

## Conflicting goals face country's juvenile courts

The report, "Brought to Justice? Juveniles, the Courts and the Law," is the last in the five-year federally funded project. The report examines the structure of the nation's juvenile court system.

Violations and inconsistencies in court handling of juveniles have been documented in every state. The US state Department of Justice found widely differing rates at which youth are sent through the court system, assigned to institutions or released on probation.

Juvenile courts in each of the 50 states

are so dissimilar that the study could not make comparisons.

"Few states had a coherent structure whereby the juvenile courts were alike in each county," said the report.

Most states gave discretion to the juvenile court judge.

Few distinctions were made between serious delinquents, minor delinquents of dependency and neglected children.

The report's issue, the report said, is the contradiction between youth concern and crime control.

Courts operate under the assumption that they must protect the community (yet over 40 per cent of the cases referred to them are in fact juvenile nuisances).

The report says that the courts have become a dumping ground for schools, family service agencies and even parents who don't want to deal with youth problems in the report said.

Fast decisions have resulted in an expansion of the juvenile justice system with the expectation that youth would become more law abiding under the threat of coercive punishment. Since juvenile crime has continued to increase, it is clearly time to try other alternatives.

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From the conference will be the recent variations the state and national programs of health education, economic social and other programs of the handicapped.



It had Smith, director of the state commission, said the goals are to create that the state with physical and mental handicaps are able to live independent and dignified lives.

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