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**National Juvenile Court Data Archive**

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

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**User's Guide to  
Mississippi  
Juvenile Court Case Records  
1975-1978**

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**MISSISSIPPI**  
**JUVENILE COURT CASE RECORDS**  
**1975-1978**  
**User's Guide**

Data collected by:

Mississippi Department of Public Welfare  
301 North Lamar Street, Suite 410  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201-1404

Data file and user's guide prepared by:

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**Acknowledgement of Assistance**

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## INTRODUCTION

### History of Mississippi's Juvenile Court Statistics

The Mississippi Department of Public Welfare had the statutory authority to collect and report statistical information on Mississippi youth courts from 1975 to 1978.

The data collection system was modeled after one established by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

### Data Collection Methods

The youth court statistical cards are sent to each county for completion through a coordinated effort of the Research and Statistics Section and Division of Social Services of the State Department of Public Welfare, working through the Mississippi Department of Youth Services.

In each county, responsible clerks of the court or other designated persons complete a record on each case disposed. The cards are edited in the Research and Statistics Section. Cards which cannot be corrected are prepared for resubmission to the counties for completion or corrections. If certain significant items are not entered on the card, the card cannot be processed. Age, sex, race, reason for referral, type of care received pending disposition, manner of handling the case (officially or unofficially), and case disposition are needed on all cards in order to produce a complete and valid report.

Cards received after the cutoff date cannot be processed and are not reflected in the final report of cases.

Each time a child is processed by the courts, it is counted as a separate case or a new referral. Therefore, the case count does include duplication -- children who have prior referrals to court in the calendar year.

### Publications

Each year the Department produces a yearly publication entitled Youth Court Report which includes a summary of the youth courts' activities.

### Archived Data Files

Each year the National Juvenile Court Data Archive requests from the Department 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, status offense, neglect and dependency case disposed. Cases processed formally (with a petition) and those handled informally (without a petition) are included for all courts. Records contain a county code, date of birth, age at time of referral, sex, race, date of referral, source of referral, prior referrals, care pending disposition, reason for referral, manner of handling, date of disposition, and case disposition. A case may have included more than one offense, but only the "most serious" offense (from the standpoint of the community) is recorded. Records also include information on diagnostic services needed, level of school attainment, employment status, length of residence of child in county, living arrangements of child, marital status of natural parents, annual family income, location of residence, whether the child was adjudicated a child in need of supervision, or if a juvenile was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense. 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 case record is 68 characters in length and contains 39 variables. The data are stored in a single year file. The number of case records on each calendar year data file is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Records</u>
1975	11,204
1976	11,219
1977	11,527
1978	12,508

### **Terms of Availability**

Each request to use these data should be directed to the Archive. The Archive will contact Mississippi'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 Street, Suite 200  
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203-3000  
 412/227-6950

Summary tabulations on selected variables (manner of handling and sex breakdowns for delinquency/status offense cases and dependency/neglect cases for each county in Mississippi) 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.

## USING THE CODEBOOK

The information that follows is based on a study of available documentation from the data supplier (e.g., Statistical Report, Mississippi Department of Public Welfare's 1978 statistics manual), 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] 48/1	[2] MS026	[3] DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PSYCHIATRIC
		[4] The special services provided by a medical doctor with psychiatric specialization.
		[5] [6]
		(1) Indicated and provided
		(2) Indicated but not available
		(3) Not indicated
	[7]	(9) Missing

- [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.
- [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.

**VARIABLE LIST**

MS001	Court
MS002	Child ID
MS003	Census tract
MS004	Month of birth
MS005	Date of birth
MS006	Year of birth
MS007	Age
MS008	Sex
MS009	Race
MS010	Month of referral
MS011	Date of referral
MS012	Year of referral
MS013	Source of referral
MS014	Number of prior delinquency referrals this year
MS015	Number of prior delinquency referrals prior years
MS016	Care pending disposition
MS017	Reason referred
MS018	Manner of handling
MS019	Month of disposition
MS020	Date of disposition
MS021	Year of disposition
MS022	Disposition
MS023	Number of prior traffic referrals
MS024	Number of prior neglect referrals
MS025	Diagnostic services psychological
MS026	Diagnostic services psychiatric
MS027	Diagnostic services medical
MS028	Diagnostic services social
MS029	Estimated mental capacity
MS030	Years of schooling completed
MS031	Grade placement in relation to age
MS032	Serious or persistent school misbehavior
MS033	Employment and school status
MS034	Length of residence of child in county
MS035	Living arrangements of child
MS036	Marital status of natural parents
MS037	Annual family income
MS038	Location of residence
MS039	Filler

