
National Juvenile Court Data Archive

National Center for Juvenile Justice
3700 South Water St., Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**User's Guide to
Alabama
Juvenile Court Case Records
1985-1989**

ALABAMA
JUVENILE COURT CASE RECORDS
1985-1989
USER'S GUIDE

Data collected by:

Alabama Department of Youth Services
P.O. Box 66
Mt. Meigs, Alabama 36057

Data file and user's guide prepared by:

National Juvenile Court Data Archive
National Center for Juvenile Justice
3700 South Water St., Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-227-6950

Second NJCDA Edition

Updated April 2005

This document was updated by Carl McCurley, Ph.D. under Grant #1999-MU-MU-0020 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

Bibliographic Citation

National Center for Juvenile Justice. *Alabama Juvenile Court Case Records: 19xx to 19xx (enter years of coverage)* [machine-readable data file]. Data collected by the Alabama Department of Youth Services. Data were provided to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, National Center for Juvenile Justice, where they were revised for research use under grants #78-JN-AX-0027, #85-JN-CX-0012 and #1999-MU-MU-0020 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. Mt. Meigs, AL: Alabama Department of Youth Services [producer]. Pittsburgh, PA: National Juvenile Court Data Archive, National Center for Juvenile Justice [distributor].

Acknowledgement of Assistance

All manuscripts utilizing data made available through the National Juvenile Court Data Archive should acknowledge that fact as well as identify the original data source. In addition, some adaptation of the following statement should be used in any manuscript produced using these data:

The data utilized in this publication were housed in and made available by the National Juvenile Court Data Archive which is maintained by the National Center for Juvenile Justice in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and supported by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. The data were originally collected by the Alabama Department of Youth Services. Neither the Alabama Department of Youth Services nor the National Center for Juvenile Justice bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented herein.

In order to provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of archival resources and to monitor Archive users' research activities, every user of Archive data is asked to send a copy of each completed manuscript or thesis abstract to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive. In the cover letter please indicate which data were used.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
History of Alabama's Juvenile Court Statistics	1
Data Collection Methods	1
Publications	1
Archived Data Files	1
Terms of Availability	2
Using the Codebook	3
Variable List	5
Codebook: Variable Descriptions	7
Appendix I: Alabama's Juvenile Court Statistical Card	24
Appendix II: Original Data Collector's Statement of Acceptance	26

INTRODUCTION

History of Alabama's Juvenile Court Statistics

The automated collection of data contained on the Juvenile Court Statistical Card was instituted in 1975 by the Alabama Department of Youth Services (the Department). Revisions to the card took place in 1978. Prior to 1981 the Department contracted with other state agencies to automate the data. Beginning in that year, the Department implemented an in-house automated system which allowed better editing and flexibility to output information. However, due to technical difficulties with the system, the Department contracted with another state agency beginning in 1985 to provide the automated processing and output data.

The general authority for the Department to collect the data is stated in Section 44 of the Code of Alabama. Authority is more specifically outlined in Chapter 950-4-3 of the State Administrative Code. The Department uses the data in annual and fiscal reports and provides local county juvenile courts with quarterly reports.

Data Collection Methods

The circuit and district courts in Alabama exercise original concurrent jurisdiction as the juvenile court. In this capacity they hear cases involving delinquency (including traffic and violation of probation and aftercare), CHINS (child in need of supervision), dependency, and special proceedings. Currently, juvenile jurisdiction is exercised by a circuit judge in 11 counties and by a district judge in the remaining 56 counties.

Delinquency and CHINS (status offense) data is collected on Juvenile Court Statistical Cards (see Appendix I) at the county level primarily by juvenile probation officers. However, other court personnel such as clerks, secretaries and juvenile detention intake workers complete the forms in some counties. Alabama's 67 counties report information regarding delinquency and CHINS cases at the time of disposition. The majority of court personnel enter demographic information on the youth when he or she is first brought to the attention of the court and then the cards are completed when the cases are disposed, whether formally before a judge (with petition) or informally (without a petition). This information is submitted to the Department on a monthly basis. Numerous validity checks are built into the information system to help ensure accuracy. For instance, most of the data elements must have a valid code that falls within a pre-specified range, and formally handled cases must have a petition date.

Publications

Each year the Department has published a report summarizing juvenile court activity based on data collected by the Juvenile Court Statistics Card. [*Statistical Report, Alabama Department of Youth Services.*]

Archived Data Files

Each year the National Juvenile Court Data Archive asks the Department to create a data file containing a record for each case disposed during the previous calendar year and reported to the Department. The data files contain an individual record on each delinquency and status offense (CHINS) case disposed. Cases processed formally and those handled informally are included. Records contain a county code, the youth's date of birth, sex, race, prior referrals to court, date of referral, referral source, referral reason, date of petition, care pending disposition, date of adjudication, date of disposition, and disposition. A case may include more than one offense, but only the "most serious" offense (in the opinion of intake personnel) is recorded. The delinquency records also include information regarding the number, location and time of the offense, property damage and weapon use. The National Juvenile Court Data

Archive staff has checked the data for invalid or inconsistent code values. When found, such codes were replaced with missing data code values.

