take, and that "ethical attitudes" may be distinguished as the predominance of giving over taking, 12 elements involving a pro-social generosity were contrasted with another 12 of an anti-social, egocentric kind - not simply opposites, but as far as possible 24 distinct elements. The "giving" elements were each given a positive maximum of 2 for above average, 1 for average, and 0 for below average; the "getting" elements were similarly but negatively, scored. "Average" represents the interviewer's ideas of what is average for most young people of a similar age.

The scoring of ethical attitudes in this way might have some value when it is completed immediately the interviewer has finished talking with the child, while he is filling in the self-administered questionnaire. To go back, as we did, and attempt to score from answers in the questionnaires plus fading memories of the child concerned is, no doubt, almost useless. AC recognized this from the beginning, but at one stage EJ thought it might be better to wait for possible new insights gained from

interviewing the family. This is now considered to be a mistake; any value the "giving" and "getting" scores might have lie only in the directing of interviewer's impressions into a prescribed, and therefore comparable, form. It is essential that those impressions be recorded while they are still vivid, and preferably with the child still in the interviewer's presence.

The ethical attitudes and susceptibility to delinquency scales were incorporated with an "appearance" score (2 = above average; 1 = average; 0 = below average for each of build, facial features, and grooming), and a rough guide to 6 socio-economic classes, on a new cover sheet.

Challenged by the difficulties of objectivizing highly subjective impressions, EJ devised yet another scale, this time based on her interest in the relationship between society and human needs. Using a tripartite scale adapted from Maslow's work, 3 groups of 5 related needs were scored on the same principle - i.e. 2 = above average; 1 = average; 0 = below average. This is meant to be completed after interviewing the family in their home. Several of the concepts are somewhat abstruse, and it is not always easy to keep in mind that they are meant to convey the part the child's family and general environment plays in fulfilling survival, affiliation, and effectiveness needs. However, these scales do serve to illustrate the fact that few of our respondents fall far below average in the fulfilment of their "survival" (e.g. health, nutrition, housing) needs, whereas most of them are seriously deprived with respect to their affiliation and effectiveness needs.

The concepts involved are explained more fully on the back of the cover-sheets concerned, which are enclosed as an appendix.

SOME TENTATIVE FINDINGS

Information obtained from the joint questionnaires has been recorded on Parapunch cards. This would have been a simple matter if it had been done from the beginning, but though this was attempted, it proved impracticable because of the sheer wealth of information available. After the first 50 or so interviews had been completed, trends were distinguishable which could be summarized on the cards, and coding and punching was done. However, the choice of categories is little more than a guess on EJ's part as to emerging trends; it is highly possible that computerization will discover other, and more significant, relationships. It is also more probable than possible that errors have been made in coding, punching, and counting, though results have been balanced where possible and all errors corrected as they became apparent.

For this report I am presenting the findings, with a brief discussion, under 6 major headings, viz :

1. Demographic Data

- a. Sex
- b. Ethnic group
- c. Age
- d. Socio-economic class
- e. Family structure
- f. Number of siblings
- g. Birth order

2. Health

- a. Diet
- b. Mother's health
- c. Neuroticism; also extraversion/
introversion
- d. Worry about masturbation
- e. Asthma
- f. Epilepsy
- g. Head injuries
- h. Drugs
- i. Attempted suicide
- j. Smoking

3. Communication

- a. General communication
- b. Communication about sex

4. Emotional stability and support

- a. Emotional support at home
- b. Parents' religion
- c. Child's religiosity
- d. Discipline
- e. Absconding from home

5. Education

- a. Intelligence and school/
work achievement
- b. Aspirations
- c. Truancy

6. Acts of delinquency

- a. Stealing
- b. Delinquency involving violence
- c. Sexual delinquency

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

a. Sex

Males	74%
Females	26%

b. Ethnic group

White Australian	75%
Anglo-Saxon migrant	10%
Other migrants	7
Aboriginal or part-Aboriginal	7
Other dark-skinned peoples	1
	(a New Guinean)
Asian	Nil

c. Age

Aged 16	26%
" 15	24
" 14	24
" 13	16
" 12	4
" 11	5
" 10	1

The preponderance of males (almost three-quarters of the sample) to females is in line with most other studies of delinquency, and the ethnic groups represented seem to approximate those in the general population. In age, the numbers are very similar for 14-, 15-, and 16- year olds, with a drop in the numbers of 13 - year olds and a still sharper drop between 13 and 12. 11 - year - olds are slightly more numerous than those a year older, but there is only one 10 - year - old in our sample.

