

ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency in Jamaica is first examined in terms of its general pattern of distribution throughout the island. More particularly, ecological data are presented on juvenile offenders from Kingston and the findings are discussed within a framework provided by similar studies conducted in other countries. Delinquency rates are calculated for each constituency in the city and these rates are then correlated with indices of socio-economic status in order to establish whether any significant inter-relationship exists.

While a general survey of delinquency provides a better understanding of the problem, a second dimension is added to the field of inquiry by the detailed study of eighty-seven delinquents in detention at an Approved School. The social and criminal background of the inmates as well as their reactions to life in a total institution are analyzed. Particular emphasis is placed on social relationships within the institution and on the occupational and educational aspirations of the boys.