**CODEBOOK: VARIABLE DESCRIPTIONS**

<u>Column/ Width</u>	<u>Variable Number</u>	<u>Code Value and Description</u>																																																																																				
1/3	MS001	<p>COURT</p> <p>The court in which the case was processed. Courts within the state were ordered alphabetically and assigned a unique number beginning with (001).</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>(001) Adams</td> <td>(002) Alcorn</td> <td>(003) Amite</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(004) Attala</td> <td>(005) Benton</td> <td>(006) Bolivar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(007) Calhoun</td> <td>(008) Carroll</td> <td>(009) Chickasaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(010) Choctaw</td> <td>(011) Claiborne</td> <td>(012) Clarke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(013) Clay</td> <td>(014) Coahoma</td> <td>(015) Copiah</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(016) Covington</td> <td>(017) De Soto</td> <td>(018) Forrest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(019) Franklin</td> <td>(020) George</td> <td>(021) Greene</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(022) Grenada</td> <td>(023) Hancock</td> <td>(024) Harrison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(025) Hinds</td> <td>(026) Holmes</td> <td>(027) Humphreys</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(028) Issaquena</td> <td>(029) Itawamba</td> <td>(030) Jackson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(031) Jasper</td> <td>(032) Jefferson</td> <td>(033) Jefferson Davis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(034) Jones</td> <td>(035) Kemper</td> <td>(036) Lafayette</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(037) Lamar</td> <td>(038) Lauderdale</td> <td>(039) Lawrence</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(040) Leake</td> <td>(041) Lee</td> <td>(042) Leflore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(043) Lincoln</td> <td>(044) Lowndes</td> <td>(045) Madison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(046) Marion</td> <td>(047) Marshall</td> <td>(048) Monroe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(049) Montgomery</td> <td>(050) Neshoba</td> <td>(051) Newton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(052) Noxubee</td> <td>(053) Oktibbeha</td> <td>(054) Panola</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(055) Pearl River</td> <td>(056) Perry</td> <td>(057) Pike</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(058) Pontotoc</td> <td>(059) Prentiss</td> <td>(060) Quitman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(061) Rankin</td> <td>(062) Scott</td> <td>(063) Sharkey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(064) Simpson</td> <td>(065) Smith</td> <td>(066) Stone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(067) Sunflower</td> <td>(068) Tallahatchie</td> <td>(069) Tate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(070) Tippah</td> <td>(071) Tishomingo</td> <td>(072) Tunica</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(073) Union</td> <td>(074) Walthall</td> <td>(075) Warren</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(076) Washington</td> <td>(077) Wayne</td> <td>(078) Webster</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(079) Wilkinson</td> <td>(080) Winston</td> <td>(081) Yalobusha</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(082) Yazoo</td> <td>(083) Rankin City</td> <td>(999) Missing</td> </tr> </table>	(001) Adams	(002) Alcorn	(003) Amite	(004) Attala	(005) Benton	(006) Bolivar	(007) Calhoun	(008) Carroll	(009) Chickasaw	(010) Choctaw	(011) Claiborne	(012) Clarke	(013) Clay	(014) Coahoma	(015) Copiah	(016) Covington	(017) De Soto	(018) Forrest	(019) Franklin	(020) George	(021) Greene	(022) Grenada	(023) Hancock	(024) Harrison	(025) Hinds	(026) Holmes	(027) Humphreys	(028) Issaquena	(029) Itawamba	(030) Jackson	(031) Jasper	(032) Jefferson	(033) Jefferson Davis	(034) Jones	(035) Kemper	(036) Lafayette	(037) Lamar	(038) Lauderdale	(039) Lawrence	(040) Leake	(041) Lee	(042) Leflore	(043) Lincoln	(044) Lowndes	(045) Madison	(046) Marion	(047) Marshall	(048) Monroe	(049) Montgomery	(050) Neshoba	(051) Newton	(052) Noxubee	(053) Oktibbeha	(054) Panola	(055) Pearl River	(056) Perry	(057) Pike	(058) Pontotoc	(059) Prentiss	(060) Quitman	(061) Rankin	(062) Scott	(063) Sharkey	(064) Simpson	(065) Smith	(066) Stone	(067) Sunflower	(068) Tallahatchie	(069) Tate	(070) Tippah	(071) Tishomingo	(072) Tunica	(073) Union	(074) Walthall	(075) Warren	(076) Washington	(077) Wayne	(078) Webster	(079) Wilkinson	(080) Winston	(081) Yalobusha	(082) Yazoo	(083) Rankin City	(999) Missing
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4/6	MS002	<p>CHILD ID</p> <p>A number that identifies each child and remains the same throughout the juvenile's career. Child ID numbers are unique within county.</p>																																																																																				
10/3	MS003	<p>CENSUS TRACT</p> <p>Census tract within which the juvenile resided at time of referral. The code is the last three digits of the zip code of residence.</p> <p>(000) : :</p>																																																																																				

(999)

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

13/2      MS004      MONTH OF BIRTH

(01) January  
:  
:  
(12) December  
(99) Missing

15/2      MS005      DATE OF BIRTH

(01) First  
:  
:  
(31) Thirty-first  
(99) Missing

17/2      MS006      YEAR OF BIRTH

(57) 1957  
:  
:  
(78) 1978  
(99) Missing

19/2      MS007      AGE

The age of the juvenile on the day the case was referred to court.

