



# Ada County Juvenile Court Services (ACJCS)

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders  
January – December 2010

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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  
Janet M. Wallace, Director

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# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



To Our Community

The men and women of Ada County's Juvenile Court Services are deservedly proud of the work they do and the services they provide to our community. Since joining the team in October 2010, I have been tremendously impressed by the dedication and passion for the job shown by all Juvenile Court Services employees!

The Balanced Approach philosophy, to which our organization adheres, supports accountability, community protection and rehabilitation of offenders while advocating for victim's rights. The Victim's Rights Amendments to the Idaho Constitution, provides guidance as we work with victims, as well as offenders, to ensure victims' needs for restorative justice are satisfied.

The Ada County Juvenile Detention Center remains at the top of the class for its facility and programs offered. Our Recreation Specialist works closely with resident juveniles who are not formally enrolled in the school system, to acquire their Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED). The year 2010 saw a 59% increase with 27 juveniles in Detention receiving their GED! The pride on the faces of these residents when presented with their GED certificate is truly wonderful.

Continuing our focus on education, the Probation Department established the GED Study Program in the spring of 2010 and took on the first clients in October 2010. The GED Study Program has been a minimal cost program run by Probation Officers, and supported by donations from ACJCS staff and community members. Those enrolled in the Program attend two hour study sessions twice weekly in preparation for official GED tests. The program is currently in its infancy and is dedicated to help struggling youth improve their educational standing in 2011 and beyond.

A source of pride is our Detention Kitchen! The Kitchen Manager and staff do a superb job of preparing healthy meals for Detention residents. Serving homemade whole-wheat bread/rolls, whole-grain pasta, and fresh fruit for every meal is just the beginning. Though it may be a bit shocking to some residents when they're taken away from their fast-food regimen, they soon recognize the benefits of their nutritious meals. Residents learn about healthy eating through lessons and discussions with staff members.

Our Community Service Program continued its outstanding service to the community, logging over 26,000 work hours with partners such as Idaho Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Ridges to Rivers, Idaho Humane Society, Idaho Food Bank, The Boise Rescue Mission and many more. The program currently serves over 120 non-profit and government agencies throughout Ada County.

We look forward to providing continued excellence in all our programs as we work with members of our community.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet M. Wallace".

Janet M. Wallace, Director

Letter from the Director

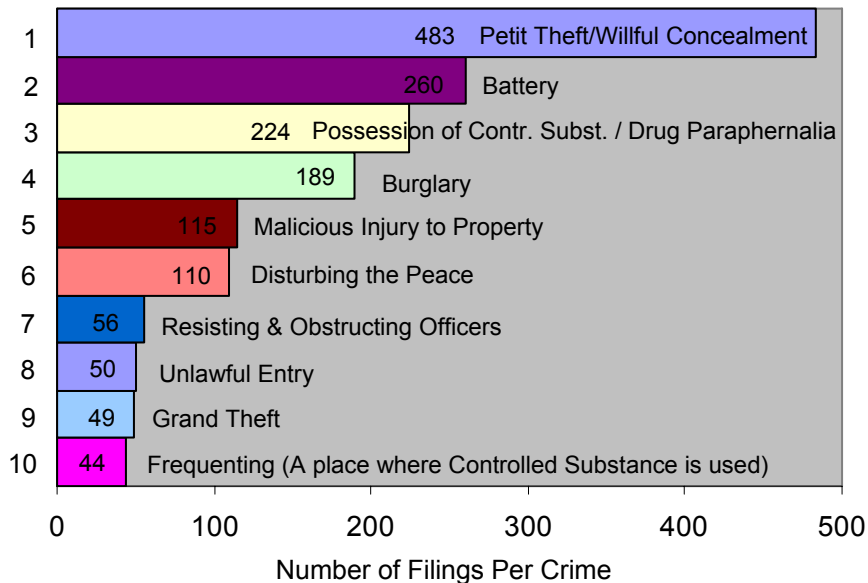
# A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

## ACJCS CRIME FACTS

### JUVENILE CRIME:

In 2010, law enforcement agencies arrested or referred over 1,900 juveniles for 3,500 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.