Each record is 120 characters in length and contains 56 variables. The data are stored in single year files. The number of case records on each calendar year data file is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Records</u>
1985	24,528
1986	25,079
1987	26,889
1988	27,754
1989	30,922

Terms of Availability

Each request to use these data should be directed to the Archive. The Archive will contact Alabama's Department of Youth Services regarding their release. Upon the Department's authorization to release and disseminate the data, the data files will be supplied to the requestor by the Archive with any necessary cautions or restrictions.

The Archive provides the data on magnetic tapes AS IS and shall not be held responsible for any liability incurred as a result of any error or omission in the data as it appears on the magnetic tapes. However, should any inconsistencies be found, the Archive asks to be notified so that corrections can be made to the data.

All questions and requests should be addressed to:

National Juvenile Court Data Archive
 National Center for Juvenile Justice
 3700 South Water St., Suite 200
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203
 412-227-6950

Summary tabulations on selected variables (manner of handling and sex breakdowns for delinquency cases for each county in Alabama) are publicly available beginning with 1982 data through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, Michigan. 48106. (Aggregate dependency statistics from Alabama's Department of Human Resources are also included in the data file.)

USING THE CODEBOOK

The information that follows is based on a study of available documentation from the data supplier (e.g., *Manual for Juvenile Court Statistical Card*, Alabama Department of Youth Services, 1978), interviews with the data supplier and court personnel, and diagnostic analyses performed by the Archive staff. The example below is a reproduction of information appearing in the codebook for a typical variable. The numbers in brackets do not appear in the codebook, but are references to the descriptions which follow this example.

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
[1] 101/1	[2] AL045	[3] MANNER OF HANDLING
		[4] Indicates whether the case was handled formally in court or informally at intake.
		[5] [6]
		(1) With court appearance - involves cases that were placed on the official court calendar for a hearing by the judge or referee through the filing of a petition or other legal document used to initiate official court action.
		(2) Without court appearance - involves cases where the court assumes jurisdiction through the filing of a complaint of affidavit, but the cases were adjusted or handled informally by an officer of the court without bringing the case up for a hearing before a judge.
		[7] (9) Missing
		[8] NOTE: The number of cases having a "date of petition" is often greater than the number of cases handled "with court appearance." This is a result of petitioned cases actually being resolved informally prior to the court hearing.

- [1] The starting location and width of the variable in the machine-readable data file. This is the format information needed to read the data into other systems.
- [2] The variable number. The variable number is used as a variable name when the file is processed by systems which use alphabetic variable names (e.g. SPSS).
- [3] The variable label used by statistical systems to identify the variable or program output.
- [4] A description of the variable contents.
- [5] The code values occurring in the data for the variable. If the variable is a year, the symbol ## represents the most current year for which data are available.
- [6] The textual definitions of the codes. The first 20 characters form a short value label which some systems use to document the output of analysis programs. A longer description follows the short label when necessary.

- [7] The designation of missing data. The Archive staff has replaced any out-of-bounds codes with missing data codes. Many analysis packages require that certain types of data which are usually excluded from analysis be designated as "missing data". Fields with no entry were left blank and "() No entry" is listed as a code value. Some variables also have response options representing "unknown" which are also listed as code values.
- [8] An explanatory/cautionary note.

VARIABLE LIST

AL001	DYS code
AL002	Filler
AL003	DYS sequence
AL004	Filler
AL005	Filler
AL006	DYS county
AL007	Filler
AL008	Filler
AL009	Filler
AL010	Filler
AL011	Filler
AL012	Month of birth
AL013	Date of birth
AL014	Year of birth
AL015	Sex
AL016	Race
AL017	Prior court referrals
AL018	Filler
AL019	Month of referral
AL020	Date of referral
AL021	Year of referral
AL022	Source of referral
AL023	Reason for referral
AL024	Counts
AL025	Multiple offenses
AL026	Location of offense
AL027	Time of offense
AL028	Estimated property damage
AL029	Restitution ordered
AL030	Weapon used
AL031	Month of petition
AL032	Date of petition
AL033	Year of petition
AL034	Filler
AL035	Care pending disposition
AL036	Filler
AL037	Filler
AL038	Filler
AL039	Filler
AL040	Filler
AL041	Filler
AL042	Filler
AL043	Filler

AL044	Filler
AL045	Manner of handling
AL046	Month of adjudication
AL047	Date of adjudication
AL048	Year of adjudication
AL049	Month of disposition
AL050	Date of disposition
AL051	Year of disposition
AL052	Adjudication
AL053	Disposition
AL054	Filler
AL055	Filler
AL056	Filler