(00) Less than one year  
(01) One year old  
:  
:  
(19) Nineteen  
(99) Missing

21/1      MS008      SEX

The sex of the juvenile.

(1) Male  
(2) Female

22/1      MS009      RACE

The race of the juvenile.

- (1) White
- (2) Black
- (3) American Indian
- (4) Other
- (9) Missing

**DATE OF REFERRAL:** The date on which the case was first referred to court or intake office -- coded in month/day/year format.

23/2	MS010	<p>MONTH OF REFERRAL</p> <p>(01) January : : (12) December</p>
25/2	MS011	<p>DATE OF REFERRAL</p> <p>(01) First : : (31) Thirty-first</p>
27/2	MS012	<p>YEAR OF REFERRAL</p> <p>(71) 1971 : : (78) 1978 (99) Missing</p>
29/1	MS013	<p>SOURCE OF REFERRAL</p> <p>The individual or agency first bringing the case to the attention of the court, juvenile intake, or probation office.</p> <p>(1) Law enforcement agency (2) School department (3) Social agency (4) Probation officer (5) Parents or relatives (6) Other court (7) Other (9) Missing</p>
30/1	MS014	<p>NUMBER OF PRIOR DELINQUENCY REFERRALS THIS YEAR</p> <p>The number of times in the calendar year in which the juvenile was referred to court.</p> <p>(0) None</p>

- (1) One
- :
- :
- (5) Five or more
- (9) Missing

31/1 MS015 NUMBER OF PRIOR DELINQUENCY REFERRALS PRIOR YEARS

The number of all previous referrals of the juvenile to juvenile court.

- (0) None
- (1) One
- :
- :
- (5) Five or more
- (9) Missing

32/2 MS016 CARE PENDING DISPOSITION

The care of the juvenile between the referral and the disposition of the case.

- (00) No detention or shelter care overnight - This includes all cases in which it is unnecessary for the court to provide detention or shelter care for the child. This item includes cases in which the child may be held for a few hours (but not overnight) in the probation office, jail, police station, detention home, or elsewhere. It also includes those that were disposed on the same day that they were received and cases that were not disposed on the same day but in which the child was allowed to remain in his own or other family home or institution in which he was living when referred to court.
- (01) Jail or police station - Includes cases in which the child was detained in rooms, cells, or quarters in a police station or a jail.
- (02) Detention home - Includes institutions that are maintained by the juvenile court or by the local government for the purpose of caring for delinquent, dependent or neglected children awaiting the disposition of their case. (If there is no detention home of this type but the court makes a practice of applying the term "detention home" to a boarding home or a certain private institution that it uses regularly, the case is included under either category (4) "foster home" or (5) "other place" and not under this category.)
- (03) Jail and detention home
- (04) Foster family home - Includes a family home, other than that of relatives, in which the child was placed with provision for payment of board. Placement may be made directly by the court or by an agency or individual at the request of the court. This category also includes family homes which are "subsidized" so that they will always be available to provide detention or shelter care.
- (05) Jail and foster family
- (06) Detention and foster family
- (07) Jail and detention and foster family
- (08) Other - Includes cases in which the child was detained in the home of relatives, friends, neighbors, and so forth, without provision for the payment of board. Also includes cases in which the child was detained in a room or rooms of a public building (other than a jail or police station). Includes cases in which a child was referred to a social agency, such as a

board of public welfare or a children's aid society, for care not being known to the person preparing the report form. This category also includes institutions other than detention homes as defined in (02) above; e.g., the receiving home of a child-placing agency, a shelter maintained by a society for the prevention of cruelty to children, a home for dependent children, or a hospital.

- (09) Jail and other
- (10) Detention and other
- (11) Jail and detention and other
- (12) Foster family and other
- (13) Jail and foster family and other
- (14) Detention and foster family and other
- (15) Jail and detention and foster family and other
- (99) Missing

34/2      MS017      REASON REFERRED

The reason the juvenile was referred to juvenile court. If the child is alleged to have committed two or more offenses, only the offense which is most serious "from the standpoint of the community" is entered. Attempted violations of law are counted as though the offense were completed. However, if the victim of an attempted murder or assault with intent to murder does not die, the offense is classified as "assault: aggravated." For those offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults, the offense classification used is modeled closely on the FBI's Uniform Crime Report classification.

