tion that offenses committed by female delinquents are primarily sexual. Let me try to outline some general information on juvenile delinquency and then identify areas of discrimination against the female by attitude and treatment.

A juvenile delinquent is generally a person under 18 who breaks any of the laws applying to adults or does acts which violate restrictions on behavior imposed on juveniles, such as truanting, running away, being incorrigible, ungovernable, stubborn, etc. In reality, however, the term "juvenile delinquent" is usually used to refer to males, and countless studies discuss the nature of this problem among young men: school, family, unemployment, income. However, there is virtually no such interest in the problems of the female delinquent. With little research and lots of speculation, people who study crime assume that female delinquency is, as one expert put it, "an overt sexual act or to be more correct, a sexual acting out." Here are some common published attitudes:

1. Female delinquency, although it may appear in the records as ungovernability or running away, is mostly sexual delinquency. Stealing, property offenses, and "hell-raising" are primarily practices of the male.
2. Young boys wishing to become men must break away from the world of feminine rule, and bad behavior acquires the function of seeking masculine identity; but when girls are confused as to their identity, they slip into promiscuity.
3. The delinquent behavior in boys is a normal part of the youngster's seeking to find himself, while in girls it is often symptomatic of deeper emotional disturbance.

The male juvenile who commits more crimes and more serious crimes than the female, is seen as essentially wholesome, striving to fill his masculine role, while the female is seen as a misfit and sexually promiscuous. Let us compare juvenile male and female crimes:
—see chart

	M	F
Forceable Rape	2380	0
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	311	726
Other Sex Offenses	5606	1533
Total	8297	2259

Even in a society that tends to overlook sexual delinquency in boys (which means the figures for men may be low), less than one arrest in four for sex crimes was female. In fact, women have a much higher score for larceny than sex — 56,000 as compared to 2,259 — but no matter what, her crime is sexual.

Prostitution, running away, promiscuity, and illegitimacy are the general categories of female sexual delinquency. Let us look at each of these.

Total arrests for *Prostitution* for 1970 were 45,000, and of this number, 726 females (or .016%) were under 18. Young girls are rarely prostitutes. They may have sex for affection, social acceptability, for a meal or protection, but rarely for money.

Running away is usually related to a sexual offense when committed by a female under 18. Over 500,000 young people left home in 1969, and at least half were girls. It is estimated that soon the majority of runaways will be females. Children leave home to escape brutality, torn homes, alcoholism, desertion, etc., but the female runaway is not permitted such a rich variety of reasons, and when picked up is often tagged a sexual delinquent and charged with sexual offenses. Some experts further suggest that the female runaway runs off to control her incestuous wishes for her father.

Promiscuity is defined as indiscriminate mixture or promiscuous sexual union. Applied to the female juvenile it means indiscriminate sexual behavior. One authority states, "The predominant expression of delinquency among girls in our society is promiscuous sexual behavior." In my experience the female adolescent who could not be controlled was usually labelled as promiscuous.

Illegitimacy is a term used to describe the illegal state of the unmarried mother and her child. In 1968 there were 340,000 illegitimate births and a little less than half were born to women under 19. Literature on this subject explains illegitimacy as a plot on the part of the mother to steal welfare money, an expression of her need for feminine fulfillment, hatred of her own mother, or as a result of her being oversexed. It was my impression that pregnancy was the result of sexual intercourse, but for some reason this does not seem to be a good enough explanation. Someone has to be blamed for this biological process, and all kinds of evil and mystical motives are attributed to the woman. What about the man's motives? Does he hate his father? Is he promiscuous under the law? No one seems to notice his involvement in a pregnancy, or hold him responsible, and his motives are never questioned. The woman is not only responsible for her pregnancy, she is blamed for it. In some states, unmarried women under 21 who become pregnant can be institutionalized.

Locked up: Young women are jailed most often for crimes that would not be crimes if they were adults (i.e. running away, promiscuity, etc.). Young men are usually jailed for adult crimes.

The treatment of the female delinquent is also highly discriminatory. For example:

1. More than half the girls referred to juvenile court in 1965 were referred for acts that would not be criminal by adults; only one-fifth of the boys were referred for such behavior.
2. One girl was arrested for every 5 boys. Girls were arrested for running away, ungovernable behavior, and sex offenses while boys were arrested for rape, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and aggravated assault. In other words, females were arrested for misbehavior while males were arrested for breaking the law.
3. In some cities, a girl picked up for shoplifting can be examined for pregnancy, venereal disease, or sexual intercourse and then be charged with sexual delinquency rather than shoplifting.
4. Although boys are fully as prone to promiscuity as girls, this behavior is often noted on a girl's record and not a boy's and boys are less likely to be referred for sex offenses.
5. There are fewer alternatives to institutionalization for young women and fewer, less effective programs within institutions. Training programs that do exist are often in fields which not only have no future, but perpetuate the servile role of women in the job market.
6. Girls spend, on the average, two months longer in institutions than boys, and after imprisonment, remain on parole for longer periods.

The pattern of crimes for which women are getting arrested is perhaps beginning to change. But the association of all kinds of crime committed by women with sexual offenses continues to be made, perpetuating the stereotype of the female criminal as a sexual criminal and re-inforcing the myth of sexual delinquency.