CODEBOOK: VARIABLE DESCRIPTIONS

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>																																								
1/4	AL001	DYS CODE (DYS1)																																								
5/2	AL002	FILLER																																								
7/5	AL003	DYS SEQUENCE																																								
12/1	AL004	FILLER																																								
13/2	AL005	FILLER																																								
15/3	AL006	DYS COUNTY The county in which the juvenile court is located. <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>(001) Jefferson</td> <td>(002) Mobile</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(003) Montgomery</td> <td>(004) Autauga</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(005) Baldwin</td> <td>(006) Barbour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(007) Bibb</td> <td>(008) Blount</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(009) Bullock</td> <td>(010) Butler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(011) Calhoun</td> <td>(012) Chambers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(013) Cherokee</td> <td>(014) Chilton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(015) Choctaw</td> <td>(016) Clarke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(017) Clay</td> <td>(018) Cleburne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(019) Coffee</td> <td>(020) Colbert</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(021) Conecuh</td> <td>(022) Coosa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(023) Covington</td> <td>(024) Crenshaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(025) Cullman</td> <td>(026) Dale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(027) Dallas</td> <td>(028) De Kalb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(029) Elmore</td> <td>(030) Escambia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(031) Etowah</td> <td>(032) Fayette</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(033) Franklin</td> <td>(034) Geneva</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(035) Greene</td> <td>(036) Hale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(037) Henry</td> <td>(038) Houston</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(039) Jackson</td> <td>(040) Lamar</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(001) Jefferson	(002) Mobile	(003) Montgomery	(004) Autauga	(005) Baldwin	(006) Barbour	(007) Bibb	(008) Blount	(009) Bullock	(010) Butler	(011) Calhoun	(012) Chambers	(013) Cherokee	(014) Chilton	(015) Choctaw	(016) Clarke	(017) Clay	(018) Cleburne	(019) Coffee	(020) Colbert	(021) Conecuh	(022) Coosa	(023) Covington	(024) Crenshaw	(025) Cullman	(026) Dale	(027) Dallas	(028) De Kalb	(029) Elmore	(030) Escambia	(031) Etowah	(032) Fayette	(033) Franklin	(034) Geneva	(035) Greene	(036) Hale	(037) Henry	(038) Houston	(039) Jackson	(040) Lamar
(001) Jefferson	(002) Mobile																																									
(003) Montgomery	(004) Autauga																																									
(005) Baldwin	(006) Barbour																																									
(007) Bibb	(008) Blount																																									
(009) Bullock	(010) Butler																																									
(011) Calhoun	(012) Chambers																																									
(013) Cherokee	(014) Chilton																																									
(015) Choctaw	(016) Clarke																																									
(017) Clay	(018) Cleburne																																									
(019) Coffee	(020) Colbert																																									
(021) Conecuh	(022) Coosa																																									
(023) Covington	(024) Crenshaw																																									
(025) Cullman	(026) Dale																																									
(027) Dallas	(028) De Kalb																																									
(029) Elmore	(030) Escambia																																									
(031) Etowah	(032) Fayette																																									
(033) Franklin	(034) Geneva																																									
(035) Greene	(036) Hale																																									
(037) Henry	(038) Houston																																									
(039) Jackson	(040) Lamar																																									

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		(041) Lauderdale
		(042) Lawrence
		(043) Lee
		(044) Limestone
		(045) Lowndes
		(046) Macon
		(047) Madison
		(048) Marengo
		(049) Marion
		(050) Marshall
		(051) Monroe
		(052) Morgan
		(053) Perry
		(054) Pickens
		(055) Pike
		(056) Randolph
		(057) Russell
		(058) St. Clair
		(059) Shelby
		(060) Sumter
		(061) Talladega
		(062) Tallapoosa
		(063) Tuscaloosa
		(064) Walker
		(065) Washington
		(066) Wilcox
		(067) Winston

18/3 AL007 FILLER

21/1 AL008 FILLER

22/4 AL009 FILLER

26/4 AL010 FILLER

30/17 AL011 FILLER

DATE OF BIRTH: The juvenile's birth date, coded in standard month/day/year format.

47/2 AL0012 MONTH OF BIRTH

- (01) January
- :
- :
- (12) December
- () No entry
- (99) Missing

49/2 AL0013 DATE OF BIRTH

- (01) First
- :
- :
- (31) Thirty-first
- () No entry
- (99) Missing

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
51/2	AL0014	YEAR OF BIRTH (60) 1960 (61) 1961 : : (##) Most recent year () No entry (99) Missing
53/1	AL0015	SEX The sex of the juvenile. (1) Male (2) Female () No entry (9) Missing
54/1	AL0016	RACE The race of the juvenile. (1) White (includes Hispanic) (2) Black (3) Other (9) Missing
55/2	AL017	PRIOR COURT REFERRALS Indicates whether or not the juvenile has had any previous delinquency, CHINS or traffic referrals to court intake. (01) No (02) Yes (99) Missing
57/1	AL018	FILLER
<u>DATE OF REFERRAL:</u> The date on which the case was first referred to the probation or intake department of the court, coded in standard month/day/year format.		
58/2	AL019	MONTH OF REFERRAL (01) January :