- (01) Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter - This offense consists of the willful killing of one person by another. As a general rule, any death due to a fight, assault, or commission of a crime should be counted in this item. This does not include suicides or accidental killings (see manslaughter by negligence). Attempted murders or assaults with intent to murder are classified as "assault: aggravated."
- (02) Manslaughter by negligence - Traffic deaths and deaths due to gross (culpable) negligence. If the victim dies as the result of a traffic accident for which the child is alleged to be responsible, or if he dies because the child allegedly was doing a normally legal act but doing it in a negligent manner, the offense should be counted under this category. An example of the latter situation is where the juvenile "playfully" points a pistol at a friend. He believes it to be unloaded, but it goes off and his friend is killed. Since the death resulted from carelessness rather than wrongful intent, the referral should be classed as "manslaughter by negligence," not "Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter."
- (03) Forcible rape - The carnal knowledge of a female by a male forcibly and against her will. This category does not include statutory offenses (so-called "statutory rape," or "carnal knowledge") where no force is used but the victim is under the legal age of consent; such offenses are counted under "sex offenses." Included in "forcible rape" is rape accomplished by force, regardless of the victim's age. Assault with intent to rape is also included under this category.
- (04) Robbery: purse snatching by force - This code is used only in those cases where the juvenile is alleged to have used force, such as knocking a woman down and snatching her purse. If force is not present then code (12) larceny is used.
- (05) Robbery: all except purse snatching - Robbery is a special form of theft. It takes place in the presence of the victim (the owner or a person having

custody of the property). To obtain the property or thing of value, the robber uses force or violence on the victim, or puts the victim in fear by use of threats, weapons, etc. It is like larceny in that the offender intends to deprive the owner of his property permanently but is aggravated by the element of force or threat of force.

If force or the threat of force is not present, as in pocket-picking or purse-snatching, the offense is coded as (12) larceny. But if the juvenile is alleged to have used force, the offense is classified as "robbery."

- (06) Assault: aggravated - An attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. Aggravated assaults do not include any attacks of a petty nature. Variation in the manner and purpose of the attack include the following: assault with intent to kill or murder; assault with a dangerous or deadly weapon; maiming, mayhem, and assault with intent to maim or commit mayhem; assault by means of poison, assault by means of explosives; and willful obstruction of railroads. Acts not included are simple assault, assault and battery, fighting, etc. where no weapon was used.
- Assault with intent to murder or kill is counted under this item. All other assaults with intent to commit a law violation which would be a felony if committed by an adult are excluded from this item. Such assaults are coded under the associated offense. For example, assault with intent to commit rape or assault with intent to rob would be coded as "forcible rape" and "robbery," respectively.
- (07) Assault: all except aggravated - This includes all assaults which are not of an aggravated nature as defined in "assault: aggravated." This category includes simple assault, assault and battery, injury caused by culpable negligence, intimidation, coercion, resisting or obstructing an officer, hazing, and drawing a dangerous weapon.
- (08) Burglary--breaking or entering - Unlawfully entering a home, business house or other structure intending to steal or commit a felony. Force or a "breaking" is not necessary. Unlawful entry without force is enough if the other elements exist, e.g., the thief sneaks through an open or unlocked door to steal. Offenses included in "burglary--breaking or entering" are: burglary (all degrees), breaking and entering with intent to commit larceny or any felony, unlawfully entering with intent to commit a felony, housebreaking, burglary and larceny, and safecracking. The kinds of structures or building covered by this offense are to be determined in accordance with local law. However, theft from an automobile is coded as (12) larceny. And shoplifting is coded as (11) larceny: shoplifting.
- (09) Auto theft: unauthorized use - This offense consists of the taking of a motor vehicle by a person not having lawful access thereto and subsequently abandoning the motor vehicle. "Joy-ride" thefts of motor vehicles are included in this item.
- Motor vehicles are self-propelled wheeled conveyances such as automobiles, trucks, motor scooters, motorcycles which run on the surface of the ground. Excluded are vehicles which run on rails, over or through water, or through the air.
- (10) Auto theft: all except unauthorized use - This is defined as the felonious stealing, taking and carrying, or driving away of a motor vehicle belonging to another person, without claim of right and with the intent to deprive him or his ownership, or to convert the motor vehicle to the use of the thief or another person. For definition of motor vehicle, see (09) "auto theft: unauthorized use."
- (11) Larceny: shoplifting - Included in this category are only cases of shoplifting (even though considered as burglary under state law). No other type or larceny is included under this code.

