



# Ada County Juvenile Court Services (ACJCS)

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders  
January – December 2008

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## Our Vision

To be a community leader collaborating with partners to develop innovative, effective, and efficient processes that:

- Provide juveniles with accountability and opportunity to develop skills needed to become contributing members of society and;
- Provide the community with protection, education and opportunity for restoration.

## Our Mission

Earning public trust through positive changes in our youth.

## Our Agency Values

Commitment, Diversity, Fairness, Integrity, Trust

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Ada County Juvenile Court Services  
Steven C. Dye, Director

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# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



March 30, 2009

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to review the activities and progress of Ada County Juvenile Court Services. For those of you who follow this publication you will note that our agency's Mission Statement, Vision and Values have been updated. We believe this framework most accurately reflects what you, as our customer, expect and deserve. It anchors all ACJCS staff to a shared common goal that drives our work each and every day. Mission, Vision and Values lay the foundation for building a strategic plan, which includes statistical outcome measures to ensure our services provided are efficient and effective, using limited taxpayer dollars wisely. Strategic planning becomes even more important in times of economic downturns, and like you, ACJCS has not been shielded from these challenges. Where there is challenge, there is also opportunity.

All staff at ACJCS demonstrate commitment to providing quality services to our community. We recognize and value the responsibility that comes with our stewardship role in juvenile justice services for Ada County. Nothing is more important than the safety of our children. In each and every case referred to us, we address community protection, accountability, and competency development of juvenile offenders. And in an effort to restore the community from damage that comes with juvenile crime, every offender is required to perform community service, either at a contracted site or on one of our work crews. All work is performed for either a nonprofit or government agency. Community service not only helps repay the community; it instills the value of hard work in our youth. Many of these youth experience a sense of accomplishment for the first time and learn valuable work skills for developing into contributing members of our community.

In July 2008, a third full time Judge was assigned to juvenile court, replacing two part time Judges. This change has resulted in more efficient court calendars to better serve our numerous customers who appear in court, including attorneys, victims, and witnesses. Offenders now move through our system faster because we know the phrase "justice delayed is justice denied" rings truest in a juvenile justice system. We are fortunate to maintain strong, daily partnerships with critical stakeholders, such as Judges, prosecuting attorneys, defense counsel, schools, and law enforcement; all are vital to the overall success of our juvenile justice system. We believe these practices and relationships contribute to the quality of life we can all enjoy and be proud of.

To more completely serve our customers we maintain a web site that can be found at [www.adaweb.net/JuvenileCourt.aspx](http://www.adaweb.net/JuvenileCourt.aspx). Included with detailed information about our agency is a link to Questions and Feedback. Please feel free to call or write us with any suggestions you have related to how we might better serve our community.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Dye".

Steven C. Dye, ACJCS Director

Letter from the Director

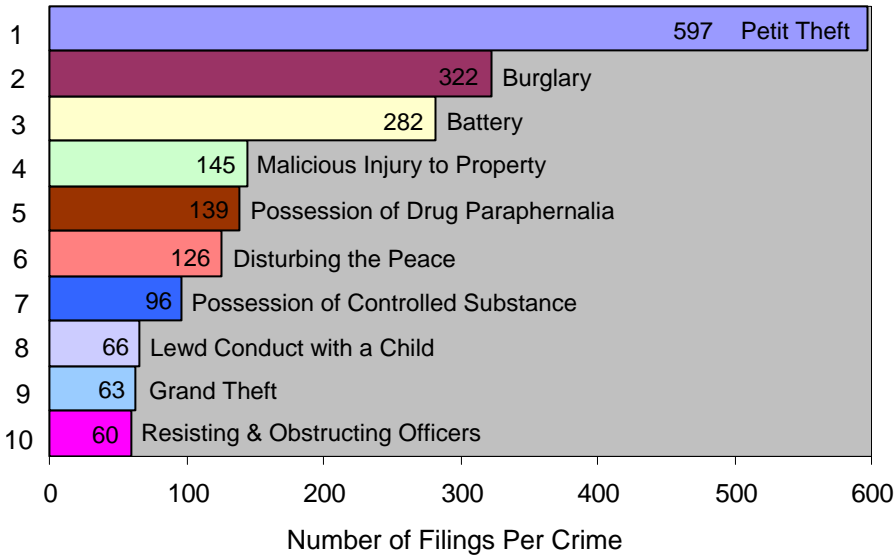
# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## ACJCS CRIME FACTS

### JUVENILE CRIME:

In 2008, law enforcement agencies arrested or referred ~2,250 juveniles for more than 4,500 law violations alleged to have been committed in Ada County. The Prosecuting Attorney evaluates each police report and determines whether the case should be dismissed, diverted, or charged (filed) by formal petition.