No girls younger than 13 appear in our sample.

d. Socio-economic class

Class 1 (professional, managerial	3
" 2 (e.g. clerical, higher sales)	10
" 3 (e.g. tradesmen, small farmers)	19
" 4 (skilled labourers)	22
" 5 (unskilled labourers)	16
" 6 (pensioners)	30

Social stratification based chiefly on occupation reveals a disproportionately high representation of children from the homes of "pensioners" (using the term pensioner in a wide sense to include all those who are not gainfully employed and are dependent for their income on some form of social security). These are also the families with the largest number of children; only 3 of the 30 in this category have less than 4 children, and the really large families of 8+ are all "pensioners". The latter are among the very few who admit to a struggle in making ends meet; for the great majority in all classes, "no real worries now" was the most usual response to questions about financial status.

The top professional/managerial class is poorly represented; taking education and life-style into consideration, the only real claimant to Class 1 status is probably one girl's father.

e. Family structure

Mother and Father	47%
M alone, F dead	3
M " , F whereabouts unknown	11
M " , F in contact	9
M & Stepfather, F dead	2
M & " , F whereabouts unknown	12
M & " , F in contact	1
F alone, M dead	3
F " , M whereabouts unknown	0
F " , M in contact	3
F & Stepmother, M dead	3
F & " , M whereabouts unknown	0
F & " , M in contact	2
Other relative/Adopted, M & F dead or w. unknown ...	2
" " " , M d/wu, F in contact	0
" " " , M in contact, F d /wu	2
" " " , M & F in contact	0

More than half the respondents (53%) are from households where some disruption has occurred to the "normal" nuclear family; 29% are from 1 parent families, and 24% from households where at least one of the natural parents had been replaced. A weakness of the questionnaire is that no specific question is asked about adoption; however, it seems likely that this would emerge during the recording of other demographic information, and in fact one adopted child (a girl) appears in our sample.

f. Number of siblings

0 sibs	1%
1 or 2 sibs	23
3 or 4 sibs	25
5 + sibs	17
0 sibs + 1/2 step-sibs*	2
0 sibs + 3/4 " "	0
0 sibs + 5 + " "	3
1/2 sibs + 1/2 step-sibs	7
1/2 " + 3/4 " "	2
1/2 " + 5 + " "	0
3/4 " + 1/2 " "	4
3/4 " + 3/4 " "	3
3/4 " + 5 + " "	1
5 + " + 1/2 " "	10
5 + " + 3 + " "	2

*For the purposes of this analysis, "step-sibs" include all children related by blood or marriage to the respondent and residing in the same household - e.g., an elder sister's illegitimate child.

g. Birth order

Only child	1
Eldest	19
Youngest	16
Other	62
Twins, only	0
Twins, eldest	0
Twins, youngest	1
Twins, other	1

Two-thirds of the sample (66%) are from families of 4 or more children, and this probably explains the preponderance of children (62%) whose birth order is intermediate.

2. HEALTH

a. Diet

Diet was classified as above or below average. Only 2 were rated above average - one boy who comes from an intelligent health-conscious family, and another boy, the young New Guinean whose diet seemed to the researcher to contain more fruit and less processed food than the average. 31% were rated below average, chiefly on the grounds that breakfast was usually missed, but also in those "pensioner" households where the mother expressed difficulty in finding the money to buy sufficient food for a very large number of children.

b. Mother's health

In 41% of the sample, mothers or stepmothers reported very poor health, often involving prolonged hospitalization or medical treatment for cancer, kidney trouble, heart attacks, hypertension, and "nerves". This seems an astonishingly high figure, and may be an indication of the complex inter-relationships between physical health and a difficult life situation, cause and effect being so closely intertwined as to be virtually inseparable.

c. Neuroticism; Extraversion/Introversion

Evidence of tendencies towards neuroticism on the child's part was deduced from answers to Qs. 42-44, 49, 51 and 55 in the family questionnaire, the child's self-administered questionnaire, and other facts emerging from his history. In 8 instances (4 of them girls) these seemed sufficiently severe to warrant separate categorization as "psychiatric symptoms"; they include attempted suicide (two girls), outbursts of violence (three boys and two girls), and compulsive transvestism with acute depression. Another 16% seem at least slightly neurotic on the evidence available, and 24% reported a history of persistent enuresis lasting in many cases until adolescence. Presumably bedwetting can be taken as an indication of anxiety; added to the figures for psychiatric and slightly neurotic symptoms, this gives a total of nearly half the sample (48%) where a degree of neuroticism is noticeable without any detailed psychological examination.

