



Ada County Juvenile Court Services (ACJCS)

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders
January – December 2007

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

Ada County Juvenile Court Services
Steven C. Dye, Director

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A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



March 15, 2008

Dear Ada County Citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to review the activities of Ada County Juvenile Court Services for the calendar year 2007. As might be expected with Ada County's population growth, juvenile referrals have also increased, which creates challenges for this agency in meeting the demands in all of our service areas. However, with challenge comes opportunity, and I am proud to report that our team met those challenges. As a result, we experienced our most successful year since we began gathering statistics. Our recidivism rates continuing to improve is an example of that. Delivering effective juvenile justice services requires the support of county leadership, careful planning, and collaboration with critical partners including judges, law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, defense counsel, schools, and community providers. We are all fortunate to live in a community with competent, dedicated professionals committed to maintaining Ada County as one of the safest places in the nation to raise our children.

Toward this goal, Ada County Juvenile Court Services subscribes to balanced and restorative justice. This means that in each and every case, we incorporate community protection, holding youth accountable, and providing for youth to build competencies to succeed and to repair harm caused by their crime. Probation case management is designed following a validated risk tool that determines the risk level and intervention needs of each youth. This practice ensures we provide the level of supervision that best protects the community and facilitates interventions needed to decrease the youth's chances of recidivating. Ada County Juvenile Court Services stands committed to providing the best possible services to our customer, the citizens of Ada County. We recognize this commitment involves providing services that mirror the values of the Ada County community, including a strong work ethic. Therefore, we require offenders to complete community service work, either on work crews or at individual placements. This is a win-win approach because it pays back the community for the harm done by juvenile crime, holds youth accountable, and teaches them valuable vocational skills they can use to become productive citizens of our community. We are also unique as a juvenile justice agency because we have a clinical division to help meet the demands of vital services, such as substance abuse treatment, that many of these youth cannot otherwise access in the community. By holding youth accountable with hard work and addressing the reasons they violated the law, we are able to use detention less often. This strategy results in a better value for the taxpayer dollar, while ensuring community protection by detaining the highest risk youth.

In closing, I would like to publicly acknowledge my staff for their superior performance in 2007, and to express my deepest appreciation to our community partners, for without them, we would not have as safe of a community to raise our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black 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



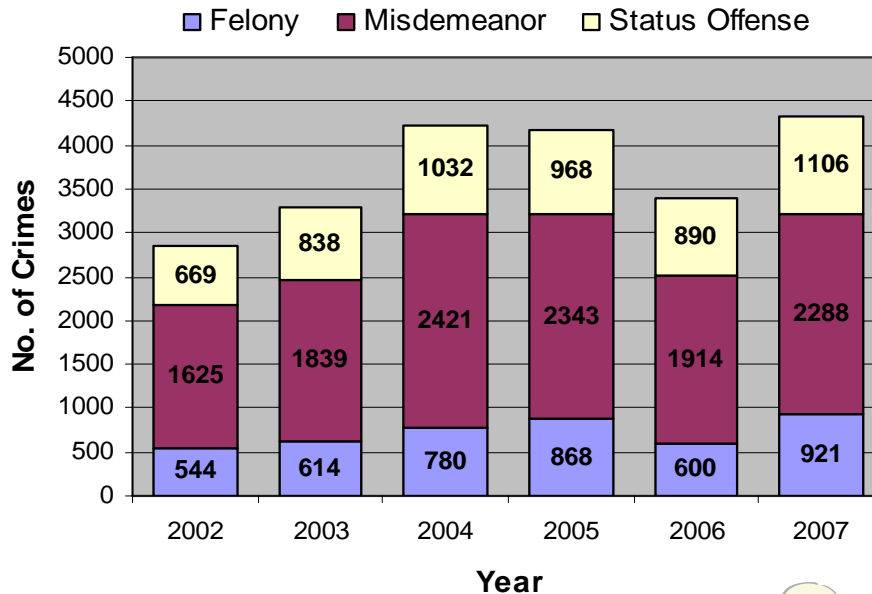
JUVENILE CRIME:

In 2007, law enforcement agencies arrested or referred ~2,500 juveniles for more than 5,200 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 by formal petition.