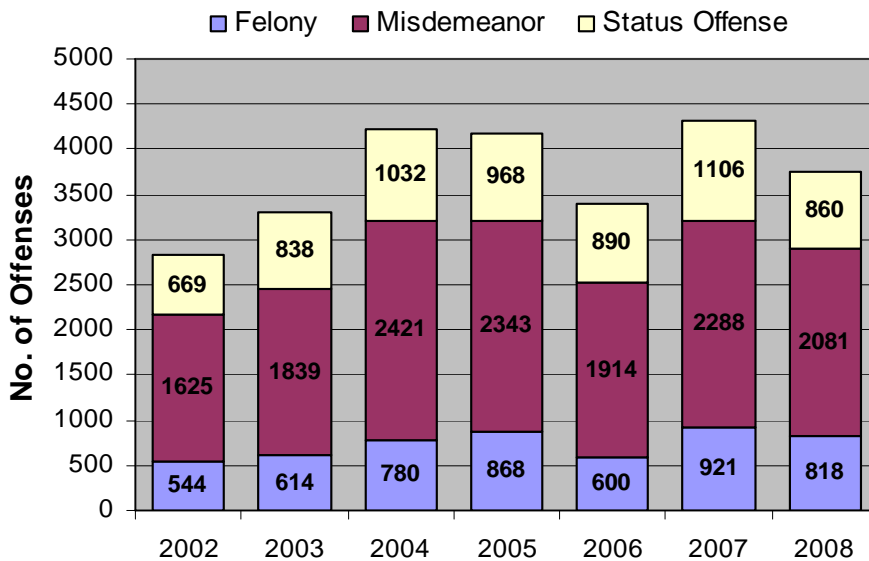
Top 10 Crimes Filed in Juvenile Court



### SEVERITY OF LAW VIOLATIONS:

Misdemeanor crimes for the last 8 years have averaged 55 to 56% of all law violations filed in Juvenile Court, followed by status offenses (such as Runaway and Curfew) at 24%, and then by felony crimes at 20%.

Number of Law Violations Filed in Juvenile Court



# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## VICTIM SERVICES

Vision Statement: *“Proactively responding to victims of juvenile crime in a manner that is restorative and meaningful.”*

The Victim Impact Program provides informative and restorative services to victims of juvenile crime, including victim advocacy, mediation, and restitution.



Restitution Services = 555  
Victim Advocacy = 800  
Victim-Offender Mediation = 17  
Restitution Collected = \$163,210

### VICTIM ADVOCACY:

- Assists victims throughout the court process and keeps victims informed and updated on their case.
- Provides Elder Abuse Safeguarding tips to seniors 55 and up who are victims of juvenile crime, to help them identify and prevent future abuse.
- Conducts a Victim Impact Panel to bridge the gap between juvenile offenders and their community, and helps juvenile offenders understand the impact of the crime they committed on the community.

### MEDIATION SERVICES:

- Victim-Offender Mediation provides a way for victims of juvenile crime to express their thoughts and feelings, get answers to unresolved questions, and to come to agreement with offenders in a manner that is both meaningful and restorative to the victims.
- This is a voluntary process that brings the victim and offender together so they may both address the personal nature of the offense.



### RESTITUTION SERVICES:

- Assists victims in filing a restitution claim with the court.
- Victims may receive financial compensation from juvenile offenders to restore what was lost.

Victim Services

# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

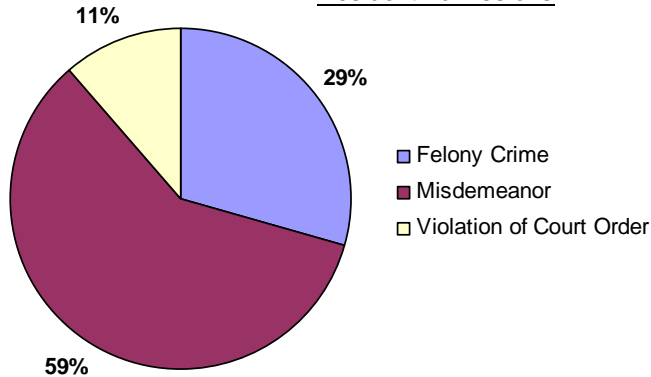
## DETENTION SERVICES

### DETENTION POPULATION:

We admitted 1,356 residents in 2008 (75% male and 25% female), including 89 juveniles held for other jurisdictions. Number of admissions were virtually equal to those of 2007, while daily population and length of stay increased slightly.