- (12) Larceny: all except shoplifting - The felonious stealing, taking and carrying, leading, riding, or driving away (except automobiles) of the personal property of another person without claim of right, with the intent to deprive him of his ownership, or to convert such property to the use of the thief or another person. Excluded from this category are the following: shoplifting; embezzlement; fraudulent conversion of property entrusted (e.g., the conversion of goods lawfully in the possession of bailees, lodgers, and finders of lost property); and obtaining property by false pretenses. Also excluded are the stealing or unauthorized use of automobiles, which are included under "auto theft." Included are the following: theft of bicycles (including those used for joy rides); theft of auto accessories and parts such as hubcaps, license plates, wheels, seats; theft of personal articles from automobiles (even though considered to burglary under local law); purse-snatching where no more force is used than to grab the purse.
- (13) Weapons--carrying, possessing, etc. - Acts in violation of local law regulating or prohibiting the possession, carrying, use, manufacture or sale of weapons or weapon accessories. Examples of local law violations that are included under this code are: manufacture, sale or possession of deadly weapons; using or manufacturing silencers; furnishing deadly weapons to minors.
- (14) Sex offenses (except forcible rape) - All law violations of a sexual nature apart from those by "forcible rape." Included are: prostitution; pandering or procuring; fornication; buggery; incest; indecent exposure; indecent liberties; sodomy; and statutory rape (force not used).
- (15) Violation of drug laws: narcotic - The violation of law relating to narcotic drugs. Examples are: unlawful possession, sale, manufacture, use, furnishing, etc. of narcotic drugs; keeping or frequenting an opium den; habitual use of narcotic drugs.
- (16) Violation of drug laws: all except narcotic - Any illegal act, as defined locally, with respect to drugs other than narcotic drugs.
- (17) Drunkenness - Alcoholic intoxication, drunkenness and associated behavior forbidden by local law. Included in this code are all referrals for alcoholic intoxication with the exception of those coming under "driving while intoxicated." Included under this code are: drunkenness or intoxication due to liquor; drunk and disorderly; and common or habitual drunkard. Excluded from this code are violations of all other liquor laws which are coded (00) "other" or (25) "the possessing or drinking of liquor."
- (18) Disorderly conduct - Any behavior which is a breach of the peace under local law, apart from behavior of this kind which is a product of drugs or liquor or which pertains to sex. Included are the following: affray; unlawful assembly; disturbing the peace; disturbing meetings; disorderly conduct in State or local institutions, agencies, at fairs, on public conveyances.  
Disorderly behavior due to the intoxicated or drugged condition of the child is coded as (17) "drunkenness" or (14) or (15) "violation of drug law." Law violations of a sexual nature, such as taking indecent liberties, indecent exposure, and prostitution, are coded as (14) "sex offenses."
- (19) Vandalism - 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. This code covers a wide range of malicious behavior directed at property such as: cutting auto tires; drawing obscene pictures on public restroom walls; smashing

windows; destroying school records; tipping over gravestones; defacing library books.

- (20) Other (offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults) - All other offenses applicable to both juveniles and adults, not expressly covered in the preceding codes. Examples are: gambling, vagrancy; blackmail; forgery; counterfeiting; embezzlement; fraud; obtaining money under false pretenses; possession of tools of crime; buying, receiving or possessing stolen property; and kidnapping.
- (31) Running away - One or more abscondences from a court, or from an individual, or a single act of leaving or staying away from his own home without permission. This code does not include running from a legal detention facility, which is included in (42) "escape from detention," nor does it include unauthorized absence from school, which is coded (22) "truancy."  
Also excluded are repeated absences from home during hours the child is expected to be in his home. These are included under the offense of (24) "ungovernable behavior." If the place run away from is not the child's home, however, repeated as well as single absences during hours the child is expected to be present will constitute "running away."
- (32) Truancy - Unauthorized absence from school as defined under local law.
- (33) Violation of curfew - Being on the street or in a public place after a specified time of night, in violation of local law. The local law may combine the regulation of presence in the street or public places by children after certain hours with restrictions upon specific kinds of behavior, such as "loitering." However, as long as the child's behavior is in violation of the time limitation, the offense should be counted under this item. If not in violation of the time limitation, the offense is coded under (18) "disorderly conduct" or another more appropriate item.
- (34) Ungovernable behavior - Behavior which indicates that the child is persistently beyond the control of his parents or others who have charge of him. This code does not include unauthorized absences from school. However, if the child is regularly disobedient, disorderly, or uses abusive language in school, the offense is "ungovernable behavior." Also included are instances of repeated absences from home during times when the child is expected to be home, as well as habitually destructive or assaultive behavior in the home, frequent use of uncouth language in the home and other acts indicating disobedience to his parents.  
Many courts prefer to classify sexual misbehavior by girls in terms of "incorrigibility," being "beyond control," etc. But sexual misbehavior is coded as (14) "sex offenses."
- (35) Possessing or drinking of liquor - Those offenses for which adults would not be arrested. This code does not include "drunkenness" or "driving while intoxicated" or any violation that would be an adult violation.
- (36) Other status
- (41) Driving while intoxicated - The driving or operating of any motor vehicle after consuming liquor if the capacity of liquor is measured at more than .15 in the blood.
- (42) Hit and run - An offense which involves a person who, while driving a motor vehicle, is involved in a traffic accident and leaves the scene without identifying himself to the other involved or offering necessary assistance. A child who, while riding a bicycle, knocks over a pedestrian and rides away has not committed the offense of "hit and run" since a bicycle is not considered a motor vehicle. But if he should do the same thing while riding a motor scooter, it is an offense which is counted under this item.
- (43) Reckless driving - Driving or operating any motor vehicle in a reckless manner.