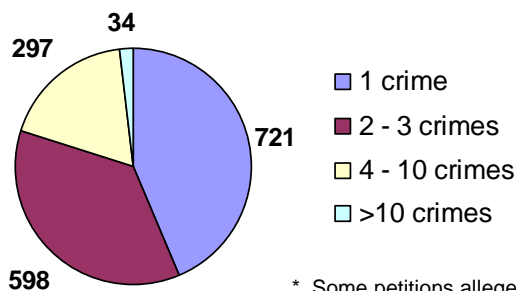
CRIME SEVERITY:

For the past 7 years, misdemeanor crimes have averaged 55% of all crimes petitioned in Juvenile Court, followed by status offenses at 24% and felony crimes at 20%.

Law Violations Filed In Juvenile Court



Juveniles Petitioned for Crimes in 2007 *



* Some petitions allege more than one law violation.

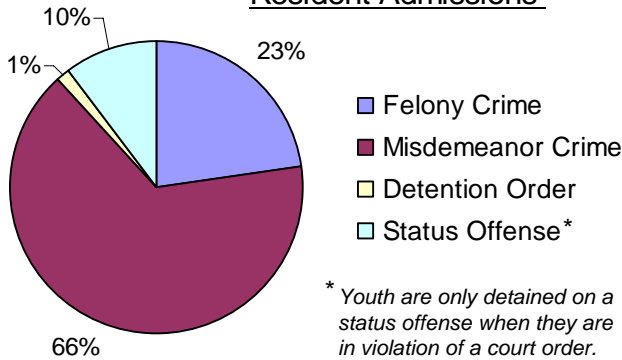
STATUS OFFENSE:

A misbehavior which would not be a violation of law if committed by an adult but is an offense when committed by a minor because of their age. Examples of status offenses include truancy, runaway, beyond control, and curfew.

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

2007 Underlying Offenses for Resident Admissions



* Youth are only detained on a status offense when they are in violation of a court order.

FOOD SERVICES:

Detention & Program Meals = 41,917
 Detention & Program Snacks = 12,963

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

DETENTION SERVICES:

We booked 1,361 resident admissions in 2007 (73% male and 27% female), which includes 98 juveniles held for other jurisdictions. Admissions are up from 1,199 in 2006, but length of stay and daily population continues successfully to decrease.

Master's-level teachers from the Boise School District provide instruction to detention residents 5 days/wk. From July 2007 - Jan 2008 residents earned 52 high school credits, and 22 passed their GED.

We had one suicide attempt (no hospitalization required) and no suicides in 2007, even though 131 residents were assessed "at risk."

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION:

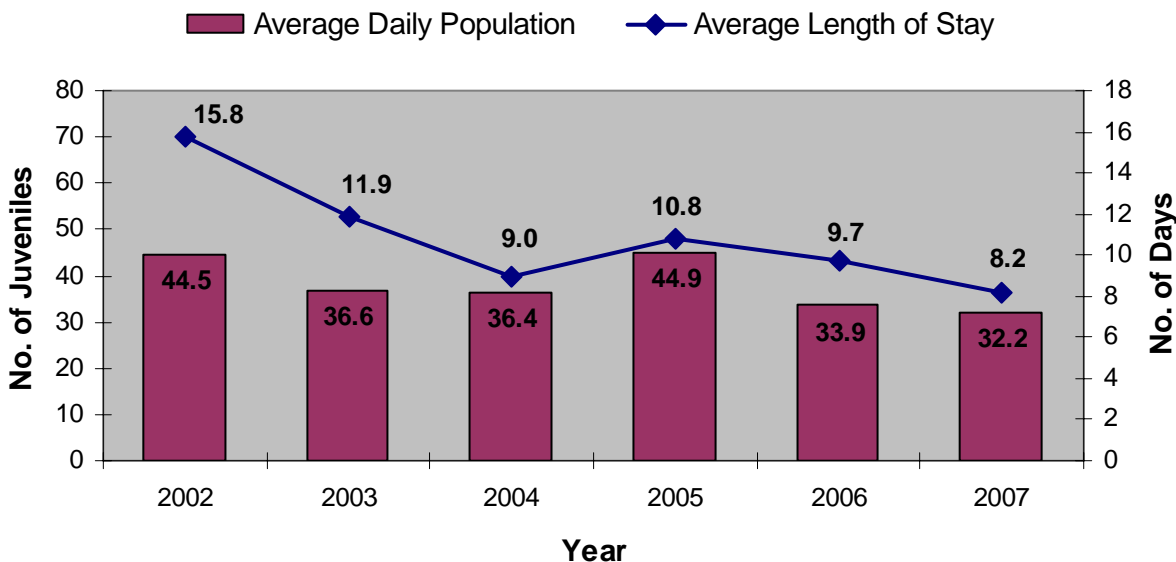
Electronic Monitoring, In-Home Detention, and Detention Release Orders provide court-sanctioned alternatives to detention for juveniles who do not pose a serious risk to the community. Our probation officers monitored 573 juveniles on community supervision in 2007.