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		: (12) December () No entry (99) Missing
60/2	AL020	DATE OF REFERRAL (01) First : : (31) Thirty-first () No entry (99) Missing
62/2	AL021	YEAR OF REFERRAL (81) 1981 (82) 1982 : : (##) Most recent year () No entry (99) Missing
64/1	AL022	SOURCE OF REFERRAL The person or agency first bringing the case to the attention of the probation office or intake department of the court. (1) Law enforcement - Any agency charged with the responsibility of enforcing the law. This includes police, sheriff's department, Highway Patrol, etc. (2) School - Includes attendance officers, teachers, superintendents of schools, members of the board of education, etc. (3) Probation officer (4) Parents, guardian, relative - Includes the youth's own parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle, etc. (5) Victim - The person against whom the offense was committed. This also includes department stores, store detectives, etc. (6) Social agency - Includes both public and private agencies, such as the Department of Human Resources, Mental Health, child care facilities, etc. (7) Traffic court (8) Other court - Includes other types of courts except traffic. (9) Other source - Includes neighbors or friends of the youth, the youth himself, and anonymous persons.
65/2	AL023	REASON FOR REFERRAL The reason for which the youth was brought to the attention of the intake or

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

probation department. When the juvenile is charged with more than one offense, the court worker determines and reports the offense which is most serious from the standpoint of the community. For offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults (codes 01 through 32), the offense classification is closely modeled to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook (Jan. 1976).

Violent Crimes (Codes 01-07)

- (01) Murder, non-negligent manslaughter - The willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. This includes any death due either to a fight, argument, quarrel, assault, or during the commission of a crime. Assaults to murder and attempted murders are considered as aggravated assaults. Suicides and accidental deaths are not considered as murder and non-negligent manslaughter.
- (02) Manslaughter by negligence - The killing of another person through gross negligence. Includes traffic deaths caused by the gross negligence of another, hunting accidents, or incidents involving someone playing with a gun and the gun accidentally discharging and killing another person. The deaths result from carelessness, rather than from harmful intent.
- (03) Forcible rape - The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Includes all attempts to rape or assaults to rape. Statutory rape and other sex offenses are not included here.
- (04) Robbery (weapon) - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by use of a weapon or the threat of its use. The weapon could be a firearm (handgun, rifle, etc.), knife or cutting instrument (broken bottle, razor, etc.), or other dangerous weapon (club, acid, explosive, brass knuckles, etc.). Robbery involves a theft or larceny, but aggravated by the element of force or threat of force. If force, but no weapon, is used in the commission of a theft, such as in overcoming the active resistance of the victim in a purse snatching, then the offense is classified as strong-arm robbery. If no force or threat of force is used, such as in pocket picking or purse snatching, the offense is coded as larceny rather than robbery.
- (05) Robbery (strong arm) - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by the use of personal weapons such as hands, arms, feet, fists, teeth, etc. This category includes muggings and purse snatchings where force is used, and similar offenses (i.e., taking school lunch money, etc.) where no weapon is used but strong-arm tactics are employed to deprive the victim of his property.
- (06) Assault (aggravated) - An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Aggravated assault includes the commonly entitled offenses of assault with intent to kill or murder, poisoning, assault with a dangerous or deadly weapon, maiming, mayhem, assault with intent to maim or commit mayhem, assault with explosives and all attempts to commit the foregoing offenses. Attempt to murder is included here. An assault is

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		considered aggravated if the personal injury is serious, such as broken bones, internal injuries, or where stitches are required.
	(07)	Assault (simple) - Assaults which do not involve the use of a firearm, knife or cutting instrument or other dangerous weapon and there is no serious injury or aggravated injury to the victim. The assault is simple if the injuries are not serious, such as abrasions, minor lacerations or contusions and require no more than first-aid treatment. Simple assault includes assault and battery, injury caused by culpable negligence, intimidation, coercion and all attempts to commit these offenses.

Property Crimes (Codes 08-11)

- (08) Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft. Burglary (breaking and entering) can occur by forcible entry, unlawful entry (no force) and attempted forcible entry for the purpose of committing a theft or any felony. Forcible entry would be entry by use of tools; breaking windows; forcing windows, doors, transoms or ventilators; cutting screens, walls or roofs; and, where known, the use of master keys, picks, unauthorized keys, celluloid or other devices which leave no outward mark but are used to force a lock. Burglary by concealment inside a building followed by an exiting of the structure is included in this category. Unlawful entry involves no force and is achieved by use of an unlocked door or window. The entry is made for the purpose of committing a theft or other felony. **The element of trespass to the structure is essential** - this includes thefts from open garages, open warehouses, open or unlocked dwellings. If the area involved were one of open access and the element of trespass were not involved, then the theft would be considered a larceny. An attempted forcible entry is also counted as a burglary if the attempt was made in order to commit a theft or felony.
- (09) Larceny (except shoplifting) - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away (except automobiles) of property from the possession of another person without claim of right. All thefts which are not part of a robbery, burglary or motor vehicle theft are classified in this category regardless of the value of the article stolen. All thefts and attempted thefts are counted. This category includes pocket picking, purse snatching (without force), theft from buildings, theft from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories, theft from coin-operated device or machine. The following are not included here: shoplifting, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion of entrusted property, counterfeiting, obtaining money by false pretenses, check fraud, etc.
- (10) Larceny (shoplifting) - The theft by a person other than an employee of goods or merchandise exposed for sale. This violation assumes that the offender had legal access to the premises and thus no trespass or unlawful entry was involved. This category includes thefts of merchandise displayed outside a building as part of the stock in trade such as in department stores, hardware stores, supermarkets, fruit stands, gas stations, etc.
- (11) Motor vehicle theft - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. The definition of a motor vehicle is a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface and not on rails. Examples of motor vehicles are