Masters-level teachers from the Boise School District provide instruction to detention residents 5 day per week. From July 2008 to Jan 2009, residents earned 36 high school credits, 5 passed high school equivalency tests, 37 GED tests were passed, and 3 juveniles completed GEDs.

2008 Underlying Offenses for Resident Admissions



### MEDICAL SERVICES:

Our medical department maintained its accreditation with the National Commission on Health Care in 2008.

Residents receive mental health services, health education, counseling, STD testing, and prescription services.

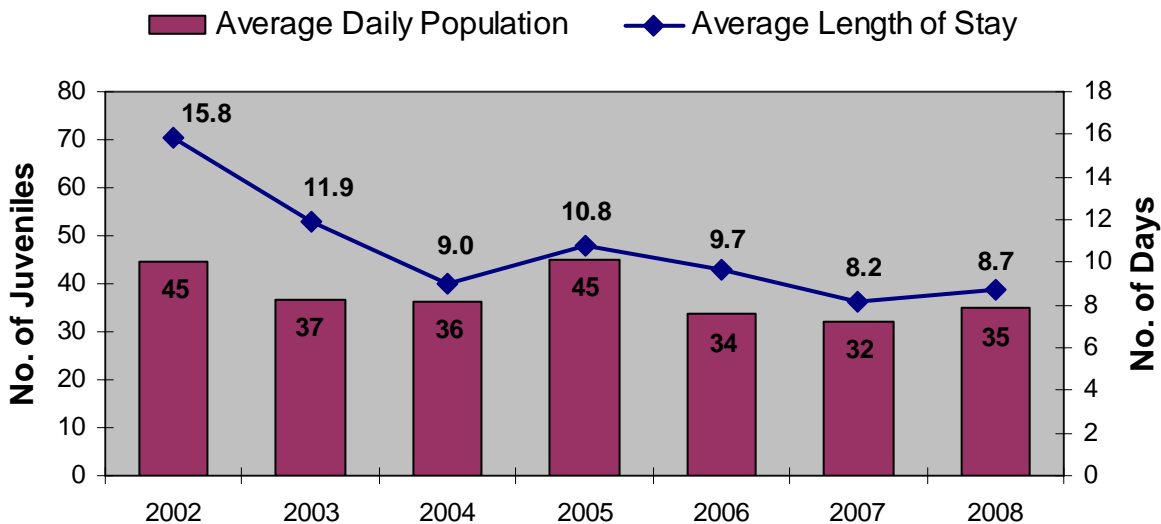
### FOOD SERVICES:

Detention & Program Meals = 39,997  
 Detention & Program Snacks = 13,484

Our Food Service Department consistently receives high quality ratings from Central District Health.

238 residents were assessed "at risk" for suicide when they arrived, but only 3 attempted (no hospitalization required), and none succeeded.

Average Daily Population & Length of Stay



Competency  
&  
Development

Accountability, &

Community  
Protection,



# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## DIVERSION & PROBATION SERVICES

### Diversion Services



### **DIVERSION:**

Participation in the Diversion Program is an option sometimes granted by the Prosecuting Attorney to youth typically referred for low level offenses with no prior referrals. If the youth agrees to and completes conditions outlined in a contract, such as community service work and restitution payment in full, then the referring charge is dismissed.

### **DETENTION ALTERNATIVE MONITORING:**

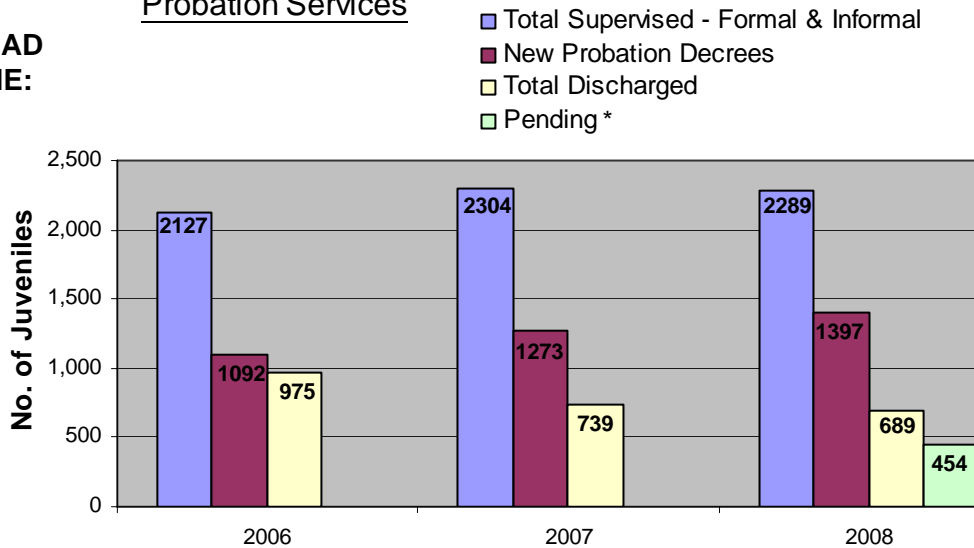
Electronic Monitoring, In-Home Detention, and Detention Release Orders provide court-sanctioned alternatives to detention for juveniles not posing serious risk to the community. Our probation officers monitored 586 such juveniles in 2008.