On evidence such as the answers to Qs. 53, 55, 60, and 65 in the family questionnaire, and the situational and SAQ in the child's, marked extraversion was noted in 34% of cases, and marked introversion in 18% - a total of slightly more than half (52%) who deviated in either direction from a presumed norm.

d. Worry about masturbation

The figures on masturbation must be viewed with caution. Many of the near-illiterates probably did not understand the term or the somewhat pompous definition provided in the questionnaire. Actual illiterates, for whom the SAQ had to be filled in by the interviewer, almost invariably made a face when a simpler explanation was provided, and directed the interviewer to underline "not at all". Some revealed the emotional impact of this question by underscoring "not at all" very heavily; a few wrote comments (e.g. "What a question!") beside it. No one admitted to masturbating "often", but 32% (including 6 girls) underlined "sometimes". Of these, 4 (including 2 girls) said that they worried "a lot" about it; 16 (1 girl) worried "a bit"; and 12 (3 girls) stoutly declared that though they admitted masturbating "sometimes" they worried about it "not at all".

e. Asthma

This category was included on the cards because a rather high proportion seemed to be reporting asthma either in the respondent or the respondent's family. Actual figures are probably higher than the incidence in the general population:

Child	7 (0 girls)
Family	9
Both	3

f. Epilepsy

Two respondents have been medically diagnosed as epileptic; 2 mentioned epilepsy as having been diagnosed in the family; 1 epileptic respondent mentioned it as occurring in other members of the family. These figures do not seem high, but perhaps undiagnosed "petit mal" is higher than they indicate. Several families mentioned convulsions and "little fits", occasionally warranting an EEG examination which apparently did not lead to a specific diagnosis of epilepsy.

g. Head injuries

Several families rather wistfully suggested an earlier head injury as the cause of delinquency, remarking that the child's behaviour or personality seemed to have changed from that date. (The highly delinquent son of a respected public-spirited family is an example). Head injuries were mentioned by 11%, all of them boys.

h. Illegal drugs

For most delinquents in our sample, illegal drugs, whether "hard" or "soft", were definitely outside their code. However, 11% (7 of them girls) admitted to experimental or habitual use of anything from "mushies" to heroin.

i. Attempted suicide

Data is inadequate, as the questionnaire does not include a specific question on this subject. The families of 2 girls, reported threats or actual attempts at suicide, and a third girl told the interviewer that she had contemplated it "to save her parents all the worry she was causing them." There is no reason to believe that it is confined to girls.

j. Smoking

Fifty-two percent of the sample (including 20 girls) smoke habitually, though for some this may as yet amount to only 2 or 3 cigarettes a day, or even less. Of the 50% of our sample who are aged 15 or over, 16 (including 4 girls) classified themselves as non-smokers.

3. COMMUNICATIONa. General communication

Question 73 in the child's questionnaire asks who the respondent knows that they could talk about things that matter to them, without fear of being laughed at, getting into trouble, or being brushed aside. Results are as follows:

Nobody	20%	(2 girls)
Mother* only	22	(4 ")
M not F + others	3	
Father* only	6	(1 girl)
F not M + others	2	
M & F	2	
M & F + others	6	(1 ")
Peers only	17	(10 girls)
Peer + others (not M/F)	2	
Sibling only	12	(2 girls)
Other	8	(4 ")

*For the purposes of this analysis, "Mother" and "Father" include step-parents or other substitute parent figures.

From these figures it seems that 41% feel that they can communicate adequately with at least one parent; 39% rely on members of their own generation; 20% feel themselves to be isolated from their own as well as their parents' generation.

b. Communication about sex

Q.74 asks the child if there is any adult he can talk to frankly about sex. Here the figure for isolation jumps abruptly :

Nobody	60%	(15 girls)
M only	12	(3 ")
F only	9	(2 ")
M & F	5	(0 ")
M & F + others	1	(0 ")
Other adult relative only	6	(2 ")
Other adult	6	(3 ")
More than 1 other adult	1	(1 ")

Computer analysis will be able to establish the relationship between these figures and parents' answers to Q.97. "Have you and (CHILD) ever talked about sex?". Some said they had tried to, but it was the child who had brushed them aside; others that they "had done their best to warn of its dangers"; others that they had made no attempt to discuss the matter at all, being satisfied that the child had picked up all the necessary information one way or another.