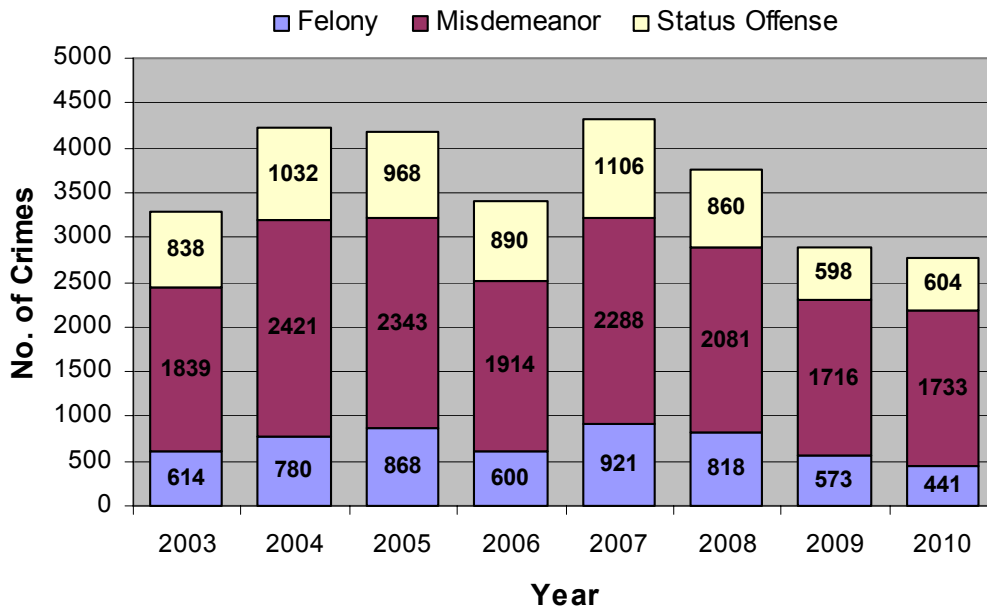
Top 10 Crimes Filed in Juvenile Court



### SEVERITY OF LAW VIOLATIONS:

Misdemeanor crimes averaged 62% of all law violations filed in Juvenile Court, followed by status offenses (such as Runaway and Curfew) at 22%, and then by felony crimes at 16%.

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 and restitution.



Victim Advocacy = 532  
Restitution Services = 418  
Restitution Collected = \$122,173

### VICTIM ADVOCACY

- Assists victims throughout the court process and keeps them informed and updated on their cases; and accompanies them to court as needed.
- Serves as liaison between victims and the various personnel within the court system.
- Provides elder abuse safeguarding tips to seniors 65+ who are victims of juvenile crime, to help them identify and prevent future abuse.
- Conducts Victim Impact Panels to bridge the gap between juvenile offenders and their community, which helps offenders understand the impact their crime/s have in the community.
- Screens letters of apology from juvenile offenders for appropriateness, empathy, and sincerity to provide for victim closure.



### 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

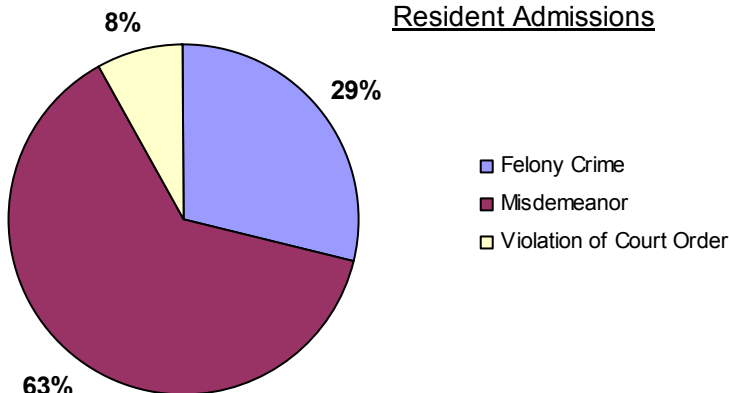
## DETENTION SERVICES

### DETENTION POPULATION:

We admitted 1,435 residents in 2010 (73% male and 27% female), including 185 juveniles held for other jurisdictions. Number of admissions were 9% more than in 2009, while daily population and length of stay increased slightly.