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, snowmobiles, etc. The taking for temporary use when prior authority has been granted or can be assumed, such as in family situations, or unauthorized use by chauffeurs and others having lawful access to the vehicle are <u>not</u> counted as motor vehicle thefts. <u>Not</u> included in this category are farm equipment, bulldozers, airplanes and construction equipment. Thefts of these items are considered to be larceny.

Part II Offenses (Codes 12-32)

- (12) Arson - The willful or malicious burning or attempts to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, church, college, jail, public building or any building, ship or other vessel, motor vehicle or air craft, contents of building, personal property of another, crops, trees, fences, vegetable products, lumber, woods, meadows, etc. Includes any violations of State laws and municipal ordinances relating to arson and attempted arson. If personal injury results from the arson, the situation would be classified as aggravated assault. In the event a death results from the arson, the incident would be classified as murder.
- (13) Forgery, counterfeiting - Includes all offenses dealing with the making, altering, uttering or possessing, with intent to defraud, anything false in the semblance of that which is true. Examples are altering or forging public and other records; making, altering, forging or counterfeiting bills, notes, drafts, tickets, checks, credit cards, etc.; forging wills, deeds, notes, bonds, seals, trademarks, etc.; counterfeiting coins, plates, banknotes, checks, etc.; signing the name of another or fictitious person with intent to defraud; using forged labels; possession, manufacture, etc. of counterfeiting apparatus; selling goods with altered, forged or counterfeited trademarks; and all attempts to commit the above.
- (14) Fraud - Fraudulent conversion and obtaining money or property by false pretenses. Includes bad checks, confidence games, etc., except forgeries and counterfeiting.
- (15) Embezzlement - Misappropriation or misapplication of money or property entrusted to one's care, custody or control.
- (16) Stolen property, buying, receiving, possessing - Includes all offenses of buying, receiving and possessing stolen property, as well as all attempts to commit any of these offenses.
- (17) Vandalism, destruction of property - Consists of the willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement or defacement of any public or private property, real or personal, without consent of the owner or person having custody or control, by cutting, tearing, breaking, marking, painting, drawing, covering with filth, or any other such means as may be specified by local law. Examples are cutting auto tires, drawing obscene pictures on public restroom walls, smashing windows, destroying school records, tipping over gravestones, defacing library books, etc. Attempts of such acts are also included.
- (18) Weapons, carrying, possessing, etc. - This class deals with weapon offenses, regulatory in nature. Examples are the manufacture, sale or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons, concealed or openly; using, manufacturing, etc., silencers; furnishing deadly weapons to another minor; and attempts to commit any of the above.

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
	(19)	Prostitution and commercialized vice - Includes the sex offenses of a commercialized nature (both male and female). Examples are prostitution; pandering, procuring, transporting or detaining persons for immoral purposes, etc.; and attempts to commit any of the above.
	(20)	Sex offenses (except forcible rape and prostitution) - Includes offenses against chastity, common decency, morals and the like. Examples are adultery and fornication; incest; indecent exposure; indecent liberties; intercourse with an insane, epileptic or venereally diseased person; seduction; sodomy or crime against nature; statutory rape (no force); obscene telephone calls; peeping Toms; sexual attacks on males; and attempting to commit any of the above.
	(21)	Violation of drug laws, narcotic (possession) - Illegal possession of narcotic drugs. Narcotic drugs are defined as opium and the derivatives of opium. These include morphine, heroin and codeine. Also included are the synthetic narcotics such as talwin, methadone and demoral.
	(22)	Violation of drug laws, narcotic (selling) - Illegal selling or attempting to sell a narcotic drug.
	(23)	Violation of drug laws, non-narcotic (possession) - Illegal possession of a non-narcotic drug. Non-narcotic drugs generally consist of four subcategories: hallucinogenics, depressants, tranquilizers and stimulants. Examples of non-narcotics are marijuana, LSD, phencyclidine, barbiturates, methaqualone, meprobamate, librium, valium, cocaine, amphetamines, and metamphetamine.
	(24)	Violation of drug laws, non-narcotic (selling) - Illegal selling or attempting to sell a non-narcotic drug.
	(25)	Driving under the influence - The driving or operating of any vehicle or common carrier while drunk or under the influence of liquor or drugs.
	(26)	Liquor laws - State or local liquor law violations except "drunkenness" and "driving under the influence." Included are the manufacture, sale, transporting, furnishing, possessing, etc. of intoxicating liquor; violation of prohibition law; bootlegging; operating a still; using a vehicle for illegal transportation of liquor; and minor in possession of liquor.
	(27)	Drunkenness - Includes all offenses of drunkenness or intoxication, with the exception of "driving under the influence." Examples are drunkenness, drunk and disorderly, common or habitual drunkard, and intoxication.
	(28)	Disorderly conduct - Offenses involving a breach of the peace. Examples are affray; unlawful assembly; disturbing the peace; disturbing meetings; blasphemy, profanity and obscene language; desecrating a flag; refusing to assist an officer; disorderly conduct in public buildings, fairs, parks, public transportation, etc.; and all attempts to commit any of the above.
	(29)	Traffic violation (not driving under the influence) - Includes hit and run, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, driving without a license, and any traffic violation other than those listed above.
	(30)	Trespassing - To enter unlawfully upon the land or property of another.
	(31)	Game violations - Includes hunting and fishing violations such as improper permits or hunting and fishing on restricted lakes or land.