It is clear that sex education cannot safely be left to the parents, at least of these children. Twenty-one of the 26 girls in the sample had run away from home at least once; legally and in fact they are "in moral danger", and their need for sympathetic counselling in matters of sex is obviously acute. Nor should it be thought that boys are in much less moral danger than the girls. Absconding girls report experience of rape with monotonous regularity. Lesser sexual misdemeanours are admitted (sometimes incidentally to other charges) by several of our respondents. One boy charged with stealing was in fact stealing women's underclothing - his second offence; another also in court for stealing, was found to have been prostituting himself with a homosexual he had met at a fun parlour; one boy had shamed his devout family by breaking and entering into the house next door, not for theft, but to attempt intercourse with the girl there; another also broke into a neighbour's house to dress himself up in evening dress and jewels. It is obvious that few children who come before the courts can cope satisfactorily with the problems sex poses in their lives. Even the 27% who do feel that they can turn to their parents on this subject are likely to find it dealt with in a way that does not really meet their needs.

4. EMOTIONAL STABILITY AND SUPPORT

Interviewers' estimates of the degree of emotional support the child received in his home situation are based largely on impressions gained from the family interview, and in particular from answers to Qs. 64, 109, and 110 in the family questionnaire, and Qs. 31, 32, 35, 43, 44, 59, and 60 in the child's. Results are as under :

Good	10 (1 girl)
Average	43 (10 girls)
Poor	20 (8 ")
Elements of rejection	17 (4 ")
Complete rejection	10 (3 ")

"Complete rejection" represents those too frequent cases of scapegoating - in which the child is blamed for all the family's troubles, the parents state plainly that they do not feel the child really belongs in their family and they do not want him back, and the word "hatred" is liable to crop up in relation to the child. In spite of the extremes which rejection can reach, there is almost invariable considerable ambivalence in these emotions. For example, one boy's mother throws knives at him, but told the interviewer with tears in her eyes that she "didn't really hate him, not all the time, anyway." Another boy's mother blames him for everything from the breakdown of her marriage to the corruption of the younger members of her family of 9, but at the same time refuses to consider letting this 16 - year - old boy move into a flat with other boys. In a 4 hour interview, a girl's mother reviewed her daughter's history from birth without allowing her one saving grace - even the child's friendliness was "gush", and the little presents she sometimes gave her mother were interpreted contemptuously as attempts to buy love (as indeed, pathetically, they probably were) - yet this mother spoke of the girl's eventual return "if she behaved herself", and of doing up her room in her absence.

The fact that 10% of our sample come from a family atmosphere as destructive as this is decidedly alarming. At least one is a battered baby grown to adolescence.

Another 17% reject the child almost as openly, but their ambivalence seems to spring from some remains of a genuine warmth. All children who had been brought before the court at their parents' instigation, as uncontrollable were rated by us as suffering from at least some elements of rejection. In some cases the rejection is an expression of despair, or a real conviction that only a corrective institution will "straighten him/her out".

b. Parents' religion

In 1970 the Bureau of Census and Statistics estimated the number of Roman Catholics in the population of Queensland as 25.6%; Church of England, 31.4%; all other religions, 32.6%; no religion, 10.3%. These figures are now 5 years out of date, and this should be kept in mind when considering the incidence of particular religions in the "delinquent" population.

For analysis on the Parapunch cards, some estimate of devoutness is deduced from reference to Qs. 99 and 100 in the family questionnaire. These are the results :

No religion	12%
RC, nominal only	13
RC, fairly religious	14
RC, devout	4
Prot. Church, nominal only	27
" " , fairly religious	17
" " , devout	4
Fundamentalist sect., nominally only	0
" " , fairly religious	2
" " , devout	2
Other	5

If the 1970 figures are still roughly applicable, Protestant, fundamentalist, and other religions are under-represented by about 7% (57% compared with 64% in the general population); Roman Catholics are over-represented by about 5.4%; and the non-religious by about 1.7% (12% compared with 10.3%). This, of course, does not mean that any particular religion can be directly associated with higher delinquency scores; intervening variables such as family size are probably significant factors in any such relationship that might exist.