MEDICAL SERVICES:

Our medical department maintained its accreditation with the National Commission on Health Care in 2007.

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

Average Daily Population & Length of Stay

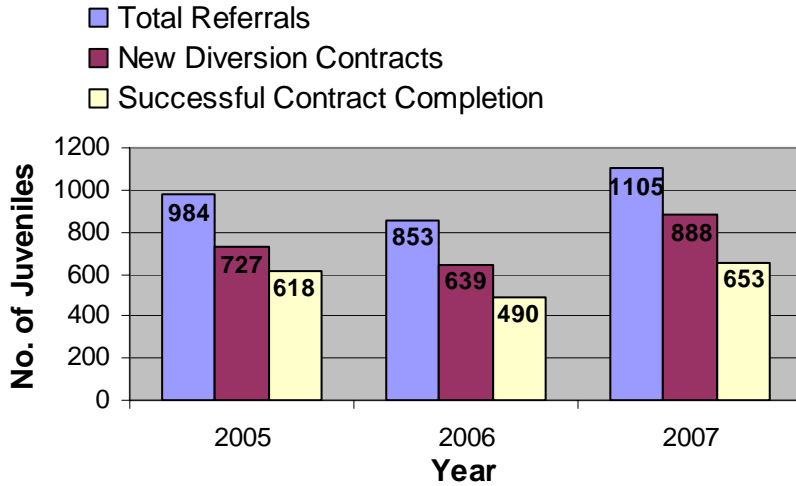


Community Protection

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

ACCOUNTABILITY

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.



COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Total Referrals = 1,405
 Successful Completions = 1,170
 Total Hours Served = 26,234
 Value of Service = \$153,470

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

WORK IN LIEU OF DETENTION:

Total Referrals = 283
 Successful Completions = 211
 Total Hours Served = 8,016
 Value of Service = \$46,894

VICTIM SERVICES:

Victims Served = 878
 Restitution Collected = \$160,432

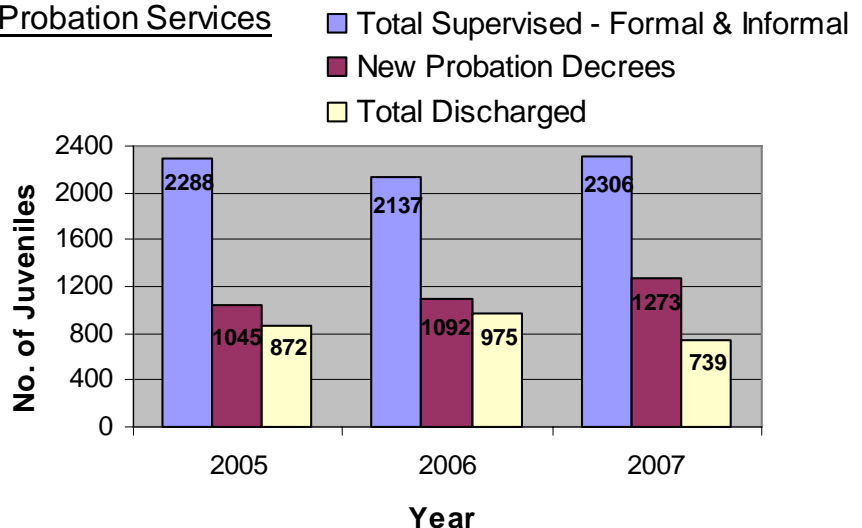
Our Victim Impact Program provides information and restorative services to victims of juvenile crime, including restitution, court support, and mediation.