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		<p>(32) Other - Includes all other state or local offenses <u>not</u> included in offenses 01 through 31, such as blackmail and extortion; bribery; kidnapping; marriage within prohibited degrees; bigamy and polygamy; contempt of court; perjury; possession, repair, manufacture, etc. of burglar's tools; public nuisances; riot and rout; and unlawful disinterment of the dead.</p> <p><u>CHINS (Codes 33-36)</u></p> <p>(33) Truancy - Unauthorized absence from school as defined under local law.</p> <p>(34) Running away - A youth under the juvenile jurisdictional age limit established by the state who has run away from his home without the consent of the parent, guardian, person or agency entitled to his legal custody or supervision.</p> <p>(35) Beyond control, ungovernable behavior - Behavior which indicates that the child is persistently beyond the control of his parents or other custodians who have charge of him. Includes instances where the child is regularly disobedient, disorderly or uses abusive language in school; the youth disobeys the reasonable demands of the parents/legal custodians; he is repeatedly absent from home during times when the youth is expected to be home, as well as habitually destructive or assaultive behavior in the home; and curfew violations. Sexual misbehavior is classified as "sex offenses" (except forcible rape).</p> <p>(36) Other status - All other offenses <u>applicable to juveniles only</u> which are not covered in preceding items.</p> <p><u>Technical Violations (Code 41-42)</u></p> <p>(41) Violation of probation - Includes violations of any of the provisions of the juvenile's probation.</p> <p>(42) Violation of aftercare - Includes violations of any of the provisions of the juvenile's aftercare plan.</p>
67/1	AL024	<p>COUNTS</p> <p>The number of charges for a specific offense.</p> <p>(1) One : : (8) Eight (9) Nine or more (0) Missing</p> <p>NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases.</p>
68/2	AL025	<p>MULTIPLE OFFENSES</p> <p>Indicates if there was more than one offense involved in the case.</p>

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		(00) Zero fill (01) No (02) Yes (99) Missing
70/1	AL026	NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases. LOCATION OF OFFENSE The type of place in which the offense took place. (0) Zero fill (1) Not applicable - Location is inapplicable for some offenses. (2) Residence - A dwelling, apartment, house, etc. (3) Business - Commercial establishment, store, office, club, etc. (4) Public area - A place where anyone has access, such as a park or museum. NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases.
71/1	AL027	TIME OF OFFENSE The time the offense occurred. (0) Zero fill (1) Unknown (2) Dawn to noon (3) Noon to dusk (4) Dusk to dawn NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases.
72/1	AL028	ESTIMATED PROPERTY DAMAGE The estimated amount of damage to property. (0) Zero fill (1) None (2) Under \$100 (3) \$101 - \$500 (4) \$501 - \$1,000 (5) \$1,001 - \$5,000 (6) Over \$5,000 NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases.
73/1	AL029	RESTITUTION ORDERED Indicates whether payment was ordered for loss or damage caused or inflicted by the youth.

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

- (0) Zero fill
- (1) No
- (2) Yes

NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases.

74/1	AL030	WEAPON USED
------	-------	-------------

Indicates the type of weapon, if any, used in the commission of an offense.

- (0) Zero fill
- (1) None
- (2) Firearm
- (3) Knife
- (4) Other - Includes clubs, broken bottles, tire tools, etc.

NOTE: This information is not collected for CHINS cases.

DATE OF PETITION: The date a petition was filed in court, coded in standard month/day/year format.