No interviewer could fail to be struck by the emptiness and lack of meaning and purpose in the lives of most of these young people.

c. Child's religiosity

Most respondents (56% - 14 girls) believe in God and consider themselves to be at least slightly religious. Only 3, however (2 of them girls) declared themselves to be very religious. Forty-one percent (10 girls) said that they did not "really" believe in God, and considered themselves "not at all religious."

It will be interesting to compare these figures with those from a control group in the high schools.

d. Discipline

Q. 56 in the child's questionnaire, and Q. 104 in the family's, sought attitudes to the amount of punishment the child received.

Child & Parent agree more than deserved	5*
" more than deserved, P less than deserved	6
	(5 girls)
" " " " , P about right	5
" less " " , P more than deserved	2
" & Parent agree less than deserved	9
" less than deserved, P about right	5
" about right, P more than deserved	7
" " " , P less " "	24
" & Parent agree about right	34
Other (e.g. extremely variable)	2
No answer	1

For one-third of the sample (34%), parents and child agree that the amount of punishment meted out is about what is deserved. Sixteen percent of the respondents, however, feel that the amount they receive is unjustly severe, and among these, 6% of the total sample (5 of them girls) resent what they believe to be unjust severity from parents who nevertheless consider that they administer less than the child deserves.

Interestingly, another 16% rate the punishment they receive as too lax rather than too severe. Nine percent of parents agree, but for 2 families what the child interprets as laxity is seen by the parents as over-severe.

Computer analysis will determine what relationship these attitudes bear to type of punishment, but it seems likely that over-severity is most usually associated, in the minds of both parents and children, with corporal punishment.

e. Absconding from home

More than half of our sample (52%) had run away from home at least once, often for periods of several days or even weeks. These include 21 of the 26 girls. At first glance this seems an indictment of the homes from which they absconded, and certainly they include 6 of the 10 respondents who had suffered complete rejection, 12 of the 17 who were rejected at least to some extent, and 13 of the 20 where the interviewers considered the home situation "poor". But 18 (including 6 girls) ran away from homes rated "average", and 3 from the select 10 rated "good". This might be an indication of the inaccuracy of our rating techniques; on the other hand, it might reveal that some children refrain from running away from extremely unsatisfactory homes, while others run away from good ones.

- probably both these factors are operative in producing the figures as they stand.

Reviewing attitudes to discipline for the 52 absconders, the following figures are obtained :

C & P agree more than deserved	2	(0 girls)
C more than deserved, P less	6	(5 girls)
C " " " , P about right	4	(2 girls)
C less " " , P more	1	(a girl)
C & P agree less than deserved	6	(3 girls)
C less than deserved, P about right	4	(1 girl)
C about right, P more than deserved	4	(0 girls)
C " " , P less " "	11	(3 girls)
C & P agree about right	12	(5 girls)
Other	2	(1 girl)

On this evidence, almost as many (11% of the total sample) run away from homes where discipline is lax as do from homes where punishment is thought to be harsh (12%); and more than twice as many (27%) run away from homes where discipline is considered to be satisfactory.

Other correlations (e.g. with family structure, intelligence, communication, etc.) might prove more illuminating.

5. EDUCATION

a. Intelligence and School/Work achievement

The estimates of intelligence used for this report are based on Qs. 33-37 in the family questionnaire, Qs. 87, 88, and 106 in the child's, plus Qs. 1, 2, and 3 in the SAQ; also a rather heavy reliance on interviewers' impressions. Our grading into above average (i.e., the interviewers' ideas of the average for the general school population), average, below average, and severe reading difficulties is the best we could do in the circumstances, but is unsatisfactory. Access to Education Department files on IQ standards would be extremely helpful.

