

**REFERRAL INFORMATION BY RACE, SEX, AND CLASS OF  
REFERRAL/OFFENSE  
1998**

During the reporting period between January 1, 1998, and December 31, 1998, information regarding 119,471 referral reasons disposed of by Tennessee juvenile courts was reported to the Tennessee Juvenile Court Information System. As in previous years, over half (65%) of the 1998 referral reasons disposed of by juvenile courts fell into the category of alleged delinquent offenses. Status offenses represented approximately 12% of referral reasons, while non-offense referral reasons comprised an additional 23% of the total 1998 juvenile court referral reasons.

For the following report, the broad categories of referrals/offenses (Delinquent, Status, and Non-Offense) were broken into these classes of referrals/offenses:

**Offenses Against Persons** - Delinquent offenses, such as Criminal Homicide, Assault, Rape, etc., that were committed against persons.

**Offenses Against Property** - Delinquent offenses, such as Burglary, Arson, Vandalism, etc., that were committed against property.

**Illegal Conduct** - Delinquent behavior that includes such offenses as Possession or Sale of Controlled Substances, Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Trespass, etc.

**Status Offenses** - Offenses committed by a child, that if committed by an adult, would not be considered an offense or unlawful act. These can include such actions as Runaway, Truancy, Unruly Behavior, etc.

**Dependency/Neglect Issues** - Issues that affect the safety and well being of the referred child, such as Abuse, Dependency, Neglect, Termination of Parental Rights, etc. This is a non-offense category as the referred child is the "victim", not the offender.

**Other Violation Proceedings** - Violation of Pretrial Diversion and Violation of Informal Adjustment.

**Special Proceedings** - Judicial actions taken on behalf of the child or upon request of the child and parent/guardian. Such actions include Consent to Marry, Parentage proceedings, Child Support, etc. This is also a non-offense category.

The chart on page 26 indicates that the first, second, and third most often reported classes of referral reasons for males differed by race. Among white males, the two most commonly reported classes of referral/offense continued to be Illegal Conduct and Property Offenses. Forty-two (42%) percent of white male referral reasons were for Illegal Conduct and 16% were for Offenses Against Property. Status Offenses represented the third most reported class of referral/offense for white male referrals at 15%.