- (44) Driving without a license - Driving or operating a motor vehicle by one who has not been validly licensed to do so by the appropriate authorities. Examples of situations giving rise to an offense under this item are the following: child disqualified by reason of age to receive a license; child disqualified by inability to meet licensing requirements other than age, such as failure to pass written test, or eye test; child's license is invalid due to failure to pay renewal fee; or child's license is invalid because of revocation by proper authority.  
Not counted under this item are cases in which the child has been issued a valid license but did not have it in his immediate possession, as required by local law, at the time of his arrest.
- (45) All other traffic - All other traffic offenses not included in the categories listed above.
- (51) Abuse - The abuse of a child in his home situation. This includes sexual, physical, or emotional abuse at the hands of parents or guardian.
- (52) Other Neglect - The lack of adequate care or support from parent or guardian where such care or support may be lacking for one or more of a variety of reasons, such as illness or death of parents; employment of the mother away from home during the day or night; confinement of parents or guardian in hospitals, institutions for the insane, penal or correctional institutions; or the willful neglect of a child by the parent or guardian (including refusal to furnish necessary medical care).  
It also includes cases of abandonment or desertion by one or both parents. In addition, it includes living under conditions injurious to morals in which the reason for referral is the child's living in a place likely to harm his moral development, such as in a home with parents or others in which conditions of immorality or intoxication exist, a house of prostitution, etc.
- (61) Special proceedings - Cases in which court action is taken as a condition precedent to the provision of services to a physically handicapped child; commitment of mentally defective child (only if the court is empowered to order the commitment of a mentally defective child); adoption proceedings (only if the court is empowered to grant the adoption petition); and other cases including cases of determination of custody, applications for consent to marry or enlist in the armed forces, holding of material witness, etc.
- ( ) No entry  
(99) Missing

36/1 MS018 MANNER OF HANDLING

Indicates whether the juvenile was referred to court with or without a petition. A petition is a document filed in juvenile court alleging that a juvenile is a delinquent, a status offender, or neglected/dependent, and asking the court to assume jurisdiction over the juvenile.

- (1) Without a petition - Cases without a petition are handled informally.  
(2) With a petition - Cases handled with a petition are placed on the official court calendar for adjudication by a judge.

**DATE OF DISPOSITION:** The date on which the final disposition decision was handed down by the court -- coded in standard month/day/year format.

37/2 MS019 MONTH OF DISPOSITION

- (01) January

		: : (12) December
39/2	MS020	DATE OF DISPOSITION  (01) First : : (31) Thirty-first
41/2	MS021	YEAR OF DISPOSITION  (75) 1975 : : (78) 1978 ( ) No entry (99) Missing
43/2	MS022	DISPOSITION  The decision of a juvenile court that a juvenile be committed to a juvenile correctional facility; placed in a juvenile residence, shelter, or care/treatment program; required to meet certain standards of conduct; or released.  (00) Waived to criminal court - Cases which are waived to a criminal court, which can be a justice or circuit court, for trial.  Complaint not substantiated (01) Dismissed--not proved or found not involved - The allegations were not proved and, as a consequence, the juvenile court adjudged that the child was not within the jurisdiction of the court and dismissed the case. Included are cases dropped as a result of a motion for nolle prosequi (no further action taken). Also included are cases in which petitions were filed but the complaints were withdrawn if court procedures require that such cases be placed on the court calendar for formal dismissal by the judge.  Complaint substantiated, no transfer of legal custody (11) Dismissed - warned, adjusted, counselled - A finding and adjudication followed by either a dismissal of the case, a warning to the child or his parents, or some form of adjustment (excluding an order for restitution). This code also includes cases in which the court released the child to the parent or parents or other persons with whom he was living without placing him under the supervision of the probation officer. A case is "adjusted" when no petition has been filed, the child is believed to be involved as alleged, and where the case is closed after minor action by the court, such as advising or warning the parent or child, and the community requires no further action by the court. (12) Held open without further action - Cases which were held open for fulfillment of certain conditions and no further disposition is anticipated; for instance, when the court merely retains jurisdiction of a case in order that if another referral is received the case may be brought into court again

without the filing of a new petition. This procedure is described in various ways by courts; for instance, "reserved generally," "continued generally," and "continued indefinitely." This term also includes such dispositions as "sentence suspended," "placed on probation to parents," "placed under bond to keep the peace," or "made a ward," when these dispositions do not include supervision by the court or some agency or individual to which the court has referred the child or parents.