Masters-level teachers from the Boise School District provide instruction to detention residents 5 days per week. From July 2010 through Dec. 2010, residents earned 46 high school credits, passed 1 high school equivalency test, passed 27 GED tests, and 1 juvenile completed the GED.

2010 Underlying Offenses for Resident Admissions



### MEDICAL SERVICES:

Our medical department maintained its accreditation with the National Commission on Health Care in 2010.

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

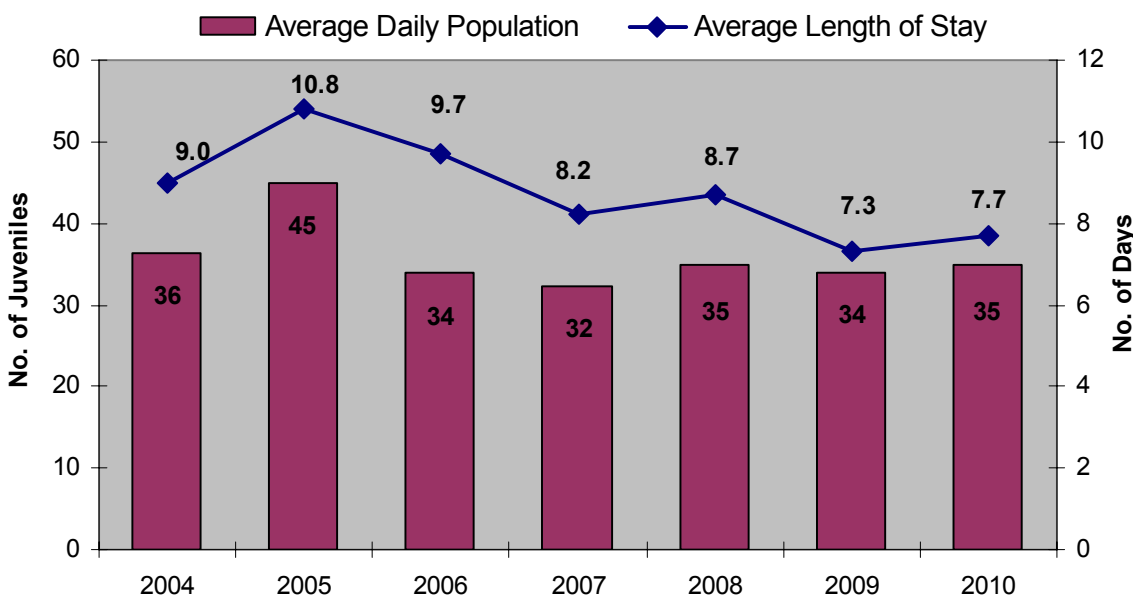
### FOOD SERVICES:

Detention & Program Meals = 34,673  
 Detention & Program Snacks = 11,677

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

210 residents were assessed "at risk" for suicide when they arrived, but only 3 attempted (no hospitalization required).