### Probation Services

### **AGENCY CASELOAD SNAPSHOT IN TIME:**

On 12/31/08, the agency's caseload consisted of 70% males and 30% females, and included:

- 59% on probation in the community
- 18% on diversion referral or contract
- 18% pending court hearings
- 5% in state custody



\* Pending cases make up a portion of probation's workload, so this category has been added for 2008.

### **COURT INVESTIGATION & FIELD PROBATION SERVICES:**

Probation Officers are responsible for monitoring cases while following the Balanced Approach to restorative justice. Court Investigation Officers conduct comprehensive interviews and assessments of each juvenile who comes into jurisdiction of the court (is pending), and they provide recommendations for court disposition. Field Probation Officers are responsible for supervising youth who have been placed on probation and they monitor compliance with court ordered terms. They also refer youth and parents to programs such as community service, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, anger management, Life Skills, and educational and vocational programs.

**Competency & Development**  
**Accountability, &**  
**Community Protection,**

# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## PROGRAMS & OTHER SERVICES

### CLINICAL COUNSELING SERVICES:

The Clinical Program is licensed to provide substance abuse and mental health assessments and services for youth involved in juvenile court.

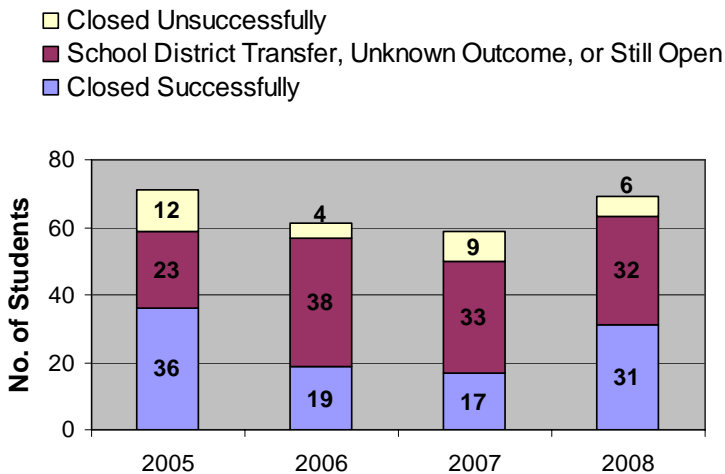
Drug/Alcohol Assessments = 129  
 Outpatient Treatment = 29 clients  
 Juvenile Drug Court = 37 clients  
 Residential Substance Abuse = 40 clients  
 Temporary Foster Care = 10 clients  
 Individual/Family Counseling = 189 clients

### VICTORY ACADEMY:

An educational program for suspended or expelled high school students, Victory Academy partners with Boise School District and Idaho Youth Ranch. Students work on self-paced curricula aligned with State and District standards, and participate in collective art and creative writing projects.

Number of Students in 2008 = 45  
 Credits Earned = 175  
 Successful Transition = 10 students  
 Attained GED/Diploma = 8 students

Attendance Court Referrals



### ATTENDANCE COURT:

A prevention program targeting elementary students with chronic school attendance problems. Partnering with the Boise and Meridian school districts, the court develops individual plans and monitors compliance to assist families to improve their child's attendance.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Total Referrals = 1,241  
 Successful Completions = 1,038  
 Total Hours Served = 27,878  
 Value of Service = \$163,086

*Juveniles work in the community to make amends for the harm their crimes caused.*

### WORK IN LIEU OF DETENTION:

Total Referrals = 242  
 Successful Completions = 203  
 Total Hours Served = 8,216  
 Value of Service = \$48,064

### CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM:

Educating at-risk middle school youth about the laws and consequences of juvenile crime, this program operates through partnerships with the Boise and Meridian school districts.

#### Law Related Education

1,740 students  
 (72 presentations)

#### Small Group Curriculum

139 students  
 (21 groups)

Competency & Development  
 Accountability, &  
 Community Protection,