- (13) Probation officer to supervise - The disposition of a case by an order placing the child on "probation." It means that the child 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.
- (14) Referral to another agency or individual for supervision or service - Instances where a child is referred to another agency such as a public welfare department, a child guidance clinic, a family service agency or a child placing agency, whether under private or public auspices. Also included are referrals to individuals. Cases involving transfer of custody should be coded (18), (19), or (20).
- (15) Runaway returned to - Child is returned to an agency, institution, his own home, another county or state, after running away.
- (16) Other without transfer of legal custody

Complaint substantiated, transfer of legal custody to

- (21) Public institution for delinquents - The child was committed to an institution maintained by the state, county, or city for delinquent children. Also included are cases in which a boy or girl committed a new offense and was referred to a parole officer for return to the institution.
- (22) Other public institution - The child was committed to an institution other than one for delinquent children, maintained by the state, county, or city, such as an institution for feeble-minded or epileptic children, or a county home.
- (23) Public agency or department, including court - The child was committed to an agency under state, county, or municipal auspices; for example, a state department of public welfare, a county child-welfare board, or a city department of charities.
- (24) Private agency or institution - The child was committed to an agency or institution under private auspices, such as associated charities, a private child-placing agency, or House of Good Shepherd.
- (25) Individual - The child is placed under the custody of an individual.
- (26) Other with transfer of legal custody - Includes all dispositions made by a juvenile court in instances where there has been a finding and adjudication other than those classifiable above under codes (21), (22), (23), (24), or (25) in which there has been a legal transfer of custody.
- (99) Inapplicable--special proceedings - Includes all cases of special proceedings; does not include delinquency, neglect or traffic offenses.
- (98) Missing

45/1 MS023 NUMBER OF PRIOR TRAFFIC REFERRALS

The number of all prior referrals to juvenile court for traffic offenses.

- (0) None
- (1) One
- :

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⋮</li> <li>(5) Five or more</li> <li>(9) Missing</li> </ul>
46/1	MS024	NUMBER OF PRIOR NEGLECT REFERRALS	<p>The number of prior neglect referrals for any and all calendar years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(0) None</li> <li>(1) One</li> <li>⋮</li> <li>⋮</li> <li>(5) Five or more</li> <li>(9) Missing</li> </ul>
47/1	MS025	DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PSYCHOLOGICAL	<p>The special services provided by a clinical, counselling, or educational psychologist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Indicated and provided</li> <li>(2) Indicated but not available</li> <li>(3) Not indicated</li> <li>(9) Missing</li> </ul>
48/1	MS026	DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PSYCHIATRIC	<p>The special services provided by a medical doctor with psychiatric specialization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Indicated and provided</li> <li>(2) Indicated but not available</li> <li>(3) Not indicated</li> <li>(9) Missing</li> </ul>
49/1	MS027	DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES MEDICAL	<p>The medical care provided by a physician.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Indicated and provided</li> <li>(2) Indicated but not provided</li> <li>(3) Not indicated</li> <li>(9) Missing</li> </ul>
50/1	MS028	DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES SOCIAL	<p>The special services provided by a probation officer, social worker, welfare agency, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Indicated and provided</li> <li>(2) Indicated but not provided</li> </ul>

- (3) Not indicated  
(9) Missing
- 51/1 MS0029 ESTIMATED MENTAL CAPACITY
- The estimated mental capacity of the child referred to court.
- (1) Below average  
(2) Average  
(3) Above average  
(9) Missing
- 52/2 MS030 YEARS OF SCHOOLING COMPLETED
- The highest grade completed by the juvenile as of the date the case was referred to court.
- (00) Preschool  
(01) First grade  
:  
:  
(12) Twelfth grade or more  
(99) Missing
- 54/1 MS031 GRADE PLACEMENT IN RELATION TO AGE
- Refers to school placement in relation to chronological age.
- (1) Retarded  
(2) At expected level  
(3) Accelerated  
(4) Inapplicable, not in school  
(9) Missing
- 55/1 MS032 SERIOUS OR PERSISTENT SCHOOL MISBEHAVIOR
- Refers to serious incidents of misbehavior requiring disciplinary action by school personnel.
- (1) Yes  
(2) No  
(3) Inapplicable, not in school  
(9) Missing
- 56/1 MS033 EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOL STATUS
- Indicates whether or not the juvenile was employed and/or in school at the time of the referral.
- (1) Not employed, not in school  
(2) Employed full-time, not in school

- (3) Employed part-time, not in school
- (4) Preschool
- (5) Not employed, in school
- (6) Employed full-time, in school
- (7) Employed part-time, in school
- (9) Missing

57/1 MS034 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF CHILD IN COUNTY

The length of time the juvenile has lived in the county in which the case was referred to court.