Average Daily Population & Length of Stay



Competency  
Development

Accountability, &

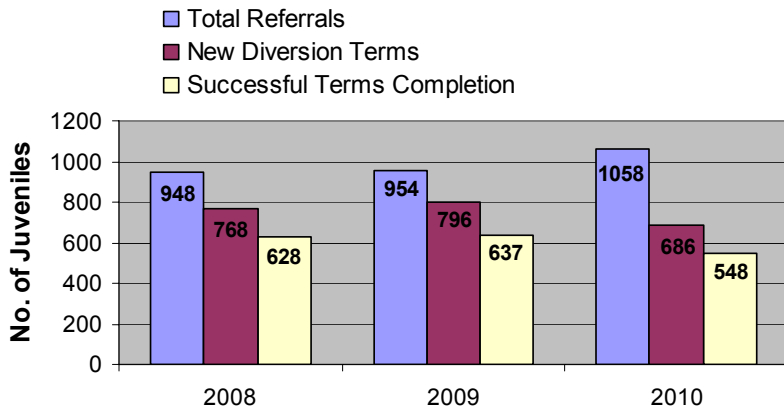
Community  
Protection,



# 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:**

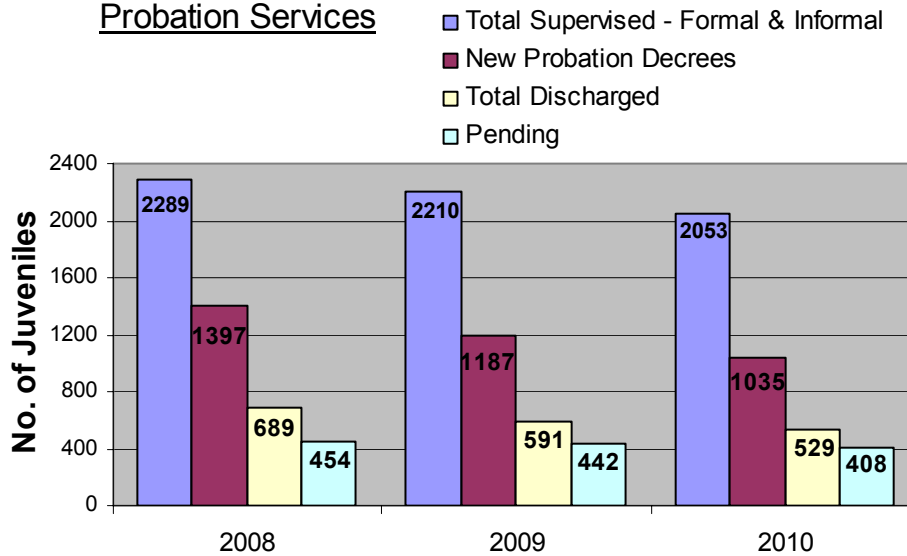
Electronic Monitoring and In-Home Detention are examples of the Conditional Release Order (CRO) monitoring program, which provides court-sanctioned alternatives to detention for juveniles not posing serious risk to the community. Our probation officers monitored 750 CROs in 2010.

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

On 12/31/10, the agency's caseload consisted of 67% males and 33% females, and included:

- 55% on probation in the community
- 22% on diversion referral or contract
- 19% pending court hearings
- 4% in state custody

### Probation Services



### **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 = 318  
 Outpatient Treatment = 72 clients  
 Juvenile Drug Court = 46 clients  
 Temporary Foster Care = 8 clients  
 Individual/Family Counseling = 131 clients

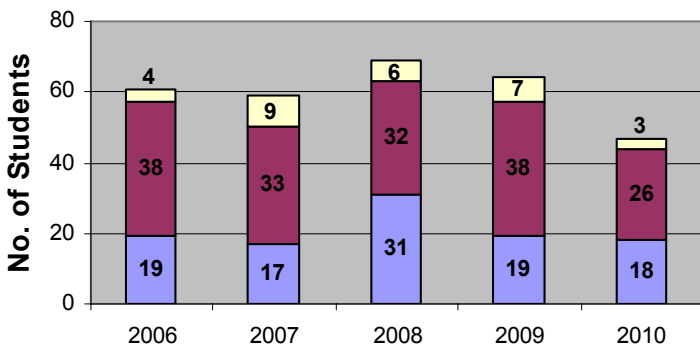
### VICTORY ACADEMY:

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 2010 = 50  
 Credits Earned = 175  
 Successful Transition = 19 students  
 Attained GED/Diploma = 3 students

### Attendance Court Referrals

- Closed Unsuccessfully
- School District Transfer, Aged Out, Unknown Outcome, or Still Open
- Closed Successfully



### 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 = 952  
 Successful Completions = 753  
 Total Hours Served = 20,603  
 Value of Service = \$149,371

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

### WORK IN LIEU OF DETENTION:

Total Referrals = 223  
 Successful Completions = 201  
 Total Hours Served = 4,683  
 Value of Service = \$33,952

### 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

1,830 students  
 (71 presentations)

#### Small Group Curriculum

129 students  
 (22 groups)

Competency & Development  
 Accountability, &  
 Community Protection,