75/2	AL031	MONTH OF PETITION
------	-------	-------------------

- () No entry
- (01) January
- :
- :
- (12) December
- (99) Missing

77/2	AL032	DATE OF PETITION
------	-------	------------------

- () No entry
- (01) First
- :
- :
- (31) Thirty-first
- (99) Missing

79/2	AL033	YEAR OF PETITION
------	-------	------------------

- () No entry
- (81) 1981
- (82) 1982
- :
- :
- (##) Most recent year
- (99) Missing

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
81/1	AL034	FILLER
82/1	AL035	CARE PENDING DISPOSITION Indicates the provision made by the court for the youth pending the disposition of his or her case. (1) Not detained - Includes cases in which it was unnecessary for the court to provide detention care for the youth. This item includes cases in which the youth was held for a few hours, <u>but not overnight</u> , in the probation office, jail, police department, detention home, or elsewhere, as well as those that were disposed on the same day that they were received. This item also includes cases that were not disposed on the same day but in which the youth was allowed to remain in his or her own home or other family home or facility in which he or she was living when referred to court. (2) Detention facility - Includes cases in which youth were placed in secure facilities that are maintained for the purpose of caring for delinquent youths awaiting the disposition of their cases. (3) Jail - Includes cases in which the youth was detained in a holding facility in a police station, sheriff's department or other jail facility. (4) Jail and detention - Includes cases in which youth were first placed in jail temporarily and then transferred to a juvenile detention facility. (5) Attention home, shelter care - Includes cases in which a youth was placed in a residential-care facility licensed by the Department of Youth Services for temporary care, in which the facility is physically unrestricting, or in foster family homes pending court disposition or other placement.
83/2	AL036	FILLER
85/2	AL037	FILLER
87/2	AL038	FILLER
89/2	AL039	FILLER
91/2	AL040	FILLER
93/2	AL041	FILLER
95/2	AL042	FILLER
97/2	AL043	FILLER

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

99/2	AL044	FILLER
------	-------	--------

101/1	AL045	MANNER OF HANDLING.
-------	-------	---------------------

Indicates whether the case was handled formally in court or informally at intake.

- (1) With court appearance - Involves cases that were placed on the official court calendar for a hearing by the judge or referee through the filing of a petition or other legal document used to initiate official court action.
- (2) Without court appearance - Involves cases where the court assumes jurisdiction through the filing of a complaint or affidavit, but the cases were adjusted or handled informally by an officer of the court without bringing the case up for a hearing before a judge.

NOTE: The number of cases having a "date of petition" is often greater than the number of cases handled "with court appearance." This is a result of petitioned cases actually being resolved informally prior to the court hearing.

DATE OF ADJUDICATION: The date the adjudicatory hearing was held, coded in standard month/day/year format.

102/2	AL046	MONTH OF ADJUDICATION
-------	-------	-----------------------

- () No entry
- (01) January
- :
- :
- (12) December
- (99) Missing

104/2	AL047	DATE OF ADJUDICATION
-------	-------	----------------------

- () No entry
- (01) First
- :
- :
- (31) Thirty-first
- (99) Missing

106/2	AL048	YEAR OF ADJUDICATION
-------	-------	----------------------

- (00) Zero fill
- (81) 1981
- (82) 1982
- :
- :

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

(##) Most recent year
(99) Missing

DATE OF DISPOSITION: The date the case was disposed, coded in standard month/day/year format.

108/2	AL049	MONTH OF DISPOSITION
-------	-------	----------------------

() No entry
(01) January
:
:
(12) December
(99) Missing

110/2	AL050	DATE OF DISPOSITION
-------	-------	---------------------

() No entry
(01) First
:
:
(31) Thirty-first
(99) Missing

112/2	AL051	YEAR OF DISPOSITION
-------	-------	---------------------

(00) Zero fill
(85) 1985
(86) 1986
:
:
(##) Most recent year
(99) Missing

114/1	AL052	ADJUDICATION
-------	-------	--------------

The juvenile court judge's decision as to what action will be taken on a case.

- (1) None - No adjudication made.
- (2) Delinquent - A youth under the age of 18 who has committed an offense that if committed by an adult would be criminal, such as burglary, larceny, etc.
- (3) CHIN - A youth who (1) being subject to compulsory school attendance, is habitually truant from school; or (2) disobeys the reasonable and lawful demands of his parents, guardian or other custodian and is beyond their control; or (3) has committed an offense established by law but not classified as criminal or one applicable only to children; and (4) in any of the foregoing is in need of care and rehabilitation.

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

115/2	AL053	DISPOSITION
-------	-------	-------------

Indicates what was actually done or was intended to be done for the child as a result of a case rather than the formal wording of the court order. If more than one disposition is given in a case, the one which is most significant from the point of view of treatment and continued relationship to the court is recorded.