- (0) Not currently a resident
- (1) Less than one year
- (2) One year but less than five years
- (3) Five years or more
- (9) Missing

58/2 MS035 LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILD

Refers to the person(s) with whom the child was living at the time of referral.

- (01) With both parents
- (02) With mother and stepfather
- (03) With father and stepmother
- (04) With mother only
- (05) With father only
- (06) In home of relatives
- (07) In foster family home
- (08) In institution
- (09) In independent living arrangements
- (10) In other place
- (99) Missing

60/2 MS036 MARITAL STATUS OF NATURAL PARENTS

The marital status of the juvenile's natural parents at the time of the referral.

- (01) Parents married and living together
- (02) Both dead
- (03) Father dead
- (04) Mother dead
- (05) Divorced or legally separated
- (06) Father deserted mother
- (07) Mother deserted father
- (08) Other reason separated
- (09) Parents not married to each other
- (10) Other status
- (99) Missing

62/1 MS037 ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME

The annual income earned by the juvenile's family at the time of referral.

(1) Receiving public assistance

Not receiving public assistance:

(2) Under \$3,000

(3) \$3,000 to \$4,999

(4) \$5,000 to \$9,999

(5) \$10,000 and more

(9) Missing

63/1 MS038 LOCATION OF RESIDENCE

The child's residence at the time of referral.

(1) Rural - A residence in any area with less than 2,500 population which is characterized by agricultural or natural landscape. These could be either farm or non-farm residences. The non-farm rural area would include the small village or town of less than 2,500 population which has no central city adjacent to it.

(2) Urban-predominantly residential - An urban area of 2,500 or more, characterized by a predominance of residences with scattered retail services and schools in the neighborhood.

(3) Urban-predominantly business or industrial area - An urban area of 2,500 or more population which is characterized by a predominance of either retail or business establishments or industry and manufacturing establishments, processing plants, warehouses, etc.

(4) Suburban - Areas surrounding or adjacent to a larger city which is usually characterized by residences. This classification is used only if it is generally recognized that the area is suburban and known as such.

(9) Missing

64/5 MS039 FILLER

**Appendix I**

Mississippi's Juvenile Court Statistical Form

Use Pencil or Ball-Point Pen and PRESS DOWN ONLY

75-78

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE  
3900 FORBES AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15260  
JUVENILE COURT STATISTICAL CARD

COURT Mississippi  
CHILD'S NAME OR NUMBER (Last) (First) (Middle)  
ADDRESS Area code or census tract

D. DATE OF BIRTH (mo. day year)  
E. AGE AT TIME OF REFERRAL  
F. SEX: 1 Male 2 Female  
G. RACE: 1 White 2 Negro 3 Indian 4 Other

Enter only one code in the designated code box for each major category from "H" to "O"

DATE OF REFERRAL (mo. day year)  
REFERRED BY (1-7)  
PRIOR DELINQUENCY REFERRALS (a, b)  
CARE PENDING DISPOSITION (00-06)  
L. REASON REFERRED (01-61)  
M. MANNER OF HANDLING (1-2)  
N. DATE OF DISPOSITION (mo. day year)  
O. DISPOSITION (00-26, 99)

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA (for court's use)

PRIOR TRAFFIC AND NEGLECT REFERRALS (a, b)  
DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES (Need for Diagnostic Services)  
ESTIMATED MENTAL CAPACITY (1-4)  
SCHOOL ATTAINMENT & ADJUSTMENT (a, b, c)  
EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOL STATUS (Out of School, In School)  
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (of child) IN COUNTY (1-4)  
V. LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILD (01-10)  
W. MARITAL STATUS OF NATURAL PARENTS (01-10)  
X. FAMILY INCOME (Annual) (1-6)  
Y. LOCATION OF RESIDENCE (1-4)  
ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR USE OF COURT

**Appendix II**

Original Data Collector's Statement of Acceptance

STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

I have the authority and having reviewed *Mississippi Juvenile Court Case Records: 1975 - 1978 User's Guide* hereby accept it as an accurate description of the delinquency and status offense data stored at the National Juvenile Court Data Archive and of the methods used by the Mississippi Department of Youth Services to collect these data.

Comments to users:

*NONE*

J. Walter Wood, Jr. Administrator, Community Services Division  
(Name, title, and organization) Miss. Dept. of Youth Services

*JW Wood, Jr.* 2/29/84  
(Signature) (Date)