PROBATION:

In 2007, 2,304 juveniles (70% male and 30% female) were supervised by our probation department:

- 1.6% were committed to the ID Dept. of Juvenile Corrections (DJC);
- 3.6% had a suspended commitment to DJC; &
- 19.2% received a probation violation.

Probation Services



A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT



WORK AND LEARN:

In partnership with the Boise School District and Idaho Youth Ranch, Work & Learn is an educational program for high school students who have been suspended or expelled. Students work at their own pace on curricula aligned with State and District standards, and participate in art and creative writing projects (e.g., *Snapshots: Lives in Transition* and *Writers in the Schools*).

Number of Students in 2007 = 56
 Credits Earned = 210
 Successful Transition = 8 students
 Attained GED/Diploma = 6 students

PREVENTION PROGRAM:

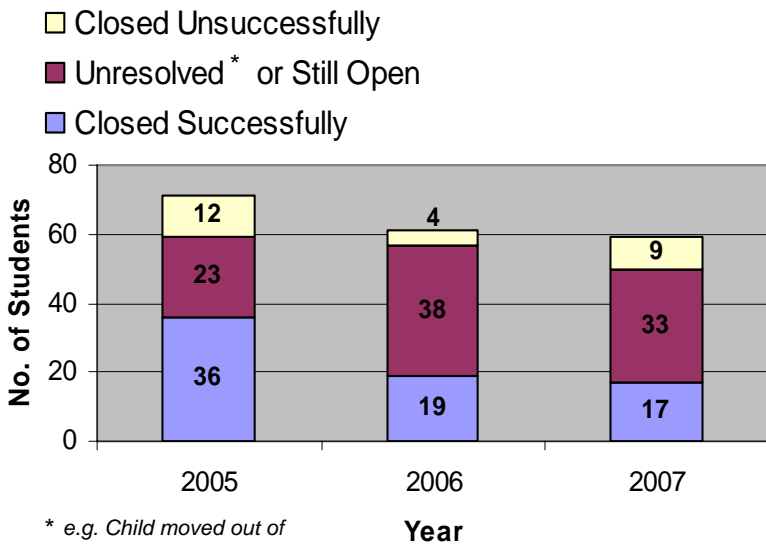
A partnership with the Boise and Meridian school districts, the prevention program educates at-risk middle school youth on the laws and consequences of juvenile crime.

Law Related Education = 1,282 students
 (57 presentations)
 Small Group Curriculum = 148 students
 (22 groups)

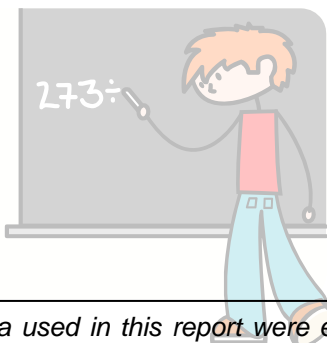
ATTENDANCE COURT:

A partnership with the Boise, Meridian, and Kuna school districts, Attendance Court is a prevention program targeting elementary school students over the age of seven who have a history of chronic school attendance problems. The Court develops an individual plan and monitors compliance to assist each family in improving their child's attendance.

Attendance Court Referrals



* e.g. Child moved out of school district



CLINICAL COUNSELING SERVICES:

Drug/Alcohol Assessments = 138
 * Drug/Alcohol Education = 126 clients
 * Outpatient Treatment = 24 clients
 Juvenile Drug Court = 41 clients
 Residential Substance Abuse = 48 clients
 * Domestic Violence Assessments = 16
 Temporary Foster Care = 9 clients
 Individual/Family Counseling = 152 clients

* Suspended in July 2007

Data used in this report were extracted from the Idaho Juvenile Offender System (IJOS: a statewide database provided by the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections), or from program files maintained by individual staff.