Without Court Appearance (Codes 01-07)

- (01) Lectured and released - The youth was counselled about the matter and released.
- (02) Informal adjustment - Before a petition alleging delinquency or child in need of supervision is filed, the probation officer or other officer of the court designated by it may give counsel and advice to the parties for the purpose of an informal adjustment. Informal adjustment involves, at the agreement of all parties involved, suspension of formal proceedings, and may include voluntary probation, temporary placement outside of the home, participation in community programs, etc.
- (03) Informal adjustment continued
- (04) Courtesy supervision - The delivery of services given by a receiving county or state and in turn reported on periodically, or as needed, to the sending county or state.
- (05) Referred to another agency - Includes those instances where a youth is referred to another agency such as a child guidance clinic, family service agency, etc., whether public or private.
- (06) Runaway returned - A runaway youth is returned to an agency, institution, his own home, another county or state.
- (07) Other - Any disposition made without court appearance other than those listed above (codes 01 through 06).

With Court Appearance (Codes 10-23)

- (10) Waived to adult court - Includes cases which are waived to criminal court for trial as adults.
- (11) Dismissed - The allegations of delinquency have not been proved and, as a consequence, the juvenile court adjudges that the youth is not within the jurisdiction of the court and dismisses the case. Also includes cases in which petitions were filed but the complaints were withdrawn if court procedures required that such cases be placed on the court calendar for formal dismissal by the judge.
- (12) Fined - The youth is ordered to pay a sum of money to the court as a penalty for an offense committed by the youth.
- (13) Courtesy supervision - The delivery of services given by a receiving county or state and in turn reported periodically, or as needed, to the sending county or state.
- (14) Runaway returned - A runaway youth is returned to an agency, institution, his own home, another county or state.
- (15) Consent decree - An order, entered after the filing of a delinquency petition and before the entry of an adjudication order, suspending the proceedings and continuing the case through supervision in the youth's

Column/ Width	Variable Number	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		own home, under the terms and conditions agreed to by all parties concerned.
	(16)	Consent decree continued - A youth, being supervised under a consent decree order, is brought back into court on a new offense with the disposition being to continue the consent decree.
	(17)	Probation - The youth is placed under the supervision and care of the juvenile court, but is permitted to remain in his own or another family's home. Parental rights and duties associated with the immediate supervision and day-to-day care of the juvenile are not disturbed. Included in this item are cases in which the youth is placed under supervision of a probation officer, not only for the purpose of insuring continuing supervisory contact but also as a means of requiring fulfillment of an order of the court; for example, that restitution be made. This category includes those cases where a suspended commitment to the Department of Youth Services is made with the probation officer to supervise.
	(18)	Probation continued - A youth who is already under the supervision of a probation officer, commits a new offense and is given the disposition of continued on probation.
	(19)	Aftercare continued - A youth who is already on aftercare status, violates the rules of this after care plan, and is disposed by continuing aftercare.
	(20)	Committed to Department of Youth Services - Commitment of a youth to the legal custody of the Department of Youth Services upon a finding of delinquency and a finding by a juvenile court judge that the youth is in need of care/treatment as provided by the Department.
	(21)	Committed to Department of Mental Health - Commitment of a youth to the legal custody of the Department of Mental Health upon a finding of mental illness, mental retardation or for a mental evaluation and finding by a juvenile court judge that the youth is in need of care/treatment as provided by the Department of Mental Health.
	(22)	Child care facility - The placement of a youth in a group home, foster care or other non-penal facility without transfer of legal custody.
	(23)	Other - Any disposition made <u>with</u> court appearance other than those listed above (codes 10 through 22).
		<u>Other Transfer of Legal Custody</u> - Subsequent to a finding and adjudication of delinquency or CHINS and a determination that the youth should no longer live in his own home, the court may divest the parents of "legal custody," namely, those rights and responsibilities which pertain to the day-to-day care, supervision and physical custody of the child. The court may vest "legal custody" in an individual, agency or institution which may or may not be subject to further order of the court.
	(25)	Department of Human Resources - Commitment of a youth to the legal custody of the Department of Human Resources upon a finding of a child in need of supervision and a finding by a juvenile court judge that said youth is in need of care/treatment as provided by the Department of Human Resources.
	(26)	Private child care facility - Includes cases in which the youth was committed to an agency or institution under private auspices and in which a transfer of legal custody took place.

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>
		(27) Relative - Includes cases in which the youth is placed, through a transfer of legal custody, with a relative.
		(28) Other - Includes all dispositions made by a juvenile court judge in instances where there has been a finding and an adjudication and where there has been a transfer of legal custody, other than those classified above (codes 25 through 27).
117/1	AL054	FILLER
118/1	AL055	FILLER
119/2	AL056	FILLER

Appendix I

Alabama's Juvenile Court Statistical Card

Appendix II

Original Data Collector's Statement of Acceptance

STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

I have reviewed *Alabama Juvenile Court Case Records: 1985 - 1987 User's Guide* and accept it as an accurate description of the delinquency and status offense (CHINS) data stored at the National Juvenile Court Data Archive and of the methods used by the Department of Youth Services to collect these data. This user's guide may be revised to cover future years' data unless there are such major changes in the data collected as to warrant completely new documentation.

Comments to users:

Brenda S. Bentley
 (Name)

Statistician
 (Title)

Brenda S. Bentley 6-2-89
 (Signature) (Date)

Alabama Department of Youth Services
 (Organization)