Results are as follows:

Above average IQ, good school/work achievement ...	2	(1 girl)
" " " , disappointing s/w "	10	(3 girls)
Average IQ, average s/w achievement	20	(6 girls)
" " , poor " " "	35	(13 girls)
Below average IQ, very poor s/w achievement	20	(1 girl)
Severe reading difficulties or illiteracy	13	(2 girls)

On these figures, one-third of our sample falls well below "average", both in native endowment and in achievement. Another 45% are poor achievers in spite of what we presume to be average or above average intelligence; leaving only 22% whose achievements, either at work or at school or both, are compatible with their potential. It is our strong impression that the potential even of the lowest 33% is higher than their social environment provides opportunities for.

b. Aspirations

Aspirations for the future are noticeably lacking in our sample, and often we had to introduce a probe question ("What would you like to be doing in 5 years' time?") to obtain any hint of aspirations. Even so, 19% did not know what they would like to be doing 5 years hence, or what sort of work they would most like to do; nor did they ever day-dream about things they would like to do when older. The answers we did obtain are sex-stereotyped: 7 girls mentioned marriage, compared to 1 boy, and the boy who day-dreamed about a better home put the emphasis on its being big. No girls shared the prevailing masculine ambition to own a motor-bike or car, or to have a job in some way connected with machinery - though together these answers comprised 35% of the total sample. The girls' sense of adventure does appear, however, in a greater interest in travel. Details are hereunder :

Jobs with machinery	17	(0 girls)
Owning motor-bike or car	19	(0 ")
Travel	14	(7 ")
Jobs with children or animals	8	(3 ")
Marriage	8	(7 ")
University	2	(1 ")
Nice home	2	(1 ")
Own business	2	(0 ")
Other	10	(4 ")
Don't know	19	(3 ")

The fact that almost half of the boys visualized desirable aspects of their future as being bound up in some way with machinery certainly suggests the urge for the sense of power and

effectiveness which bikes, cars, trucks, and heavy earth-moving machinery provide. This may be a clue to the sort of curricula which would generate a self-motivating interest for many boys in high schools.

c. Truancy

In our sample of 100, only 18 (3 girls) did not admit to having played truant from school. Computer analysis should indicate in how many cases truancy was merely sporadic, but my impression is that for a large proportion it was quite persistent.

The truancy figures vividly illustrate that for most young people who come before the courts, school seems irrelevant. In many instances this attitude appears to be carried over into the work situation, and work (except for the pay packet) is also regarded as irrelevant.

6. ACTS OF DELINQUENCY

a. Stealing

Shoplifting	64%	(18 girls)
Stealing \$10+ or over	48	(14 ")
" from parents	35	(10 ")
U.U.M.V.	30	(5 ")
Other stealing	21	(6 ")

These figures do not balance, as they are not mutually exclusive - e.g., shoplifting of goods worth more than \$10 would be entered under both headings. Nor do they necessarily refer to the offences with which the respondents were charged; they are based on admissions made during interviews.

The high incidence of shoplifting makes one wonder about the characteristics of those who do not steal from shops. Are they better able to resist peer pressures? If so, why? Our control group sample might provide some clues to these questions.

b. Acts involving some degree of violence against property or person

Breaking and entering	40	(4 girls)
Violence*	20	(4 ")
Arson	6	(0 ")
Vandalism	26	(2 ")

*A rather stringent definition of violence was used to obtain these high figures, involving affirmative answers to questions about deliberate bullying and any history of violent

acts against members of the family or others. Only one was actually charged with violent assault.

Breaking and entering is a blanket term, the "intent" being anything from burglary and rape to vandalism and even harmless curiosity. Vandalism is obviously a symptom of alienation - the youth who regards street lights as for his own benefit as well as the benefit of others is unlikely to throw a rock at them.

c. Sexual delinquencies

Rape	5 (all girls)
Carnal knowledge	10 (5 girls)
Indecent exposure	1
Obscene phone calls	2
"Moral danger"	21 (all girls)

The 5 girls who reported having experienced rape did so spontaneously, as no question was asked on this subject. It seems likely that specific questioning would have brought more cases to light.

Those who had been involved in some way in a charge of carnal knowledge include 4 girls, one of whom had actually reported the incident as rape. The others were willing partners who refused to testify against their boyfriends.

Eena Job B.A. (Hon.Soc.)
Research Assistant

The foregoing report has been presented to us as an indication of progress to date in our project. It is stressed that it is a report by the research assistants on only a small sample number of questions from the total questions asked of the first 100 cases.

A tremendous amount of computer analysis has yet to be done as well as a further 150 families yet to be interviewed.

Copies of the questionnaires used are appended.

Anthony Andrew Eakin B.Sc., B.A.
Eric Linford Reilly B.S.W., Dip. Div.